

The Joshua Tree

June 11, 2024

THE MANY PROGRAMS OF VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT

While many people see Victor Valley Transit buses in their capacity as a fixed route system, which picks up and drop off passengers at bus stops around the High Desert, or their Direct Access ADA vehicles which take their senior disabled clients to where they need to go, are only seeing a fraction of the bigger picture that makes up Victor Valley Transit. VVTA's CTSA Programs Manager **Ashley**



Palmer came by the Club this week to share some of the programs that many people aren't aware of.

She began by sharing information on the Agency's VanPool program, currently the 10th largest in the United States. A VVTA VanPool is a group of 5 to 15 commuters who travel a minimum of 30 miles round trip together to and from work. Participants share the cost of leasing a luxury vehicle from one of VVTA's approved vendors, such as Commute with Enterprise, Green Commuter or Airport Van Rental. Eligible VanPool's qualify for a subsidy from VVTA, up to \$600 per month to help with leasing costs.

The benefits of a VVTA VanPool is a more relaxed commuter, reduced fuel and maintenance costs, less freeway congestion and a smaller carbon footprint left on the environment.

The next program Ashley shared was their Brokerage Program. Once an Direct Access vehicle is at the end of its useful life at Victor Valley Transit, it used to be retired and sold at auction.

Instead, the Agency brings the vehicle back to "like-new" condition and collaborates with area nonprofits. They donate the vehicle to them on the agreement that they not only use it to benefit their non profit, but transport VVTA's Direct Access passengers at the fixed cost of \$1 per trip instead of the \$3-\$6 fee through VVTA.

Spoken about before at Rotary, Micro-Link, the micro transit service from VVTA has taken off as is now serving the community at capacity. This is an on-demand shared transit service, currently serving riders in two zoned areas, one in southwest Hesperia, and one in the northwest area of Victorville. Rides are \$2 each and come with a free fixed route day pass, for those who want to continue their trip outside the zone area. VVTA recently purchased an additional six Micro-Link vehicles to help with the demand and in the Fall, will open a third zoned area in Apple Valley.

Next, Ashley was very excited to share information on their TRIP (Transportation Reimbursement & Information Program). The TRIP Program is an alternative for seniors

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Bill Edwards
Flag Salute:	Arsalee Morales
4-Way Test:	Chris Ackerman
Fine Master:	David North



TAFOYA TALKS

Thank you to Ashley Palmer from Victor Valley Transit for coming to our meeting this week and giving us

a deep dive in the many programs that benefit seniors, the disabled and others.



The Demotion Party is coming this weekend at the home of Dan & Kris Dever! It will be held on June 15th at 4:00pm. Please make plans to join us for a lot of fun and the announcement of Rotarian of the Year! We currently have a sign-up sheet going around so we have a good head count, so please let us know if you will be attending.

Move Night at the Hove's is coming up on July 13th! Please sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert for everyone to enjoy!

We only have two more weeks until the start of our new Rotary year. Please consider coming to the meetings and bring guests and potential members. Join us next week as Steve Murray will return with Treasurer David North to give our annual "State of the Club" report.

Ben Tafoya

Palmer...

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and disabled High Desert residents who do not drive and cannot use traditional public transportation. TRIP passengers recruit drivers from friends, neighbors, and family members who, they know and trust. Trips can include multiple destinations including doctors' appointments, shopping, errands, and more. VVTA's TRIP Program provides mileage reimbursement for fuel that the rider passes along to their driver. VVTA's TRIP Program is a "quality of life" program that helps clients feel empowered to take back control of their transportation needs, and life!

Another program that was discussed was their outreach to the residents of Trona, and Big River, which borders with Parker, Arizona. With no viable transportation options for those unincorporated communities, VVTA has funded their senior and community centers with vehicles to be able to address the transportation needs of the residents of these disadvantaged communities to wherever they need to travel. For many of the residents, this is a much needed lifeline for medical care, banking and shopping.

Victor Valley Transit also offers a one-on-one or group Travel Training Program. Whether someone is new to transit or looking to enhance their riding skills, VVTA's trainers will guide them through bus riding, route planning, and maximizing the VVTA fixed route system. Travel Training can be customized for each riders needs and goals.

Finally, Ashley spoke about their Ambassador Program. For those who love to ride public transportation, Ambassadors help others to feel confident and empowered to ride the bus. Ambassadors show them the ropes, answer questions, and guide them by answering questions about VVTA's every growing transit network. The Ambassador Program is a volunteer position, but Ambassadors ride Victor Valley Transit at no charge, which is a huge benefit.

For more information on any of these programs from VVTA, please reach out to Ashley Palmer at 760-995-3559 or email apalmer@vvta.org.



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Ben Tafoya had the chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, and picked a green one and saved the chance for another Rotarian. We will continue next week with 8 chips and \$350 for the one lucky Rotarian who has their ticket drawn.

Raffle

Mike Johnson donated a screwdriver from Flagstar Bank that will be used by **Arsalee Morales**, and a cup and chapstick from Mike went home with **Ben Tafoya**.

Chris Ackerman gave away a limited edition 30th Anniversary Victor Valley Transit beach blanket that was won by **Bryan Gillespie**, and VVTA bean bag phone holders that will be used by Arsalee and Ben. **David North** donated a bottle of wine that will be enjoyed by Ben and **Bob Basen** gave out two Rotary Raffle Tickets and both were won by **Stew Anderson!**



Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and hit **Chris Ackerman** with a double fine! First, Chris mentioned in his intro to **Ashley Palmer** that we would not be speaking about VVTA, but ending up sharing some additional information that resulted in a \$20 fine. Next, Chris picked up another \$20 penalty for the name of Victor Valley Transit, because it doesn't make sense to David since they serve locations outside of the Victor Valley.

Bill Scott left with \$20 less in his wallet for tearing his Achilles Heel while stretching and will be in a Boot for the next few months.

Finally **Ben Tafoya** was given a final \$20 fine for continuing to draw raffle tickets that belonged to **Mike Johnson** while David was attempting to give away goodies from Flagstar Bank.

Spoon of Exemption



Mike Johnson had his second week with the Spoon and once again shared that if you bring \$25,000 to Flagstar Bank, you can get a savings account that pays 5.55% APY for 5 months. The account is a liquid savings account

with no fees.

Mike also shared you can open a new Business Solutions Checking or Business Solutions Checking with Interest account and get a \$750 cash bonus. To qualify you need to be a new business checking customer of Flagstar Bank and maintain an average daily balance of \$25,000 or more for the first 90 days.

Please see Mike if you have any questions.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$12.00

Polio Pig: \$7 + Dice (Ben Tafoya) \$5 = \$12.00

Collected to Date: \$20,514.33

Total equals: 102,007 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2023-2024	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President/Special Projects.....	Arsalee Morales
Treasurer/Scholarships	David North
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Club Service/Membership	Bryan Gillespie
Community Service/Speech Contests	Mike Johnson
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC/Ethics Essay.....	Ron Boyd
Vocational Service	Bill Edwards

Members-at-Large: Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Pam Murray
Billing Officer	Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts	Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Membership.....	Bryan Gillespie
Programs	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations	Rob Kilpatrick
Public Safety.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, and John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Steve Murray
Scholarships.....	David North
S.T.A.R. Students	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

- June 15: Demotion Party**
Home of Dan & Kris Dever
13166 Waco Road, Apple Valley, CA
4:00pm
- June 17: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- July 13: Movie Night at the Hove's**
Movie: August Rush (2007) PG
More information soon

Upcoming Programs

- June 18:** Steve Murray and David North, **TOPIC "State of the Club"**
- June 25: OPEN**
- July 2: OPEN**
- July 9: OPEN**
- July 16: OPEN**

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