



Grand Valley Lakes News

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Bill Stone, Publisher

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Diane Lanier, Editor



Just Three Wooden Crosses

Did you know that Grand Valley Lakes has its own cemetery?

Yes, we do and these three simple wooden crosses stand at the entrance of our cemetery. It has been lovingly cared for over the years by the Grand Valley Lakes Ladies Club and many, many volunteers. It dates back to the civil war. There are many very old grave markers as well as several new ones.

In fact, there was a service here within the last few weeks.

It is called Ussery Cemetery – just follow the signs and pay a visit – I think you will be surprised.

August Board of Directors very productive for GVL..

First, there were two resignations announced by Ron Scott, President. After several years of service on the board, Bill Stone resigned his position citing an overload of activities including publishing the GVL Newsletter, being active in the Men's Club, and community service in the city of Grand Junction. Stan Doyle was nominated and approved by the board to fill Stone's remaining time. Keith Clanton, Maintenance and Security Manager, retired as an active employee. He will remain in the unpaid position of agent for the guards because of specific training he has had. Tom Wein has assumed the maintenance and security management role.

New board officers were elected for this year. They are President Ron Scott, Vice-President Stan Doyle, Treasurer Donna McClarin, and Secretary Nancy Burke.

“Welfare checks” have been a source of concern in the recent past. Scott stated we will continue to perform them. If you have a concern about a resident's safety/well-being, call security and someone will check on them as soon as possible.

The stickers for the new ATV/UTV requirement are now available. Owners of these type vehicles have until October 15th to get registered.

Stan Doyle is seeking bids for paving. The slow down in business due to the pandemic has put paving companies way behind schedule. The board put this years paving allocation of \$50,000 into our savings account. If paving is delayed another month or so, the plan is to budget another \$50,000 next year, combine the two years and spend \$100,000.

Stuart Cohen reported on phase two of our website. Phase one is ready and is for the public. Phase two is a password protected site for members of the Property Owners Association who are in good standing. This site is not for the public. It will contain such items as agendas for upcoming meetings and/or board meeting notes.

The lodge renovation is complete. It looks great and we already have three weddings planned. This renovation will help us monetarily for years to come! Two additional good things to come out of this remodel was getting the electrical wiring up to code and replacing the sub-flooring which, on carpet removal, was found to be deteriorating.

Nancy Burke reported the telephone conversion from land lines to cellular is under way. Ultimate cost savings will be \$800. to \$900. per month.

Ron Scott reported we have a problem with the spillway. The mechanism which raises and lowers the spillway gate has rusted through. Perhaps not unexpected since its 40 years old. Bids are being sought. The lake cannot be lowered at this time.

Your Community Calendar for October/November 2020

Friday, October 9th @ 7:00 p.m. The Grand Valley Lakes POA Board of Directors will meet At the lodge. We will be starting to wrap up the year and look forward to 2021. If You want to be part of the future of this community and have a say – be there!

Saturday, October 10th @ 9:a.m. The Grand Valley Lakes Men’s Club will meet at the lodge There will be breakfast and a lot of business to attend to – fund raisers to be discussed Along with dates set There are many projects to be prioritized. All of the men of the Valley are invited and urged to attend. Many hands and minds make light work!

Saturday, October 10th @ 10:30 a.m. The Grand Valley Lakes Ladies Club will meet in the middle room at the lodge due to the renovations continuing. Lots to discuss! Every lady in the community is encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, October 20th @ 6:30 p.m. Ladies Game Night at the newly remodeled POA Lodge We will social distance and use hand sanitizer. Feel free to bring your own drink and snack for yourself – we will not be preparing food to share. Let’s have some fun!

Saturday, October 24th - Clean Up The Valley Day! We will meet at the Lodge at 8:00 a.m. And go from there!

Friday, November 13th @ 7:00 p.m. The Grand Valley Lakes POA Board of Directors will meet at the lodge. It has been a long time and there are a lot of issues to cover!

Saturday, November 14th @ 9:00 a.m. The Grand Valley Lakes Men’s Club will meet at the Lodge and have breakfast and cover a lot of topics. All the men of the Valley are invited to attend the meetings!

Saturday, November 14th @ 10:30 a.m. The Grand Valley Lakes Ladies Club will meet in the middle room at the lodge. It has been a while since the ladies have been together and there is a lot to discuss.

Tuesday, November 17th @ 6:30 p.m. Ladies Game Night at the POA Lodge!! Yeah!! We will social distance and use hand sanitizer. Feel free to bring your own drink and snack for yourself – we will not be preparing food to share. Let’s have some fun!

The GVL Ladies Club met on Saturday morning September 12th. Discussed at the meeting was the Annual Clean-up Day scheduled for Saturday October 24th. The Ladies Club will serve lunch between 11:30 and noon at the lodge to all who participate in this event.

It was decided to resume the monthly Bunko games for ladies in the valley on the third Tuesday of each month. The next date will be Tuesday October 20th, at 6:30PM at the lodge. To comply with safety concerns for the prevention of COVID, we will sit at the round tables, four to a table which allows for distancing ourselves from each other. The dice, tables and chairs will be cleaned before we play as well as using sanitizer for our hands. Bring your own drink and a snack for yourself if you like. We will not prepare food to share. Feel free to wear a mask if you would like to do so. To reserve your place to play, call Linda Johnson 901 491-9935. All ladies in the Valley are invited!

The Ladies Club meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at the lodge at 10:30am.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to Helen Nixon a longtime member of the Ladies Club who has served for years in charge of Ussery Cemetery as well as the Benevolence Committee at GVL. Along with her glowing reputation for making a fabulous Coconut Cake, we know Helen's larger commitment to the bereaved in our community. Thank you Helen for your love and time you have shared with all of us. Mr. Stuart Farmer has stepped up to fill this position and give Helen a much needed break.

If you have questions about purchasing space at the cemetery or are in need of a funeral scheduled there, call Margaret at the POA office (731 376-0116) and she will have Stuart contact you.

Respectfully,
Jean Harrison, GVL Ladies Club President

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Grand Valley Lakes News



August Yard of the Month...

goes to **Helen Nixon!!** Not only is this beautiful but the photo brings a question to mind: Exactly what kind of grass is that? It's beautiful AND growing in the shade! Just about every home in the Valley has an area of deep shade and we struggle to grow anything aside from weeds. Helen needs to hold a "how to grow grass seminar" for us!

September Lakeside Yard of the month goes to....

Dawn White and Leilana Navarro on White Oak Drive. After many months of planning and hard work they took a heavily wooded and very steep lot and made it into a lakeside paradise!



This issue of the Grand Valley News is sponsored in part by the Grand Valley Lakes Men's Club.

The Men's Club is a hardworking, fun-loving bunch of men who meet every second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the POA Lodge. These members have quickly become a creative force and a work force within our community.

Have you ever visited the Ussery Cemetery?

For those who don't know and have never visited, GVL has its own cemetery. It was established prior to the civil war and is still in use today. In fact a burial was held there just this past week.

The cemetery is maintained by the Ladies' Club using volunteers. It always looks nice but George Harrison and Stuart Farmer really spruced things up for a funeral which was recently held there. As you can see by the pictures, they did a super job!

There is a Cemetery Committee responsible for selling lots. There are just a few available and they are very reasonable. Call the office for a contact name and number.

Helen Nixon has been the Chairwoman of the Cemetery Committee for several years and recently resigned pleading, "I'm getting old"! Helen has done a super job over the years upgrading and improving things dramatically. Thank You, Helen, for your time, enthusiasm, and hard work!

Stuart Farmer has been appointed to assume the Chairmanship effective immediately. He's already researching the roots and history of the Cemetery and the Ussery family. Hopefully we will be able to publish his results in the months to come.

Why don't you visit ? Just follow the signs.



A view of part of the cemetery including the headstones of the Ussery family. The family lived here during the civil war. Husband, wife, and two sons are buried here.



This gazebo was built in honor of Neva Mullins, a tireless worker in the Grand Valley Community. She is buried in the cemetery.

An open letter to the community:

I write this to help property owners understand some of what our Board of Directors members do aside from requirements found in the association's by-laws.

The Board is made up of nine unpaid volunteers. They come from varied experience and backgrounds. Some are retired. Some are busy with careers. Some are raising families. Some live in the Valley. Some do not. I say this because some folks seem to think being a member of the board is a full time job. It isn't, although at times their spouses no doubt think it is. Board members do put in more time than you can imagine. They are dedicated and consider it an honor to have the opportunity to give back to the community.

First of all, much of the board's time is spent establishing priorities for the office, maintenance, and security activities. We have a great staff taking care of the normal day to day work. Unknown, unexpected issues often pop up and interfere with the normal. These issues actually require the most time from the board as they require assessment, research, priority adjustments, and budget decisions. These processes take people and time to accomplish. Just one example happens to be currently underway. The shaft which raises the spillway gate has rusted through. Repairs are needed in order to lower the lake as scheduled. Finding divers to assess and make the repairs is, in itself a process. Once the potential solution is found, bids must be received for the repairs. Where's the money coming from? Qualified divers are expensive. Do we make this repair or delay lowering the lake? What other budgeted projects can be adjusted or delayed in order to accomplish this repair? Can you imagine how much time and effort board members and maintenance staff must expend to bring this unexpected problem to a satisfactory conclusion for Valley residents?

Resident communications to and from the board is occasionally confusing. All board members are open to discussions regarding anything the board is doing. There are instances involving personnel or security issues that, while not "secret", are better left unsaid. Why broadcast possibly hurtful grist for the ever present gossip mill? As to normal business there are no secrets. On the other hand, when projects are being discussed and planned, it makes absolutely no sense to provide incomplete information that can be misunderstood and/or distorted. The finished product will be made readily available to residents for their comments, criticism, approval or disapproval. It will always be made public at a monthly board meeting. Rumors and incomplete/misunderstood information are disruptive and addressing them is a waste of the board's time. For your information, the board is currently searching for a secure way to release official association information as it comes available.

Suggestions and proposed ways to accomplish improvements are welcomed. If you wish to address the board, call the office and be added to the agenda.

I recently resigned from the board after serving several years as a member. I can say without hesitation the nine current board members are a dedicated, driven group. They have only one goal: Make Grand Valley Lakes a great place to live. It was an honor to serve with them.

Submitted By Bill Stone

Men's Club donates toward the POA lodge remodel...

The GVL Men's Club met Saturday, 9/12. After eating their regular biscuit and sausage gravy breakfast, members met in the POA dining room where the remodel has now been completed.

The members officially sanctioned a gift of \$750.00 to the Property Owners Association to pay for the new mirror over the fireplace.

The pandemic has played havoc with the club's fundraising efforts but not with their volunteer efforts. Working with the Ladies' Club members they, among other things, helped clean and paint 125 dining chairs.

Club member Larry Johnson basically did the electrical work including re-wiring and installation of new lighting fixtures for no charge. Another anonymous member installed new lighting on the patio. That same unnamed member also has washed a lot of the lodge windows.

The club authorized the purchase of a \$25 gift card for every Valley employee in appreciation for all these folks do for our community.

The club needs every man in the Valley to join in making our community an even better place to live. They meet on the second Saturday of each month in the lodge at 9:00am. Come hungry!



We appreciate our employees!!

A big "Thank You" for all you do for the Valley!

Here's our staff: Office Manager, Margaret; Maintenance/Security Manager, Tom; Maintenance, Kyle; Guards, Johnny, Richard, Jessica, Cameron, Caeleigh, Tiffany.

As you see these great folks let them know how much you appreciate them not only during their special week (Sept. 13th through 19th) but all year long!

ATV/UTV registration is under way...

The number of unsafe incident reports involving these type vehicles has increased substantially. These reports include destruction of property, speeding, and over occupancy of the vehicle. Although reported, it is difficult to identify the vehicle in question.

In our community setting, ATVs are convenient and a fun means of transportation, especially for teens. While this is true, it's also true Tennessee ranks seventh in the U.S. for ATV related deaths. ATV owners may not be aware of the behavior of family members driving their vehicles.

To address unsafe and destructive acts the board adopted an ATV/UTV registration policy. Every ATV/UTV type vehicle must be registered by October 15th.

Following is the procedure:

1. A picture of every vehicle will be taken at the office and posted in a registration log book.
2. Every vehicle will be issued two numbered stickers similar to the current boat stickers and two digit year tabs. The stickers must be applied at the POA office. This information will also be posted in the log book.
3. Updated owner information including name, address, telephone number and e-mail address will be collected at registration. For privacy, this information will be kept in a separate file and will be available to authorized personnel only.

The initial registration is free. Annual updates of stickers will be \$2.00. Please note: The vehicle must be brought to the office for registration.

Sponsored By the Law Office of

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Phone: 615-251-0005

GVL POA Attorney

**When Insults Had Class...just when we all need something to smile about --
...and you're welcome...Dotty Fulgham**

*"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you
here."*

Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."

John Bright

*"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing
trivial."*

Irvin S. Cobb

*"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in
others."*

Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."

Paul Keating

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."

Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."

Forrest Tucker

*"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any
address on it?"*

Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."

Mae West

*"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they
go."*

Oscar Wilde

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."

Billy Wilder

*"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this
wasn't it."*

Groucho Marx

Mark your calendar and save the day!!

October 24th will be the official “Clean up the Valley Day”! The effort will begin at 8:00 at the lodge. Generally things wrap up around noon.

If you have items you need removed but you are unable to handle the job yourself, call the office (731-376-0116) and ask to be added to the pickup list. The Men's Club will bring a trailer by and remove them for you. They will not come inside any residence but will gladly handle curbside and take the items to the dump.

The Ladies' Club will be walking our roadways picking up litter. They will also provide a free lunch to all who volunteer!

Tired of being stuck in the house due to COVID? Time for some productive exercise! This is your Valley! Come and volunteer a bit of time toward enhancing its appearance. Bring the kids. They're welcome to help too!



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