

# Rotary



## Club of Merced

### Club Meeting

Merced  
Meets at Merced Elks  
Lodge  
1910 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
Time: Wednesday at  
12:00 PM

### Club Leaders



Cyril L.  
Lawrence  
President



Barbara  
Ward  
President -  
Elect



Brenda J.  
Callahan-  
Johnson  
Secretary



Jorge  
Cisneros  
Treasurer



Clark  
Kellogg  
Sergeant-  
at-Arms



Susan  
Coston  
Youth  
Services  
Chair



James G.  
Marshall  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair



Laura Fong  
Membership  
Chair



David P.  
Spangler  
Attendance  
Secretary

Steve M.  
Tietjen

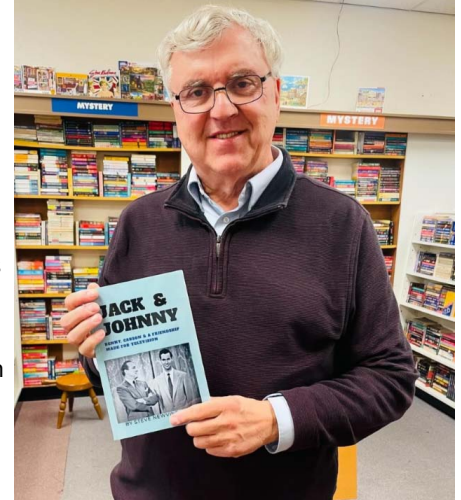
## Merced Rotary - Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - Steve Newvine

Welcome today to Merced Rotary, meeting at the Elks Lodge at 12:00 noon. Come and enjoy a good lunch, catch up with friends, and meet new ones.

Our speaker today is Steve Newvine. Steve grew up in New York State and attended Syracuse University. He received a degree in communications and began his career as a television journalist in 1979 at station WICZ in Binghamton, NY. He continued in television broadcasting in Huntsville, Alabama, and later made his way to California. After working as a chamber of commerce executive for thirteen years, he finished his working career with a public utility, managing government energy efficiency programs for thirteen years.

For the last fifteen years, Steve has followed his passion for stories. He has written over 10 books, with his most recent book, Jack & Johnny published in 2024. It is about the two comedians, both having lived in California throughout most of their broadcasting careers, and their mentoring friendship over two decades. Previous books about California include Beaten Paths and Back Roads, California Back Roads, and Can Do Californians. Other books include non-fiction, detailing memories of growing up in New York state, and his work in TV broadcasting, and three works of fiction.

Steve and his wife Vuane live in Merced. Please give Steve a warm Rotary welcome today.



## Merced Rotary - 2025 College Scholarship Recipients

By Brenda J. Callahan-Johnson on Monday, May 5, 2025

The scholarship committee has chosen 5 winners for our annual Merced Rotary Scholarship Program. Each student will receive \$1,000 from the Merced Rotary Foundation.

### Golden Valley High School

Emilia Aguilar  
Giselle Gracias

### El Capitan High School

Sienna Roma  
Abby Samuelson  
Areesha Tariq

This year we had 31 applicants.

## Last Week at Merced Rotary

Last week, May 7th, President Cyril was in rare form, most likely due to his soon-coming Kick Out - Friday, June 27. Put it on your calendars!

Several questions about Cinco de Mayo tripped up our members with some fascinating facts. Jim Marshall, John Price, Susan Coston and RoseMary Duran were all given multiple-choice questions, and no fines. Tacos and Enchiladas are actually Tex-Mex dishes, not from Mexico. Ed Spinardi commented that Columbus day is back, and was fined \$20. Cinco de Mayo became a drinking holiday in the 1980's due to beer company ad campaigns. More beer is purchased on Cinco de Mayo than on St Patrick's day, and Americans drink more Tequila than any other country in the world.

Our speaker was Chris Jensen, a very good program. Chris detailed the new sports complex being completed to the south-east of Merced. The city set this acreage aside over 15 years ago, and it is now coming to reality. Four full sized football fields, sand volleyball, tennis and pickle ball lends the park to multi-use, community and pay-to-play options, as well as regional tournaments. The city sees this as a revenue generator for the city and our community.



iPast  
President

## Events

June 27th

**Merced Rotary Kick Out**

## Speakers

**May 14, 2025**

**Author Steve Newvine**

**May 21, 2025**

**Steve Tietjen**  
State of Education  
Update

**May 28, 2025**

**Erick Serrato**  
Merced County  
Workforce  
Development

**June 04, 2025**

**Adam Amaral**  
Merced County Office  
of Emergency  
Services

**June 11, 2025**

**Steve Jacobs, MD**  
Update on Rotary  
Polio Efforts

## Birthdays

**Kathleen Crookham**

May 16th

**Clark Kellogg**

May 25th

## Wedding Anniversaries

**Loren Gonella**

May 23rd

## Years of Service

**Danica Lynne Gantney**

05-18-2016

9 Years

The first phase of the project will be open in July 2025, with first use in spring of 2026. To the north is property available from the high school district. The city is in discussion to add baseball/softball facilities and indoor sports facilities.

With a project this size, it has taken support from the city council and leaders, and funding from ARPA and other sources. More information about the project is available online, click [here](#).

The winning ticket was Curtis Riggs, but no luck with the marble.

## CP-42 FUNDING SOURCES

