

## Bob Kildee Clothing a Perfect Fit for Camarillo

**B**ob Kildee Clothing, a long time family owned business, has been operating in the City of Camarillo since 1954. Bob Kildee started the family business with a mere \$200 and like most business owners during that time he self-hauled his trash to the landfill. It wasn't until 1958 that Bob Kildee was approached by E.J. Harrison, the company's co-founder, offering to personally sign him up for commercial solid waste service. Bob Kildee, who agreed to have Harrison Industries collect and haul his solid waste, became Harrison's first commercial solid waste customer in Camarillo. Since that time, the business has relocated, remained competitive, and after the passing of Bob Kildee, his son Kevin Kildee proudly took over the family business.

Despite the competitive clothing markets and the tough economy, Bob Kildee Clothing continues to hold its own against a succession of national clothing chains, not to mention the Camarillo Premium Outlet Mall just across the freeway. "Our niche market is predicated on the personal service we provide our customers - you just can't buy that," said Kevin Kildee, Bob's son. "We have customers who say, 'My grandfather shopped here and my father shopped here; now I'm shopping here.'"

Kevin started working for his dad "sweeping out the front of the store" when he was 12. He also mastered the art of gift-wrapping during the Christmas season. Before becoming his father's official



Kevin Kildee started working at his father's shop, Bob Kildee Clothing, when he was 12.

business partner, he graduated from college. Bob Kildee Clothing, which started out as a men's only store, introduced a line of women's clothing nearly 10 years ago. The store features clothing from a variety of high-end lines, including Tommy Bahama, Tori Richard, Reyn's Spooner and Pendleton.

After many successful years in business and public service, Bob Kildee passed away

in 2010 at the age of 90; however, his legacy will live on for generations to come. Bob was a founding member of the Camarillo Recreation and Park District in 1962 and served as the District's first president.

"My father believed in serving the families of Camarillo," Kevin said. "He always said, 'Our customers are good to me and my family, and this is my way of saying thank you.'" Last year, the District - and Camarillo residents - said "thank you" to him by renaming Pleasant Valley Park, "Bob Kildee Community Park."

Public service runs in the Kildee family. Kevin has served on the Camarillo City Council since 1996 and his stepmother, Maggie Kildee, was a member of the Ventura County Board of Supervisor

from 1980 to 1996. Bob Kildee Clothing is located at 606 N. Las Posas Road. Stop by and say hello to Kevin or check out his impressive line of clothing by visiting the store's website at [www.kildeeclothing.com](http://www.kildeeclothing.com).



Bob Kildee, who passed away in 2010 at age 90, with his wife, Maggie.



Kevin Kildee, left, with Tom Harrison at the Bob Kildee Community Park dedication.