

The Joshua Tree

June 17, 2025

A VISIONARY PLANNER, MAYOR + MORE

For over five decades, **Jim Cox** has been a steady and visionary force in Victorville's growth, shaping the High Desert city through times of prosperity, transition, and even crisis. Jim spoke to the Club this week and shared more memories about his time with the City.

Jim began his public service career with the City of Victorville in 1967 as an administrative assistant. Just two years later, in 1969, he was appointed City Manager—launching a remarkable 30-year tenure that would leave an indelible mark on the region.

Under his leadership, Victorville grew from a quiet desert town into a thriving economic center. Cox helped guide the transformation of the former George Air Force Base into the Southern California Logistics Airport, a key driver of jobs and industry in the area. He was also instrumental in bringing the High Desert Power Project



to life, generating millions in revenue for the city.

Though he retired in 1999, Jim returned to service in 2009 during a time of financial turmoil to help stabilize the city's budget and operations. Through budget cuts, oversight, and decisive action, he once again led Victorville through challenging times until stepping down in 2011.

His commitment to service didn't end there. Jim went on to serve on the Victorville City Council, including a term as Mayor from 2012 to 2013 and Mayor Pro Tem through 2020. Known for his open-door policy and willingness to listen, Cox remains respected as a public servant who always prioritized the community.

Jim often reflects on the importance of planning—not just for tomorrow, but for today. "Cities are often built while they're still being planned," he's said. His practical leadership and long-term vision are still felt in Victorville's continued development and economic resilience.

Whether navigating decades of growth or returning in times of need, Jim Cox has embodied what it means to lead with purpose. His story is more than just history—it's the foundation of a city still moving forward.

This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Bryan Gillespie
- 4-Way Test:** Angel Espino



GILLESPIE'S GAB

It was wonderful; to have Jim Cox back behind the podium this week, sharing even more memories from

his time with the City of Victorville. If you didn't attend,



ask Jim next time you see him to tell you the "Driving Ms. Daisy" story.

Thank you to Arsalee Morales, Bill Edwards and others who assisted with leading our meetings while I was away on business and wrapping up the school year at Options for Youth.

Please make sure you attend next week to take part in our Club Assembly as we will vote on next Rotary Year Budgets, Board Members and President for 2027 - 2028.

Please join us for my Demotion Party June 28th at the home of Dan & Kris Dever.

On September 6th at the Spring Valley Lake Community Center we will have our 75th Anniversary Gala and Fundraiser! You can sign up now to purchase \$250 opportunity drawing tickets that will net someone \$10,000 that night! Each of the 100 tickets for sale include two entries, food, with Fettuccine Alfredo on the menu!

Bryan

Demotion & New Years Party

Saturday, June 28th, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Designer Cuisine by Rotarians



Bryan Gillespie
Outgoing President



Bill Edwards
Incoming President

Hosted By: Dan and Kristine Dever
13166 Waco Road
Apple Valley, CA 92308
760.963.2198

New Address for Stew & Diane Anderson
2200 West Lauren Avenue #517
Rogers, Arkansas 72758
They Would Love to Hear from You!



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Big Blue Poker Chip



Chris Ackerman had the chance to draw the Blue Chip and did it! Ackerman took home \$275!

We will start over next week with 14 chips and \$200 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle

We are going to make this simple. **Jim Murray** won pretty much EVERYTHING! Jim left the meeting with a Victor Valley Transit eyeglass cleaner and bean bag phone holder from **Chris Ackerman**, a Midway Home Solutions bag and candle from **Don Lager** and a bottle of wine from **Brad Letner**. The only other winner was Don, who also won a bottle of wine from Brad.

Spoon of Exception



Bo Goulet had another week with the Spoon and shared that mortgage rates are inching lower! The 30-year fixed is down to 6.81% and the 15-year is around 5.96%. Experts expect rates to stay between 6–7% this year. Median value of a home in Victorville, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Adelanto, Phelan, and Oak Hills is about \$452,500. Call Bo at (760) 713-6137.

CLUB ASSEMBLY JUNE 24TH

REVIEW AND APPROVE:

Budgets for 2025-2026

Board of Directors for 2025-2026

President for 2027-2028

VVC Scholarships

This week, we gave away \$4,000 in scholarships at the annual Victor Valley College Foundation Scholarship Ceremony. One of our recipients, **Scarlet Vietti**, will be attending the University of Oregon. She earned four Associate Degrees from VVC and will earn her Bachelors Degree in Psychology, followed by a Law Degree.

A collage of four photographs of Scarlet Vietti. Top left: A portrait of her with blonde hair. Top right: Her in a white dress standing by a lake. Middle left: Her in a blue jacket holding a 'PEACE OUT' sign. Middle right: Her in a white dress with a purple shawl holding a yellow sign with the letter 'O'. Bottom: Her in a white dress and purple shawl walking on a paved path.

Class of 2025

Scarlet Vietti

EXCELSIOR CHARTER SCHOOL
JUNE 2, 2025
VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE
SUMMA CUM LAUDE
JUNE 18, 2025
GLEN HELEN AMPHITHEATRE

SCARLET WILL BE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON. SCARLET HAS EARNED 4 ASSOCIATES DEGREES FROM VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE AND PLANS TO EARN HER BACHELORS DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY THEN A LAW DEGREE.

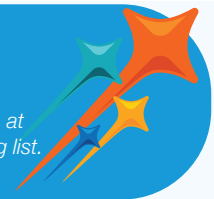
The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$7.00

Collected to Date: \$21,522.83

Total equals: 104,024 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	Please be Interviewed
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	Please Volunteer
Vocational Service	Please Volunteer
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 (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Please Volunteer
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Dan Stover Music Contest	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Please Volunteer
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Food Baskets	Bill Edwards
Interact (Junior Rotary)	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator	Please Volunteer

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 24: Club Assembly**
12:00pm
Bear Valley Country Club
13229 Spring Valley Pkwy
Spring Valley Lake
- June 28: Demotion Party**
4:00pm • Home of Dan & Kris Dever
13166 Waco Rd, Apple Valley, 92308
- July 14: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Sept 6: 75th Anniversary Gala/Fundraiser**
6:00pm Dinner • 7:00pm Drawings
Spring Valley Lake Community Center
12975 Rolling Ridge, Spring Valley Lake

Upcoming Programs

- June 24: Q&A with Jim Cox and Terry Caldwell (Page) + Club Assembly**
- July 1:** Colonel Brad Letner (Retired) **TOPIC "Patriot Trends and Tendencies"** (Page)
- July 8: OPEN**
- July 15: OPEN**
- July 22:** Ryan McEachron, ISU-ARMAC **TOPIC "Insurance Industry Update"**

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