



Grand Valley Lakes News

Volume 6 Issue 7

November, 2021

Bill Stone, Publisher

Diane Lanier, Editor



Secret Santa 2021

It is time for our Secret Santa to visit the children in Grand Valley Lakes. We help Santa out by supporting our kids.

You can do this by picking up a card with a child's name and gift wish on it at the gate. Purchase and wrap the gift then drop it along with the card at the gate by **November 23rd**.

Gifts will be distributed by Santa and his helpers on **December 18th**.

If you have any questions please call Johnny at the gate (731-361-9400 cell or 731-376-8333 gate)

Grand Valley Area Volunteer Fire Department News

10/9/2021

Unfortunately, one of our neighbors lost their house to fire recently. We responded very quickly and, with the help of the Grant money that Keith Clanton acquired, had new fire suits which helped in putting out the blaze. Chief Tom and Keith said their suits worked well and helped them bring the fire under control.

If you have not paid your yearly dues, please do so. The current fiscal year is June, 2021 thru May, 2022 and payments will be gratefully accepted any time during the year.

The U.S. Congress has passed the “American Rescue Plan Act” of 2021. Provisions of the Act include \$130.2 billion for a Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to be split between cities and counties. Tennessee counties will directly receive approximately \$1.4 billion to be distributed based on the county’s share of the U.S. population. Cities in Tennessee will receive over \$944 million. Your Fire Department has received \$25,000 that is “required to be spent directly on equipment used in the act of fire fighting to save a life and/or property”. The money has to be spent by June, 2022 and we will let you know how it is spent.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lona Coffee 901-605-7033

Monthly Men’s Club

The Men’s club would like to thank the GVL community for their great support during this year’s Fish Fry and Auction. We would like to thank the Ladies Club for their support.

The proceeds from these events will help us continue our projects to improve our community. A few examples of the Men’s club in action are the street signs being installed, the refurbishment of the bathrooms, the painting of the seesaws and tables and grill installation at the beach.

The Men’s club meets in the lodge kitchen on the Saturday after the monthly board meeting. We meet at 9am. Coffee, biscuits and gravy are a tradition. If you are not a member, please join us. You will make new friends and can be a part of a group that volunteers their time to improve the GVL.

Paul Benoit
GLV Men’s Club

Your Calendar of Events for November/December

Thursday, Nov. 18th @ 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi class is cancelled

Thursday, Nov. 25th HAPPY THANKSGIVING!! Be safe and enjoy family and friends

Tuesday, Nov. 23rd SECRET SANTA GIFTS NEED TO BE AT THE GATE!!!

Thursday, Dec. 2nd @ 6:00 p.m. Line Dancing has been cancelled

Thursday, Dec. 9th @ 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi class is cancelled

Friday, Dec. 9th @ 7:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the POA will not meet.

Saturday, Dec. 10th @ 9:00 a.m. Men's Club meets in the POA Lodge Kitchen

Saturday, Dec. 10th @ 10:30 a.m. Ladies' Club will meet over a covered dish brunch in the POA Lodge. Bring your favorite casserole, veggies, salad or dessert.

Thursday, Dec. 16th @ 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi class will not meet.

Saturday, Dec. 18th – Secret Santa Gifts will be delivered

Sunday, Dec. 19th @ 3:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling – Anyone wishing to go caroling here in the Valley meet at the POA Lodge at 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi class at the Lodge will not meet

Saturday, Dec. 25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Thursday, Dec. 30th @ 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi class at the Lodge will not meet.

SATURDAY, JAN. 1ST HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2022

Sponsored By the Law Office of

George R. Fusner, Jr.

**Phone: 615-251-0005
GVL POA Attorney**

**SPILLWAY GATE AND LAKE LOWERING UPDATE
As of Friday, Oct. 29, 2021**

To: The Grand Valley Lakes Community

From: Grand Valley Lakes Board of Directors

OCTOBER 29, 2021 – GATE ARRIVES AT GRAND VALLEY LAKES

The new gate is scheduled to arrive Friday, October 29, 2021. It will be stored in the maintenance area until installation is started. Delays in shipping caused some schedule date changes.

NOVEMBER 2, 2021 LOWERING LAKE FOR SPILLWAY GATE INSTALLATION

Based on the revised start date of November 30, 2021, GVL Maintenance and the engineering firm will begin lowering the lake 18” to 24” over a three (3) week period prior to installation. Lowering the lake may affect shallow areas, so your boats may need to be moved. Grand Valley Drive will not be affected during this three week period as pumping will be accomplished without crossing the road.

NOVEMBER 30, 2021 SPILLWAY GATE INSTALLATION

Grand Valley representatives met with the engineering firm October 29, 2021 to finalize bids and ensure subcontractors can meet the November 30, 2021 start date..

Installation of the gate begins November 30, 2021. Use of Grand Valley Drive is affected as the levee will be closed to through traffic (pumping is done across Grand Valley Drive). Installation is scheduled for completion in one week. If that plan holds, construction is to be completed by December 6, 2021. At that time the lake will be returned to normal levels to test the gate installation.

NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15, 2021 LOWERING LAKE FOR WORK BY RESIDENTS

If all goes according to plan, the lake will be lowered no later than DECEMBER 15, 2021 and will be returned to normal levels in MARCH 2022.

Again, these dates are very tentative and delays in any portion could affect our timeline.

Thanks for your patience and support of this major effort to protect our lake. Additional updates will be provided as information is available.

HELP WANTED

**Grand Valley Lakes needs GUARDS (start at \$8/hour go to \$10/hour when licensed)
MAINTENANCE personnel (start at \$12/hour). *Full Time or Part Time.***

Call 731-876-0116 for details.

On The Square Gallery and Gifts

109 North Main Bolivar, TN 3800

Open Wednesdays & Thursdays 11 to 2, Fridays 12 to 5 and Saturdays 10 to 4

Owner: Deborah Turner Brasfield

Showcasing Local Art, Handcrafted Gifts,

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(a Grand Valley Lakes resident run business)



**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.

O



COURAGE

for a woman who, facing active opposition,
backed an unpopular cause in which she deeply believed:

Helen Adamo

Although some form of mental illness affects one in five families, the condition is often misunderstood, feared, and hidden from public view. It takes a person of courage to accept the unpopular challenge of being a champion for people who suffer with mental illness. Such a courageous person is Helen Adamo.

For 20 years, Helen has worked to dispel erroneous myths, change public policy, and defend the rights of individuals whose lives have been affected by disorders of the brain. Her business card from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Memphis reads, "Helen Adamo, Advocate." Behind this simple title lies a diverse, complex combination of hard-fought achievements, gratifying victories, frustrating delays, fierce battles, exhausting hours, and eternal faith. Helen's goals include removing the stigma attached to mental illness and improving the quality of life for those who often are victimized because of their illness.

"Discovering that a family member has a mental illness is like a death, but the person is still living," Helen said. "You don't receive flowers. People don't come to visit and console you. But you still grieve. And you have to go through each step of the grieving process until you reach acceptance. That's when you become an advocate."

Helen has far more than a passing acquaintance with those steps to acceptance. She is the mother of a mentally ill adult son. Twenty-eight years ago when she first faced the heartbreak of mental illness, there were few medications and even fewer services available for families with mentally ill members.

Today, she enthusiastically lists the number of medications available, but laments the delivery of services and the ignorance that persists about the disease. She edits the AMI Advisor, a newsletter for the organization she has served since 1983.

By speaking out in defense of the rights of the mentally ill, Helen draws attention to the plight of these intelligent individuals who suffer and may not know that there is help for them. She is one of the cofounders of the Crisis Intervention Team, specially trained police officers equipped to handle people with brain disorders. This special unit has been in existence for 11 years and has become a model for the rest of the country. The officers volunteer for the training and are now found in every precinct in Memphis 24 hours a day.

Jails are another challenge faced by the mentally ill and a major concern for Helen. She firmly believes that if a third of detainees in jails who are suffering with serious brain disorders were expedited through the system so they could get the help they need, overcrowding in jails would be a moot point. This is neither a popular nor easy proposal, but one she pursues nevertheless. After two years of Helen's advocacy for those mired in the judicial system, a committee has been formed to review solutions to the problems – a glimmer of hope on the horizon for her.

Helen retired from NAMI-Memphis April 1, 2002, at age 74.

Because of Helen's work with the Crisis Intervention Team, There are now 1,700 such teams nationwide.

Helen won the Women of Achievement Courage Award in 2000 and since her retirement in 2002 still works to improve the Police encounters with those who are afflicted with mental illness. She was also a very active advocate for organizations like The Carl Perkins Center ministering to abuse situations.

Mrs. Helen Adamo passed away at her home in Grand Valley Lakes on September 24th 2021 at the age of 93 years. She was as active as she could be with the Grand Valley Lakes Ladies' Club for several years. She will be missed by all who knew her and supported her causes.

Grand Valley Lakes POA, Inc.

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May 17, 2021

To GVL Property Owners:

The spillway gate, which regulates the water level in the lake, is not functioning and has to be replaced. If it were to fail, the lake would drain and there is the possibility that we would lose part of the levy, also, so it is important that it be replaced as soon as possible. On 2-23-21, the Board contracted with F&M Engineering in Savannah TN, based on their experience with spillways and water control systems. Their plan is to begin the work around June 15th of this year.

The current proposals for replacement total \$114,106 and \$149,860. A more precise number will be given to us by F&M Engineering before the work is started. Whatever amount we are given, we will be adding in 10% of the cost to attempt to cover unforeseen costs; that amount will be used to decide how much to pull from our accounts.

\$41,000 of the total cost will come from the PPP money that we received for COVID relief. Other options continue to be discussed, such as—select cutting some trees. The remainder of the money will come from our savings account. We will work out a repayment plan to ourselves with a 2% interest rate over the payback period.

In order to lessen the amount taken out of our savings, each Board member has committed to giving some amount of money. We are asking that everyone who can, please contribute some amount of money; no amount is too small.

These funds can be given to Lona Coffee or mailed to her at 240 Teton Dr., Saulsbury, TN 38067. You can also leave it with Margaret in the POA Office; Margaret can also take credit cards.

Your additional money would be appreciated as soon as possible so that we can pull less out of savings. However, if you can't make the early June timeframe, we'll still take it and put it back in savings.

Spillway Update:

Donations through November: \$ 42,800!

Thank you for your continued support

The new gate will be aluminum rather than steel per the recommendation from the engineering firm. The gate has been ordered and will require 16 weeks for completion. You may donate through the POA office!

Grand Valley Lakes News

Men's Club Fish Fry recovers big time after Covid layoff in 2020...

The men's Club reported the recent Fish Fry Fundraiser earned just over \$6,500. This was the second highest amount earned since the club was organized! Approximately \$2,000 of that was proceeds from their auction. These are great numbers since the club was unable to host the event last year due to the pandemic.

David Parkinson did a super job organizing and putting together the volunteers, cooks, equipment and food products needed! Thanks to Jody Jackson for volunteering to be the auctioneer! Thanks also to the guys who helped cook and serve!

The Ladies' Club did their usual great job of supplying desserts. To say they were delicious is an understatement of the highest order! Several Ladies also helped with serving to-go meals and the desserts. In thanks for their help, the Men's Club gave the Ladies a gift of \$500.00 to use in their club's projects.

If you ever wondered what the men's and Ladies' Clubs do with all the money they raise, you're invited to tune in to the newsletter next month to view the projects they've completed over the years! A broad outline of projects to complete with this year's profits is already in the works.

New officers for the coming year are Paul Benoit, President, Stuart Farmer, Vice-President, and Jimmy Lomax, Treasurer! There is no way to offer thanks that comes anywhere near sufficient for George Harrison in his role as President over the past several years! Everywhere you care to look in the Valley you can see projects completed under his leadership! But...THANKS!

AND the club meets at 9:00 am on the second Saturday of each month. Every man and, yes, even student in the Valley is needed and invited to join us. Hey, Dads, bring your sons and enjoy the fellowship!



David Parkinson sets up to serve after planning and organizing the fish fry. David worked tirelessly beginning to end and his efforts were the major reason the fundraiser was as successful as it turned out to be.

Linda Parkinson, shown here, and other members of the Ladies' Club baked and served the desserts for the Fish Fry. They also helped pack to-go dinners. Just like at home, the guys would be in a world of hurt without them!





How many hush puppies can one man fry in two hours? Men's Clubber Larry Johnson might have some idea. He's the man who did the frying. Maybe he doesn't have the number down exactly but it was in the several hundred area! AND they were great! Larry is another club member that is blessed with many talents and is always ready to share them in completion of Valley projects!

From children's toys to adult beverages! The Fish Fry auction had an unbelievable assortment of items for sale! Jerry Parkhurst spent tons of time organizing and, along with other members, setting up this event. Jerry's leadership added \$2,000 to the profits!



How many fish dinners with all the trimmings can be sent out of this kitchen in one evening, actually only 2 hours in one evening... I bet the Men's Club could tell you how many and every one filled the plate and every one delicious!



Grand Valley Lakes News



What a “WELCOME” sight! This is our September Lakeside Yard of the Month. The time owners **Johnny and Tracy Tartera** have spent and do spend keeping that dock area looking this welcoming was well spent!

Congratulations!!

Probably one of the more unusually placed homes in the Valley, this beauty garners our September Yard of the Month award. Owned by **David and Linda Parkinson**, the time and effort to achieve and maintain the Yard of the Month results is obvious. It’s always a pleasure to catch sight of this home as you turn onto Grand Valley Drive on the way to the marina.



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