

# The Joshua Tree

November 12, 2024

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**Col. Paul Cook** (Ret.), the current Supervisor for San Bernardino County's 1st District, has played a key role in shaping the region's growth and development over the last four years, as was shared this week by his Deputy Chief of Staff **Dakota Higgins**. As a seasoned public servant, Cook, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives prior to his election as Supervisor, has brought his wealth of experience to local governance, making significant strides in areas such as public safety, infrastructure, economic development, and community engagement. Here's a look at some of his most impactful accomplishments during his tenure.



fire personnel, addressing the district's growing public safety needs.

In 2023, Cook championed the expansion of the county's fire protection services, ensuring better coverage for rural and suburban areas. His advocacy for funding improvements to local police departments has also helped reduce response times and increase crime prevention efforts in high-priority areas.

Cook has been instrumental in securing funding for critical infrastructure projects in the 1st District, which is known for its sprawling desert landscape and rapidly growing population. A notable accomplishment has been his support for the completion of major road repairs and expansions, including improvements to the 15 Freeway, which serves as a key transportation corridor for residents and businesses alike.

One of Cook's top priorities has been enhancing public safety across the 1st District, which includes cities such as Apple Valley, Hesperia, and parts of unincorporated San Bernardino County. Under his leadership, the district saw an increase in resources dedicated to law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency response systems. Cook has worked closely with local law enforcement agencies to secure additional funding for sheriff's deputies and

Cook was also a staunch advocate for the development of regional transportation initiatives, including high-speed rail connections to better link the Inland Empire to Southern California's broader transportation network. His efforts have not only improved the daily commute for thousands of residents but have also attracted businesses to the region, further boosting local economic development.

Paul Cook's focus on economic development has led to job creation and investment in the 1st District. Recognizing the potential of the area's strategic location

**This Week's Functionaries**

<b>Invocation:</b>	<b>Chris Ackerman</b>
<b>Flag Salute:</b>	<b>Arsalee Morales</b>
<b>4-Way Test:</b>	<b>Angel Espino</b>
<b>Fine Master:</b>	<b>David North</b>

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## GILLESPIE'S GAB

Thank you to Dakota Higgins from Supervisor Cook's office to share the accomplishments of the Supervisor during

the last four years, and what can be expected with his reelection. We look forward to hearing of more successes from the Supervisors office.



I also want to pass along thanks to Angel Espino, Jim Murray, and Darron Poulsen for their hard work making our Teacher Mini Grant program such a success this year.

Myself, along with Chris Ackerman and Ben Tafoya spent a part of our Saturday attending the Veterans BBQ, put on by the Apple Valley Club. Rick Bui and others put in a lot of hard work that included live music, food, vendors, and a large car show. Please join us from December 13 - 15 for an annual visit to the orphanage and water tank project with our sister Club in Enseñada. There is a hotel special 2-night special with the third free. Please see Russ Stringham or Steve Murray for more information.

Until next time...

*Bryan*

## Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)

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between Southern California's urban hubs and the rest of the nation, Cook has worked to bring in new businesses, particularly in logistics, manufacturing, and renewable energy.

In recent years, Cook secured tax incentives for businesses that opened new facilities in the district, helping to create hundreds of jobs and stimulate local economies. Additionally, Cook supported policies that promoted workforce development and vocational training programs, ensuring that residents are equipped with the skills needed for high-demand industries in the region.

As a veteran himself, Paul Cook has been a strong advocate for military families and veterans in San Bernardino County. Throughout his time as Supervisor, he has worked to enhance services for veterans, from healthcare access to housing programs. Cook also supported local initiatives aimed at honoring veterans and helping them transition back into civilian life.

He was instrumental in securing funding for veterans' services, ensuring that San Bernardino County remains one of the best places in the state for veterans to live and work. Cook's background and deep commitment to the military community have made him a trusted advocate in this area.

Perhaps one of Cook's greatest achievements has been his commitment to community engagement. He has consistently prioritized making himself accessible to residents, hosting town halls and engaging in direct conversations with constituents to understand their concerns. Cook's office has been responsive to the needs of the 1st District's diverse population, addressing issues ranging from affordable housing to environmental concerns.

As Cook enters his next term, his track record of accomplishments over the past four years has cemented his reputation as a dedicated public servant with a focus on progress, safety, and economic growth for the people of San Bernardino County's 1st District.



# THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Bryan Gillespie had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but he drew green and left it for another Rotarian to try next time. We will continue the opportunity next week with 6 chips and \$375 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip!

## Raffle



Mike Johnson donated a goodie bag from Flagstar Bank that will be used by Jon Hove and a Flagstar notebook went to Linda Hove. Robert Lovingood was a winner of a July 4th decoration and a \$10 In-n-Out gift card, both from Bill Edwards. David North brought a bottle of wine that will be enjoyed by Ryan McEachron as will Arsalee Morales with her Italian chocolate bar from David.

## Rotary Guests

This week, we welcomed Harrison Hove, who attended with Jon & Linda Hove.

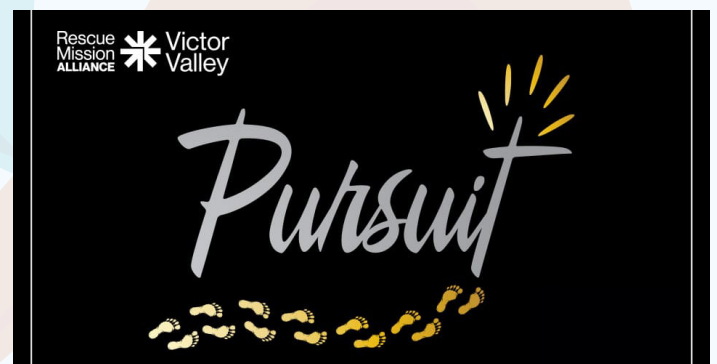
## Fine Session



David North was our Fine Master and gave Jon Hove a \$20 fine for trying to suck up the Fine Master and Kirsten Acosta paid the same amount for announcing she had over 300 attendees at the High Desert Educational Summit.

Celebrating Rotary anniversaries, Bill Edwards paid \$8 for 8 years and President Bryan Gillespie had to pay \$5 for his 5 years as a Rotarian. Arsalee Morales was also fined for her 7 year Rotary anniversary in the amount of \$100!

## Spoon of Exception



Bill Edwards had another week with the Spoon and shared sponsorship opportunities available for the Rescue Mission Alliance's Gala, entitled "Pursuit" coming up in March 13, 2025 celebrating their 25th Anniversary! The event will feature dinner, live music and auction items. Sponsorships range from \$20,000 to be a Platinum Sponsor, to a \$1000 table sponsorship and more in between. Get more information at [vrescuemission.org/fundraiser](http://vrescuemission.org/fundraiser).

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$10.00**

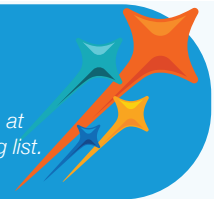
Polio Pig: \$5 + Chip (Bryan Gillespie) \$5 = \$10.00

**Collected to Date: \$20,894.83**

**Total equals: 102,768 Doses!**

**One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!**

**\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!**



## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2024-2025 .....	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027 .....	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028 .....	<b>Please be Interviewed</b>
Immediate Past President .....	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer/Scholarships .....	David North
Youth Services/Ethics Essay .....	Ron Boyd
Club Service & Membership .....	Bill Edwards
Community Service/Speech Contests .....	Mike Johnson
Vocational Service .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Member At Large, Young Leaders Contact.....	Arsalee Morales
Member At Large, Special Projects .....	Rob Kilpatrick

**Members-at-Large:** Bob Basen, Darron Poulsen, Angel Espino

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Special Billing .....	Esther Mears <b>(TBD)</b>
Public Service Awards .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Teacher Mini-Grants .....	Angel Espino
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Foundation & Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Food Baskets.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Programs .....	Mike Page
Fundraising .....	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>

**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

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	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
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## Calendar Dates

- Dec 2:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Dec 12:** **Rotary Christmas Party**  
6:00pm • Chateau Chang  
*Sign up at club meetings or contact Bill Edwards for meal choices for you and your guests.*

## Upcoming Programs

- Nov 19:** Mark Creffield CEO and Shannon Shannon, President, Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce **TOPIC "Update on the Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce"** (Montoya)
- Nov 26:** Lt. Col. Tony Marshall, USAF Retired **TOPIC "More Stories as a Fighter Pilot and my Time in the USAF and Vietnam"** (Page)
- Dec 3:** Bobby Clemmer, Fire Chief, City of Victorville **TOPIC "My Background and Vision for the Victorville Fire Department"** (McEachron)
- Dec 10:** Randy German, Sheriff Captain **TOPIC "Introduction and Update on Public Safety in Victorville"** (McEachron)

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