



The Joshua Tree

August 5, 2025

CUTTING EDGE LAW ENFORCEMENT IN VICTORVILLE

In the absence of San Bernardino County Sheriff **Shannon Dicus**, who was called away for business with the County Board of Supervisors, Undersheriff **Rick Bessinger** addressed the Rotary Club of Victorville, offering an informative and engaging update on public safety efforts and cutting-edge law enforcement strategies in the High Desert.

Bessinger emphasized Victorville's leadership in adopting advanced technologies to enhance public safety, describing the city as a "force multiplier" in regional law enforcement. One such innovation is a gunshot detection system that can instantly pinpoint the exact location of a shooting, enabling officers to respond rapidly and catch crimes in progress. This real-time information dramatically improves response times and increases the chances of apprehending suspects before they flee the scene.

Another exciting development in the works is the implementation of the "Drone as First Responder"



program. Inspired by the city of Chula Vista's pioneering efforts, this system would allow drones to automatically deploy upon receiving high-priority calls such as shootings or violent incidents. These drones can travel directly to the scene and provide live video, aerial intelligence, and other critical data to officers before they arrive, improving both officer safety and situational awareness.

Bessinger also highlighted the continued success of Operation Consequences, a countywide crime suppression initiative launched in late 2022. As of March 2025, the operation has resulted in more than 1,900 arrests, 2,600 illegal firearms removed from criminal hands, and 240 pounds of fentanyl seized—taking deadly drugs and dangerous weapons off the streets. He noted that Victorville ranks second in the state—only behind Los Angeles—in the capture of illegal "ghost guns," showing the city's aggressive stance against untraceable firearms.

In addition to these efforts, Victorville continues to be a leader in proactive traffic enforcement, targeting unsafe driving behaviors, reducing collisions, and increasing public safety on local roadways. Bessinger praised the dedication of local deputies and their commitment to keeping the community safe through both innovation and action.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Bill Edwards

Flag Salute: Kirsten Acosta

4-Way Test: Maureen Mills

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



BILL'S BANTER

Thank you San Bernardino County Undersheriff and former Club Rotarian

Rick Bessinger for coming out to speak to us in absence of Sheriff Shannon



Dicus, plus thanks to my friend and Ryan McEachron for standing in for me, as I had to deal with an emergency issue.

We have begun selling our raffle tickets for our huge opportunity drawing at our 75th Anniversary Gala. As a reminder, only 100 of these \$250 tickets will be sold and someone is going to walk away with \$10,000 on September 6th! Tickets are available now by cash or check only, no billing is allowed for these tickets. So far, 21 tickets have been sold, so don't wait, we will sell out!

I can't wait to see all of you on Saturday, August 9th for Movie Night at the Hove's! This year's film will be "Rain Man" and festivities begin at 6pm. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Also, don't forget to bring a lawn chair for comfortable seating during the movie. We will be cooking up chicken, hamburger, ribs, hot dogs and more! See you then!

Bill Edwards



PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Have Your Business or "Congratulatory" Message in the Official Event Program

Full Page Ad: \$500

Half Page Ad: \$300

Quarter Page Ad: \$250

Business Card Ad: \$150

EVENT PROGRAM ADS DUE BY AUGUST 25TH

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF:
JACK DANIEL'S • VODKA • GIFT CARDS**

For more Information or Questions:

Steve & Pam Murray

760-954-2893

pamela.murray@gerbercollision.com

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Rob Kilpatrick had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another. We will continue next week with 8 chips and \$350 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle

The week **Rob Kilpatrick** was a big winner, taking home a double pack of LA Chargers swag from **Bill Edwards** and a Red Rocks RV backpack, courtesy of **Russ Stringham**.

Chris Ackerman donated a couple of Victor Valley Transit goodies, with a coffee cup going to **Ryan McEachron** and a bean bag phone holder going home with **Brad Poiriez**.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed **Don Kennard** from Cal Portland who attended with **Jon Hove** along with Hi-Grade Material employees **David Church** and **Chris Ware**.



Joining **Jason Lamoreaux** from Coldwell Banker Commercial, we met intern **Alexus Villalobos** and Victorville Deputy City Manager **Tony Comargo** was invited by **Keith Metzler**.

Attended the meeting this week with speaker **Rick Bessinger**, we were introduced to **Jerry Davenport** from the Sheriff's Department and **Aly Martinez** came to the meeting with **Angel Espino**.

Spoon of Exception



Jon Hove had his first week with the Spoon and shared that Hi-Grade Materials will be celebrating their 70th anniversary next year.

The Hove family's legacy in Southern California construction began in 1906 when they moved from Nebraska to Pasadena, with V.C. "Pappy" Hove and his sons working as concrete and plastering contractors—many of their sidewalk stamps still visible today. During WWII, Pappy supported the war effort with construction projects before relocating to Big Bear and later Apple Valley, where he and his sons founded V.C. Hove and Sons in 1952. Tired of mixing concrete by hand, Bob Hove helped steer the family into a new era by purchasing the young Hi-Grade Materials Co. in 1955 with a \$14,000 loan from Apple Valley Bank. Despite a cement shortage, a fortunate coin toss brought Victor Cement on board, launching a partnership that would help shape the High Desert's infrastructure for decades..

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and began by presenting **Jim Cox** with a \$12 fine for the 12 Rotary pins he has at home. Since **Brad Poiriez** is supposed to be giving us great air quality, he was presented with a \$15 penalty due to the 15 wildfires currently burning in Southern California.

Dr. Ron Boyd attended this month's virtual board meeting...a week early and then missed the actual meeting so he had to pay \$10 while **Jason Lamoreaux** received a mystery fine of \$10, as Ryan put it, "You know why." In the end, Jason was given another \$10 fine because instead of attending Movie Night at the Hove's, Jason and Chris will be celebrating the opening of their Creek Cut Winery Tasting Room in Paso Robles on Saturday.



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President/Club Service	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer	Please Volunteer
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Please Volunteer
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Community Service	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Angel Espino
Members-at-Large: Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick	

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships.....	Please Volunteer
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards.....	Please Volunteer
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Brad Letner
Grants.....	Please Volunteer
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

- Aug 9:** **Movie Night at the Hove's**
Movie: Rain Man
6pm Fellowship • 7pm Dinner
8pm Movie
18970 Appaloosa Rd, Apple Valley
- Sept 6:** **75th Anniversary Gala/Fundraiser**
6:00pm Dinner • 7:00pm Drawings
Spring Valley Lake Community Center
12975 Rolling Ridge, Spring Valley Lake
- Sept 8:** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30pm Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting

Upcoming Programs

- Aug 12:** Colonel Brad Letner (Retired) **TOPIC**
"Look Who's Back, How Did He Get Here" (Page)
- Aug 19:** Angel Espino, Raymond James
Financial Advisor **TOPIC "Today's**
Stockmarket" (Page)
- Aug 26:** Robert Lovingood, Former San
Bernardino County Supervisor **TOPIC**
"Opening American Resources While
Protecting Nature" (Page)

