

# The Joshua Tree

December 10, 2024

## TRAFFIC SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

In the heart of the High Desert, **Lieutenant Marc Bracco** stands as a prominent figure in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, where he serves as a leader at the Victorville Station. A local to the High Desert, Lt. Bracco has dedicated much of his career to law enforcement in this region. His journey began at the Whittier Police Department, where he worked alongside his father before transferring to the Victorville station to reduce the grueling commute, allowing him to serve his community with more focus and effectiveness.



Victorville is located in a region where traffic accidents are an ongoing concern. Tragically, the city consistently leads the county in fatal traffic accidents. In 2023, Victorville saw a decrease in fatalities, with the number dropping from 36 deaths to 19, thanks to proactive efforts in traffic safety. However, despite these improvements, 2024 has seen a worrying increase in traffic fatalities, with 21 deaths year-to-date.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, where Lt. Bracco serves, oversees an annual budget of \$1.1 billion. This sizable budget is allocated to a wide range of essential services, from patrolling local streets to operating the county jails. With a department this large, Lt. Bracco is responsible not only for his station but also for ensuring that resources are appropriately distributed to address a growing range of challenges facing local communities.

Lt. Bracco has prioritized traffic safety within the Victorville station, leveraging available resources and implementing targeted operations to reduce accidents. This year alone, the station conducted 11 special traffic operations aimed at reducing accidents, fatalities, and ensuring the safety of residents. These efforts were supported by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), which has played a key role in funding traffic enforcement and education campaigns.

The Victorville Sheriff's Station is one of the largest in San Bernardino County, with 84 deputies assigned to the station. It is the second-largest station in the entire county and the largest in the High Desert (HD) region. The station is structured to handle a variety of public safety needs, with a team that includes 10 detectives, 10 sergeants, and 16 specialists. Additionally, the station is supported by 14 professional staff members and a team of 2-3 behavioral health professionals who assist deputies in addressing mental health issues in the community.

### This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Bill Edwards
- Flag Salute:** Jim Murray
- 4-Way Test:** Ryan McEachron
- Fine Master:** Ryan McEachron

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## ARSALEE'S AVENUE

Thank you to Lieutenant Marc Bracco from the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department for

taking time out of his day to share an update this week from the Victorville Station. Some great information was shared to all in attendance.



The annual Rotary Christmas Party is coming up this Thursday and I am looking forward to it. It is always a wonderful time and we look forward to seeing you there!

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.

Finally, please join me in keeping Margaret Cooker in your prayers as she is back in the hospital. Pray for full healing for her and a quick recovery.

Arsalee

## Lt. Marc Bracco

*Continued from page 1*

One of Lt. Bracco's key priorities has been to ensure his officers are adequately trained and supported. This includes providing resources for mental health crises, which are becoming increasingly common in the region. Mental health concerns not only affect the community but also directly impact the daily work of deputies, which is why behavioral health specialists are embedded within the team.

In recent years, body-worn cameras have become a vital tool for law enforcement agencies across the country, offering transparency and accountability. Lt. Bracco's station was quick to implement these devices, which are now worn by jailhouse deputies. The use of body-worn cameras serves a dual purpose: it protects both the officers and the public by providing an accurate record of interactions. This technology has become an essential aspect of modern law enforcement, helping to maintain trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Beyond traffic enforcement, Lt. Bracco's leadership has emphasized the importance of addressing mental health issues within the community. As with many regions, the High Desert faces a significant challenge in managing mental health-related crises. Lt. Bracco understands that law enforcement officers are often the first responders to mental health emergencies, and he has made it a priority to incorporate mental health professionals into the department's response system.

By having dedicated behavioral health specialists working alongside deputies, Lt. Bracco is fostering a more holistic approach to public safety. The mental health professionals can de-escalate potentially volatile situations, connect individuals to the appropriate care, and support deputies in managing these complex cases. This integrated approach helps to provide better outcomes for individuals in crisis and reduces the likelihood of confrontational encounters.

As Lt. Bracco looks toward the future, his commitment to improving traffic safety, mental health support, and community well-being remains unwavering. Lt. Bracco is determined to ensure that Victorville remains a safer place for everyone.



# THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Arsalee Morales had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but she drew green and left ONE BLUE CHIP for next week!

We will continue the opportunity next week with \$500 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip!

## Spoon of Exception



**Keith Metzler** had his first week with the Spoon and shared that the same day of the meeting, December 10th at 6:00pm, the City of Victorville will certify their election results. On Thursday December 12th, they will hold a ribbon cutting

for a new animal shelter for the city. Finally, City Hall will be closed for the holidays December 24th - January 2nd.

## Rotary Guests

This week, we welcomed **Lupe Cruz** from Flagstar Bank, who attended with **Mike Johnson**, and **Chris Stowell**, Chief of Police for the Victor Valley Union High School District, who joined us as a guest of **Carl Coles**.

Our Stand-in this week was **Penny Edmiston** for **Maureen Mills**.

**There Will Be No Newsletter  
Next Week, December 17th  
Happy Holidays!**

## Raffle

**David North** gave away a bevy of goodies this week including another bar of Italian chocolate that will be enjoyed by **Arsalee Morales**, a free meal from Slaters 50/50 will be enjoyed by **Jim Cox** and **Penny Edmiston**, a Christmas table runner went to **Mike Johnson** and finally, David gave away three nutcrackers what will be used by **Bill Edwards**.

Bill brought a couple of Christmas tins that were taken him by Arsalee and Penny, and **Mike Johnson** continued to empty the Flagstar Bank promo closet by donating a goodie bag and notebook that went to **Darron Poulsen** and **David North**.

## Fine Session



**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master and began welcoming **Terry Caldwell** back from a two and a half year absence from the Club with a \$20 fine! Terry then took his fine money and donated it to the Polio Pig!

Another \$20 penalty was levied against **Carl Coles** for receiving the Golden Bell award at the Cal State Board Awards.

Ryan then shared that, "Two Mikes make a wrong", so **Mike Johnson** had to pay another \$20 this week in honor of his new position at St. Mary's Foundation.

**David North** was also fined \$20 for unloading all of his old Christmas decorations as raffles, and finally, Ryan fined himself and **Jim Cox** \$10 each for being former members of the Victorville City Council.

## The Polio Pig

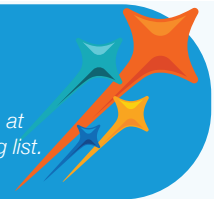
**Collected this week: \$31.00**

Polio Pig: \$26 + Chip (Arsalee Morales) \$5 = \$31.00

**Collected to Date: \$20,973.83**

**Total equals: 102,926 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 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.
- Jan 6:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

## Upcoming Programs

- Dec 17:** Michelle Lynn and Henry Phan, Providence St. Mary **TOPIC "Bringing Physicians to the High Desert"** (Page)
- Dec 24:** **DARK**
- Dec 31:** **DARK**
- Jan 7:** Nicole Orr and Katie Berrios, Providence St. Mary **TOPIC "Coordinating Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence in the High Desert"** (Page)
- Jan 14:** **VVC Superintendent Dr. Dan Walden** (Acosta)
- Jan 21:** **Dan Stover Music Contest** (Espino)
- Jan 28:** **High School 4-Way Speech Contest** (Johnson)

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