



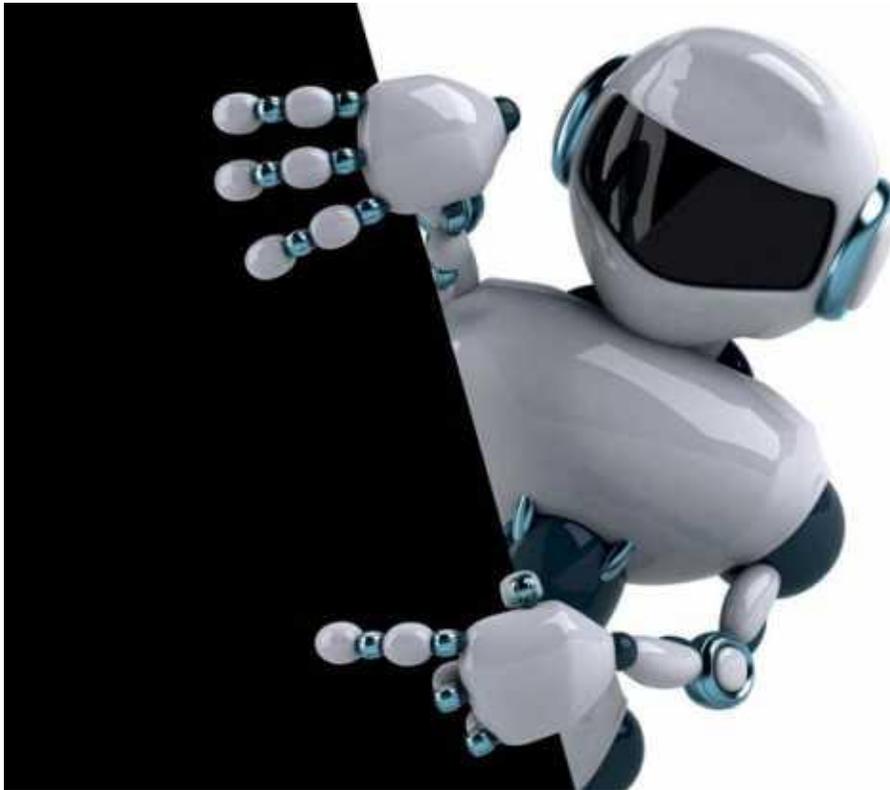
# *Grand Valley Lakes News*

*Volume 6 Issue 1*

*Bill Stone, Publisher*

*January/February, 2021*

*Diane Lanier, Editor*



Shh! “Happy new year” we said softly to 2021...

No one claimed it was their year or the year of anything; we took all the necessary precautions and then entered the year quietly, not saying a word, not looking around or too closely at anything; we did not touch anything, just calmly took our seats and now we are waiting.... to see what 2021 brings

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your patience in this time of loss and sadness. We delayed the publication of the newsletter in order to include all the news we had to print. As you can see from the calendar of events that there is very little activity among the organized groups in the Valley and we are not getting much from individuals either.

We appreciate the way the newsletter has been accepted within the community. We will continue to strive to put out a quality newsletter, covering as much of the Valley and her residents as we can. To that end, until we have a return to monthly meetings the newsletter will be published every two months.

This schedule will allow the staff a bit of rest and allow us to save a bit of money.

We thank those who continue to support our efforts and those who are willing to submit articles for publication. We would like to see more participation from residents. Those are the articles that really mean the most to your neighbors and friends.

We thank our faithful readers and hope to return to full presses rolling on a monthly basis.

The Staff of the Grand Valley Lakes News

## **Big Surprise From Punxsutawney Phil...**

The official “groundhog” for Ground Hog day was awoken at 7:25 a.m, at Gobbler’s Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to do his annual forecast. And.... he saw his shadow.... which means six more weeks of winter.

That was a big surprise since the northeastern U.S. is buried in snow with more to come. Our forecast is to get colder with another front on the way. I am not begrudging Phil his obvious forecast since he also added that we would see one of the most beautiful and brightest springs we have ever seen. But I am saying it seemed a bit obvious this year.

Over the years Phil has been right 35 to 40 percent of the time – not much different than his human counterparts on TV.

I do find the tradition of “Groundhog Day” endearing as part of our traditions. Other countries have a similar tradition of weather forecasting for the coming year but nobody has Phil, as big and loveable as he is. The one thing that may be good news from all of this is that for the past year a lot of us have felt like we were living the movie “Groundhog Day” and now Groundhog Day has come and gone... maybe now we can move on and out into life once again.

*Your Community Calendar for January/February 2021*

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**Friday, February 12th @ 7:00 p.m.** The Grand Valley Lakes POA Board of Directors will meet by ZOOM. If you would like to attend the meeting call Margaret at the POA office and she will give you the meeting id and a password. You will be in a view only mode. Until further notice this is how the meetings will be held.

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There are no further calendar events scheduled until March. We hope that by that time the restrictions will have loosened and the COVID will have begun to decrease in its spread.

Thank you for your understanding.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 700 p.m.

The Spring Forward time change will take place on Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 a.m.

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**Sponsored By the Law Office of**

**George R. Fusner, Jr.**

**Phone: 615-251-0005**

**GVL POA Attorney**

Good Morning,

I am Roy Hailey, Anderson Hailey's father.

Anderson worked at the guard shack on weekends while preparing to enter the U.S Marine Corps. I know he developed a great rapport with many resident's during his tenure with the security team and I thought I would reach out to you about putting something small in the Newsletter as he graduated from Parris Island on Friday, December 18, 2020

He is now at Camp Geiger in NC for more training. We are extremely proud of him and thankful for the opportunity he had within this community. I can tell you he misses "The Valley" very much. I know there are some who would be interested to see him, know he made it and he is doing very well

Sincerely,  
Roy Hailey



Standing proud in his dress blues is Pvt. Anderson Hailey. I know that his parents are so proud as are the folks in the Valley. We thank him for his bravery and his willingness to serve his country.

I know that there are other military parents and grandparents here in the Valley. Please share ongoing news and pictures with us. We want to share in the pride and express our gratitude to these fine young men and women.

## On The Square Gallery and Gifts

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*(a Grand Valley Lakes resident run business)*

# Grand Valley Lakes News

## Hey, Hey!! Good news!

Our gym is re-opening. Hopefully “reopened” by the time you read this!

First. You will have to get a new code. No big deal, just go by the office or call and get one.

Surprisingly few rules to follow:



No more than four folks at a time. Social distancing, please.

Sanitizers will be available. Please clean equipment BEFORE and AFTER you use it!

Keeping things clean is a priority so, please, cooperate on that score.

Please do not move the equipment! It's purposefully placed for social distancing!!

Please limit your visit to about an hour so others can use it.

Also note that there will be no pass-through to the restrooms in the kitchen area from the exercise room.



**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.

**I KNEW IT WAS YOU, LORD!**

**WHEN I SAW**

the beautiful rainbow, the lightening flash,  
the forms in the clouds, and the water splash,  
the colors of autumn, the splendor of snow,  
the stars at night, and the moon aglow,  
the delicate butterfly, and tiny hummingbird,  
that defy gravity as they hover and swerve,  
the books that hold adventures in learning,  
revealing science, love, and human yearning,  
the rivers tumbling toward the ocean,  
the expression on faces showing their emotion,

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**I KNEW IT WAS YOU, LORD!**

**WHEN I HEARD**

the baby laugh, the thunder roll, the bird sing,  
the crackle of fire, and the phone ring,  
the harmony of singing all kinds of music,  
which, like medicine, is very therapeutic,  
the wind in the swaying trees,  
and the crunch underfoot of fallen leaves,  
people talking and sharing life experiences,  
learning from each other despite their differences,

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**I KNEW IT WAS YOU, LORD!**

**WHEN I SMELLED**

sweet puppy breath, the fragrance of flowers,  
clean air after the rain,  
and the scent of hay where the horse had lain,  
the warning of the skunk,  
and country road dust that covered the trunk,  
cranberries and pumpkin spice,  
green beans and fried rice,  
turkey breast and baked ham,  
meant holidays with candied yams,  
the barely discernible cologne of father so dear,  
before infirmity and heaven would steal him from  
here,

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**I KNEW IT WAS YOU, LORD!**

**WHEN I TASTED**

the flavor of summer fruit, the salt of happy tears,  
the best dessert I had in years,  
and fancy escargot which removed my fears,  
robust coffee on a sleepy morning,  
bacon and eggs, pancakes and yawning,  
the bitter pucker of bright yellow lemons,  
the sting of pepper certainly from demons,  
the tart tang of homemade pickles,  
and holiday candy that makes us giggle,  
the goodness of food from neighbors so kind,  
when sick, lame, or bereaved, surely remind  
that life can hurt, but love is the tie that binds,

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**I KNEW IT WAS YOU, LORD!**

**WHEN I TOUCHED**

the smooth skin of a baby, the soft rabbit fur,  
the pawing of the cat as if a masseur,  
the rough grit of sandpaper,  
shapes of round, square, angular and tapered,  
boiling water that sterilizes with heat,  
the freezing ice of hail and sleet,  
the scrunch of toes in sugar-fine sand,  
the wrinkles on an aged mother's hands  
that tell the story of all she withstands,

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**I KNEW IT WAS YOU, LORD!**

**WHEN I FELT**

the love of family and friends, the warmth of the  
sun,  
the joy of victory hard fought and won,  
the vigor after running that is so fun,  
the sensation of knowing fight or flight,  
the awareness of calm or sudden fright,  
the cold of winter, the heat of fire,  
the wonder of Nature that always inspires,  
the balance of body to know my place in space,  
to keep from falling and causing bones to break,  
the assurance of Jesus' salvation and heaven,  
the joy in gaining the mercy He has given,

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**I KNEW IT WAS YOU, LORD!**

## **A Gentle Reminder....**

We are so glad to see so many of our residents enjoying our rural area and to see them getting into and staying in shape. We see many of you walking or jogging along the roadways. That is the key – WE SEE YOU!

Just a gentle reminder about the “rules of the road in the country”. While we want to see you continue to enjoy your walks/runs remember that you do not have the “right of way” when vehicles are on the road. You must yield to them. So when walking 2 or 3 abreast and a car is approaching you need to get into a single file line on the shoulder or side of the road. That is why it is best while walking that you walk facing the traffic.... You can see them coming! It is as much your responsibility as it is the drivers to watch out for YOU! While I know it is enjoyable to get those tunes going or to listen to that book on your ipod – please don’t! When you have both earbuds in your ears and the sound turned up – you are deaf to what is around you, including vehicles and machinery. And if you are not following the rules and facing the traffic, you have no idea what is behind you and vehicles cannot always pass you. Once again, in the country these vehicles have the right of way.

There are only 3 spots within the Valley that drivers might be required to yield to pedestrians. The first one is at the front gate – there are speed bumps there and folks are crossing to and from the guard shack. The second place is on Indian Lane where there are also speed bumps and signs warning that children may be playing in the area. These children must yield to the drivers but it may take them some time to move. The third spot is on Fairway where there is a speed bump as you come out of a curve and there are basketball goals set up. Drivers slow for the speed bump and look for kids playing, but once again, these players cannot hold up traffic on purpose. They must let the drivers pass.

We do not have a lot of traffic in the Valley, but with the coming of spring and summer the traffic will increase. And the time change of spring and the heat of summer bring another set of problems.

Let’s get the rules of the road right before we discuss the challenges of these changing seasons!



## **WILLIAM “BILL” HOWARD PLATTEN**

*September 3, 1953 – November 22, 2020*

On Sunday, November 22 — the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe — the Fishers of Men lost our captain, beloved brother and true friend Bill Platten from complications due to COVID-19. In our Lord’s final conversation with his closest friends (John 15), He said “By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples”. It’s doubtful that any of us have ever known a more spiritually fruitful person than Bill Platten. His joyful, energetic faith was both authentic and contagious. To be around him was to be inspired to up your game, to see things from a new perspective. His self-forgetful openness to the Holy Spirit meant that he seemed poised every moment to respond to his King’s slightest prompting. And his childlike wonder at how his obedience was so often met with Grace couldn’t help but make you smile and want to be like him. Bill saw and lifted up the good in every person he encountered, and his way of listening left each one feeling loved and respected. He was a leader among leaders, a pace-setter, selfless to a ‘T’, passionate about knowing his Lord ever deeper and about helping other men flourish in their own relationship with Christ. The fruit of Bill’s having said ‘yes’ to the Lord’s call years ago is literally hundreds of men who — through Fishers of Men, Men’s Morning of Spirituality, and numerous other ministries Bill led or impacted — lit their torches from his and began to pursue their own personal Journey with Christ to the Father’s house. Whether viewed from the many individual stories that have been forever changed for good or from the larger picture of Kingdom advancement through men’s ministry, Bill’s life here has been a masterpiece of fruitfulness, to the glory of God the Father. But that’s just the first chapter. A new one is now beginning...and it’s our deep conviction that Bill’s fruitfulness, extraordinary as it has been, will be even multiplied in and through our lives in the days ahead. In God’s mysterious and wonderful economy of Grace, the seed of Bill’s life which has ‘fallen into the soil’ is intended to bear even more fruit to God’s glory. To that end, may each of us who were blessed to know and love him now apprehend, nurture and act on what, through the Holy Spirit, Bill sowed in our lives. *His work is done and his reward is at hand. Ours is just beginning.*



### **Obituary for Evan "Buzzy" Forbess**

Evan (Buzzy) Forbess Mr. Evan "Buzzy" Forbess, 86, of Grand Valley, passed from this life on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at his home.

Buzzy was born December 27, 1934 to Acey Lloyd and Elgie Gross Forbess in Memphis, TN. He attended Humes High School where he began a close friendship with Elvis Presley and graduated in 1955. As his loyal companion, Buzzy has been asked numerous times throughout the years to authenticate stories that were being told regarding Elvis' life. He worked at MLG&W for "36 years, 6 months and 7 days" before retiring. He was married to Marilyn Yvonne Tatum on May 17, 1969, they were together 54 1/2 years. They moved to Hardeman County in 1995, settling at Grand Valley Lakes Resort. Buzzy was known to be an avid sportsman, fishing and hunting, playing golf, baseball, basketball and football. In 1989 he was inducted to the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame as a football player. At age 40, he was a fast-pitch softball pitcher. He had 2 hole-in-ones, one in Blytheville and the other at Crockett in Memphis. He double-eagled at the Hardeman County Golf and Country Club and bought himself a trophy. A master gardener, Buzzy kept two gardens and numerous fruit trees. He was known to shy away deer from his gardens with his 410, but after accidentally killing two with one shot he switched to using a BB gun. He and his wife Marilyn enjoyed music and dancing together. A member of Bellevue Baptist Church since youth, he and Marilyn attended Hickory Valley Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife Marilyn; three daughters, Dorrie Lynn Forbess of Pass Christian, MS, Johanna Fawn VanderVyver (Tino) of Grandview, MO and Lisa Lumpkin of Eads, TN; three sons, Stephen Forbess (Erica) of Bunlevel, NC, Joseph Forbess (Beth) of Idaho; and Joseph Lumpkin of Grand Valley, TN; 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Jesse Brooks, and Mary Alma Brooks, and an infant brother, Acey Lloyd Forbess, Jr.

A private family service will be held for Mr. Forbess due to the ongoing pandemic.



## **Obituary for Aaron L. McGregor**

Aaron was the son of the late Reverend Aaron and Leona McGregor of Horn Lake, MS. He leaves behind his wife Rhonda Pernell McGregor of 57 years. He also leaves behind three daughters, Jennifer McGregor Severson and husband John, Mary McGregor Sapp and husband David, and Laura McGregor Laughlin and husband Earl. Aaron was grandfather to 16 grandchildren, Dawn Fike, Brittany Fike, Hannah Sapp Chamberlain and husband Glenn, Theron Sapp and wife Ali, Zachary Sapp, Micah Sapp, Joshua Sapp, Miriam Sapp, Joslyn Sapp, Lauren Sapp, Sarah Sapp, Trenton Sapp, Clara Sapp, Private Avery Read, US Army, Lydia Read, and Sean Laughlin. He served in the Navy for 4 years where he made many lasting friendships. Later he was employed at DuPont in Memphis where he retired after 38 years. After retirement, Aaron and Rhonda moved to Saulsbury where he was appointed deacon at Hickory Valley Baptist church. He also became a member of the Hardeman County Golf and Country Club where he competed with some of Hardeman County's toughest golfers. Rest easy, baby.

A life well lived - with sadness in our hearts but rest in knowing he's in a better place, Aaron has been called home to Heaven. He passed early Friday morning on January 1st, 2021 in his sleep at home with family. He will be dearly missed by all he knew. The joy he exuded cannot be replaced but will always be remembered with endearing thoughts and gratitude that we were privileged to know such an amazing man. We shed tears of sadness and jealously await the day we can join him in the perfect arms of Jesus.

### Celebrating the Life of Dotty Fulgham

If you were introduced to this incredible lady, the first thing she would say is “I am Dotty with a ‘y’ not an ‘ie’”. That gave you a little glimpse of this wonderfully witty person, Dotty Fulgham.

“I enjoyed a sweet, way-too-short, five-year friendship with my beautiful Dotty. We both instantly knew we were kindred spirits during our first conversation when we met. Our shared stories revealed a commonality of life experiences and our similar responses to what were joyous or sorrowful occasions, career choices, health issues, relationships, and other facets of humanity. We both cherished a bond with God that ruled who we were” says Ernie Kelly.

Dotty was our Bible study teacher for 3 years and did a wonderful job of sharing insight into God’s Word, about which she was very knowledgeable. She organized us as prayer warriors and never let a text go out without reminding us of Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and our strength – a very present help in time of trouble.”

“Dotty was the kind of friend who praised your efforts, chastised your poor choices (and words), encouraged you when you were down, mentored you as you needed it, asked for your help and support, and loved you in all of your different personalities,” adds Ernie.

“She was a lover of laughter and saw it as a healing agent. Her husband John and my Mike also found mutual interests and similar traits. We four could (and did) visit together for hours and laugh so hard that our stomach hurt. Such fun!”

While Dotty’s husband, John, adds that Dotty was an Oklahoma University Sooner fan, She was the kind of fan that would jump on the couch and cheer while in the next minute give the referees a good talking to – no matter her age! The other sporting team that had Dotty’s wholehearted support were the Atlanta Braves. This lady was a fan to be reckoned with!

“We could disagree without being disagreeable. Dotty respected another's opinion even when it opposed her own. She held an open mind and could defend her point of view without denying your rationale. Both of us should have been attorneys. We loved a vigorous debate,” stated Ernie.

Dotty left us on January 19<sup>th</sup>, just after midnight with husband John keeping watch at her side.

“I miss her so much, but in my mind's eye, I can see her excitement as she saw Jesus for the first time in heaven. She was one of His "good and faithful servants" and, young again and without pain, she will be leading and serving there as she did on earth.

“It is rare to find such a friend. Someone once said, "if you find one friend as this in your lifetime, consider yourself one of the lucky ones." I got to be one of the lucky ones!”

I think that anyone whose life was touched by Dotty Fulgham was one of the lucky ones.

*Submitted by Ernie Kelly and Diane Lanier*

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