Grand Valley Lakes News

June 2024

Calendar of Events

June 4th–GVL Ladies' Night

June 14th – GVL Board Meeting 7pm– Lodge

June 15th – Men's Club meeting CANCELLED FOR JUNE

–Ladies Club meeting 10:30am– Lodge

June 22nd– Splashin' in the Valley: Cardboard Boat Races

July 4th –Fireworks

July 6th –Boat Parade 3:00

July 12th – Board Meeting 7 pm

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Men's Club News

The Men's Club has been active again. The front entrance now has a new fence that matches the style at the beach and spans the front of the entrance. We have also made more progress on the painting of the fire hydrants. We expect to have that project completed in the next 30 days. Our next big projects are an exit sign on the back of the front marquee and beginning work on a fountain rebuild.

With this month's meeting the day before Father's Day, we are cancelling the meeting to allow the guys to visit with family and friends and recover! We will meet again next month. We invite more residents to come visit with us and participate in the many projects that we have to improve the valley. We meet the Saturday morning after the Board Meeting at the lodge at 9am.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this project happen: Earl Butler, Randy Powell, Stuart Farmer, and Mark Martin. The new gate looks wonderful, and we appreciate your hard work!

JASON DIETSCH TRAILER SALES MIDSOUTH

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PARTS SERVICE AND SALES

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May Board Meeting Recap

President's Report- Problems with combining lots. Hardeman County is now enforcing any movement of lot lines from the original plats. This requires TDEC, soil samples, perk test and other certificates to be presented. We are going to the planning commission to see if there is a way to streamline the process. The current wait time for a survey is 2 months and we need to see if there is a way to make this shorter.

Amenities Committee- there was a discussion before the meeting with the board on some proposals. There are many good ideas and they are working with the board to get things moving.

ARP update- Our expenditure so far has been $5,500. We still have $499,955 of the grant money for water projects left. The pre-contract will be shown the 21st of this month. The contract is then signed by Mayor Pulse and then to TDEC. After this, we will be able to see about dates for installation.

GVL2025- We have 24 projects this year. Two are completed, 14 are in progress and 8 are not started.

New Business- officers for the board remain the same.

Nuisance Ordinance- we had a reading of the ordinance draft. Letters would go out to offenders. We are looking at raising fines for public nuisance issues.

ARC committee- We approved the Men's Club fence project, Mills fence and Dunaway dock.

Staff- New Maintenance team member! The levee was inspected, we are waiting on the report.

If there are any issues or things to be reported, please contact the guard shack directly. They will send the information to the correct person.

June 22nd- Cardboard boat races

The meeting was adjourned

Grand Valley Area Volunteer Fire Department

Each year the GVA VFD sells Boston butts to raise money to help meet its needs. There are order forms at the gate, but the information is as follows:

- Order forms are due June 28.
- All orders must be prepaid.
- Pickup is July 6, 2024 at 10:00am in the POA kitchen.
- Full Boston Butt is $50 Half Boston Butt is $25

Please leave your order at the gate or in the POA office. Thank you!

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Ladies' Club News

The Ladies' Club worked on two projects instead of having a meeting in May. We partnered with the Men's Club to paint fire hydrants around the valley while some ladies worked on the flowerbeds at the gate. We enjoyed doing these things to help improve our community.

We will be providing hotdogs, chips and water on June 22, during the Splashin' in the Valley event. We hope to see you there!

The next GVL Ladies' Night Out is Thursday, July 11 at Carolyn Ray-Kanthack's house. It will be a pool party and will start at 6:30. If you don't want to swim, we can sit around the pool with our feet in the water! 😉 Please join us at 125 Welcom Ussery Drive. Please bring your own drink and feel free to bring a snack to share! Come join us and meet some new neighbors!

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1st Annual GVL Summer Celebration…

Splashin' in the Valley!

FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE!! Saturday, June 22 – Rain Date Sunday, June 23

GVL will have the first annual Cardboard Boat Races this summer. This sounds like a great event that I'm sure everyone will enjoy-participants and spectators! The rules are listed below.

*We will set up a "racecourse" from the beach and each race will follow the same course.

*Lifejackets must be worn during all races.

*Depending on the number of entries we may have to divide into heats and have a championship race at the end of each activity

*No unnecessary roughness to disrupt others while they race – cause for disqualification

*Make sure your Cardboard Boats and you are at the Beach by 3pm for judging!

*Cardboard Boat making rules – Materials must include only cardboard, duct tape, hot glue, rope or string, latex paint. Make your own paddle, SUP Paddles or Kayak paddles can be used. No wood, Styrofoam, cardboard tubes, metal, or other items that could help it float. Cause for disqualification. Have fun with a theme and costumes are encouraged for judging!

*As we get closer to the date, we will be asking for everyone to register, come cheer on your favorites and we will be asking for a few volunteers to judge and organize! Stay Tuned.

Schedule of activities:

3:00 – Stand up Paddleboard (SUP) race--single person, double person,60+

3:15 – Sit Down Paddleboard race--single person, double person, 60+

3:30 – Tube race – get out your big boating tubes and paddle them around the course-
single person, double person, 60+

3:45 – Kayak race--single person, double person, 60+

4:00 – Cardboard Boat Race – create your own themed boat! Costumes encouraged! -single person, double person,60+

4:30 – awards presentation--Awards for all races in each category

*SUP Race - Tube Race – Kayak Race-fastest

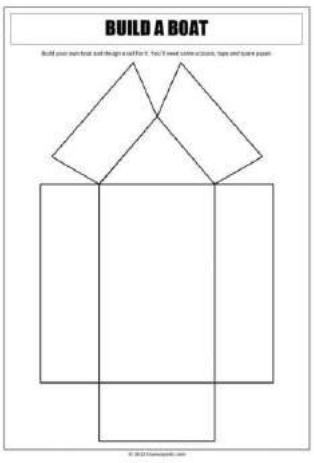
*Cardboard Boat Race – fastest (all members must remain in the boat for entire racecourse)

-Best Themed Boat and costumes- Overall Boat Design, Most Dramatic Sinking

4:30- 5:30 – Social time on the beach. **The GVL Ladies' Club will provide hotdogs, chips, and bottled water.**

Trash – everyone must take all trash / cardboard boat pieces out of lake /beach area and discard properly!

6:00-9:00 Southern Rose Band will be playing on Lesley and LaDell's dock for everyone to enjoy! Pull up your boat, hang out in the water or bring a chair and some food / beverages and enjoy the evening!



Look on Pinterest for boat design ideas!

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Yard of the Month

Jim and Sandy Gehringer on Pine Ridge Drive

Lakeside Yard

Ricky and Margo Varela

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www.spruceuptreecare.com

Tree Trimming, Tree Removal, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Tree Planting

Attention Residents!

We need all residents to complete this survey. This is a requirement from the State of Tennessee.

Please go to this website or scan the QR code to access the survey. It is very short.

If you have any issues, please come to a board meeting and our board members will assist you after the meeting.

https://arcg.is/1PfO9X

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Grand Valley Lakes Community YARDSALE

Saturday, August 3 from 7:00-2:00

If you want to participate by selling items at the yard sale, please sign up by June 25, either at the guard shack or in the office with Margaret.

You can sell at the lodge or in your yard.

There is a $15 fee to participate. This fee is refundable after the yard sale if you participate or if you cancel by July 12.

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Information From the Board to FAQs Regarding Water Meters

"It would be nice to see money spent in places that we need it. "

Although it may not seem like it, this money is being spent where we need it. Our water system is over 50 years old and will be in need of major repairs within the next five years. We as a community cannot afford to bear the cost of these repairs. The option the board sees to bring our water system up to date is through grants. We have devoted countless hours to exploring grant options and these meters are the result of our initial work. We cannot apply for any grants without being able to monitor water loss. That is why the metering system is being installed first. It will allow us to apply for grants for future repairs which is exactly what we will need in the next 5 years.

" They got a grant to do the meters. The next thing they will do is to push for us to pay a monthly water bill."

Grand Valley Lakes for a very long time enjoyed water at a substantially reduced rate. Many dollars that were earmarked for community improvements were used just to maintain the water system. What we are attempting to do moving forward is to isolate the water system as an independent utility so we can do a true rate analysis. The simple truth is that the water rates will increase as they do all over the country.

We are doing a rate study analysis as part of our grant process and we can assure the community that whatever water rates are set will be in line with other communities.

"How much of our property they're going to dig up?"

The board met with a contractor doing the work and they have assured us that in 80% of the installations there will be minimal to no property disruption.

"I feel like I'm being priced out of the valley...I don't know about y'all but I can't afford much more of this."

Believe it or not, we all feel this way. Community cost go up every year and we are no exception. Everything that we spend money on has increased in cost over years. There may have been a time in the past where GVL was the least expensive option for where to live, and it still may be. That being said, that cannot be the single driving force for the board's decisions. While we all want to live as inexpensively as possible, we also want to improve our community and make it a more attractive place to live. While we don't want to price anyone out of the community, we have to accept the hard truth that there are expenses that we must address. When that is looked at through the lens of wanting to add additional amenities, The math just doesn't add up.

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" How long before we switch to a metered pay-for-usage system versus a flat annual fee?"

There's not been a decision made as to whether we will change the billing method per household. Once we receive the rate study, we will analyze it and see what is going to be the best option for the valley. We are unique in that the majority of our households do not live here full-time. This is not typical in a standard residential community. For this reason, it may be fair and equitable to charge a flat rate and the only additional charges will be for excessive use.

"This is all news to me, why am I just now hearing about this?"

The best way to stay informed in the valley is to attend the monthly meetings that the board holds. This topic has been discussed routinely over the last year and a half. The board has reached out over social media, in newsletters and in public events. We will be holding a town hall for the express purpose of answering questions regarding the water system. It can be frustrating at times with so many outlets of communication to have residents that feel that they are uninformed. We encourage all residents to get involved, to get to know your board members, and to attend the community meetings so that your input can be considered when making decisions.

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General Guidelines for Displaying the American Flag:

With July 4th quickly approaching, we hope this reminder will be helpful.

- When the flag is hung vertically on a wall, window, or door, the Union (blue section) should be to the observer's left. When the flag is hung either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the Union should be to the observer's left.
- In a procession, the American flag should be to the right (the flag's own right) of any other flag or, if in a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
- When displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff.
- When the flag is displayed otherwise than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out; or so suspended that its folds fall as freely as though the flag were staffed.
- When displayed over a street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.
- On a platform, the flag should be above and behind the speaker, with the union uppermost and to the observer's left.
- When displayed from a staff in a church or auditorium, the flag should occupy the position of honor and be placed at the speaker's right as he faces the audience.
- When the flag is used to cover a casket, the union should be at the head and over the left shoulder.

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LAKE RULES AND BOATING ETIQUETTE REMINDER

This is just a friendly reminder of the Lake Rules and general boating "good neighbor" practices.

There are a lot of new homeowners and new boat owners who may not have operated their boats on our lake before and may not have thoroughly reviewed the lake rules. Also, many of our boat owners children have come to an age in which they can competently operate a boat but may not have reviewed our lake rules. Similarly, guests with permission to operate boats may not be familiar with our lake community and lake rules. **There have been numerous observations of violations of our lake rules this year**. While many of these instances are likely inadvertent, many may occur simply because the operator doesn't understand the rules.

**The lake rules are available at the POA office or via the GVL website.

Here is a short review of the lake rules:

- All boats, PWC (personal watercraft such as JetSki, SeaDoo, Waverunner etc.) must operate in counter-clockwise direction around the lake. Do not run up and down the middle of the lake, or crisscross back and forth across the lake. If you're maneuvering to facilitate water skiing, or tubing (such as picking up a downed skier or tuber) you may do so as long as you are traveling, generally, in a counter-clockwise direction.
- A boat may only pull a maximum of 2 tubes at a time. All tube riders must be wearing a personal flotation device.
- Non-motorized vessels, such as sailboats, kayaks, canoes and paddleboats always have the right-of-way.**Do not anchor, raft, or swim in the main body of the lake**. Due to safety concerns this may only be done in No Wake Zones.
- Observe All No Wake Zones. All coves are no wake zones. For instance, The Marina Cove from the No Wake Markers all the way to the back shoreline is No Wake. Similarly, the beach area and the cove at the small levee are no wake from the markers all the way back to

the shoreline at the levee.

- No wake inducing equipment such as bladders may be used on the lake. The exception is that any boat "grandfathered" in as of March 31, 2017, may use this equipment on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm.
- **PWC (jetskis, SeaDoos, Waverunners etc.) may not operate after sunset**.
- **NOTE:** Any boat operating after sunset and before sunrise must display proper recognition lights, such as navigation lights, anchor lights, or other identification lights. This is Tennessee state and US Coast Guard mandated. This is a safety concern.

As for lake and boating etiquette it should be noted that when using the lake all operators are reminded to respect their neighbors when enjoying the lake. Many residents enjoy their time floating or swimming. Please observe the no wake policy to avoid disrupting their enjoyment of the lake.

Also, when operating, or anchoring it is acceptable to enjoy your sound system, but please do so at a volume that does not infringe on others around you. Please do not play and songs or content that is vulgar (you know what that is.) There are a lot of children enjoying the lake.

Bottom line: enjoy your time on the lake but please be respectful of the other community members also enjoying the lake.

A Reminder From the POA Board of Directors:

All concerns/complaints should be called in to the security gate. The phone number is: (731) 376-8333.

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- Happy Independence Day!!
- July 4 Fireworks
- July 6 Boat Parade at 3:00

Our theme for this year's boat Parade is "Viva Las Vegas". We are looking for original ideas that highlight the party city that is Las Vegas, NV. We expect to see Elvis, Rat Pack, show girls and much, much more.

Please submit your boat theme via text message to Billy Williams at 901-421-9072. Please include your name, contact phone number and email address to get assigned a boat number. Additional information including rules will be emailed to all entrants.

We will be voting via text message, so make sure your boat number and this phone number (901-421-9072) are displayed on your vessel so you can garner the most votes. Questions can be forwarded via Facebook, text message or telephone.
Let's have fun at the lake!

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AMENITIES COMMITTEE NEWS

The GVL Amenities Committee has been working hard to bring new amenities to the valley. Our first additions are a volleyball/badminton court and tetherball game at the beach. These two games seem to have been well received! We also added a Community Library at the front entrance. We are also working on a second Community Library!

The Amenities Committee will have a table set up at the Community Yard Sale. We are asking for donations of anything that you would like to give for us to sell to raise money for GVL amenities. All money earned will be used to help us bring new amenities to GVL. Please contact one of us to arrange pickup (Lesley Brainard, Amanda Martin, Samantha Kneipp, Carolyn Ray-Kanthack, Kimberly Gist, Lisa Benoit). We have some great ideas and we hope we are able to make them reality soon!

Events at the GVL Lodge

Some people have expressed interest in knowing when the lodge is closed for events. Knowing this will allow people to be aware of when they are not able to go in the lodge to use the restroom, when they should be quiet in the workout room, etc. There may be more events scheduled, but as of now, the following list indicates when there are events at the lodge and when the office will be closed.

June 6: Ladies' Night at 6:30

June 7-8: Lodge rented for a wedding

July 5: Office Closed

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A Grand Valley Lakes Resident Run Business

Phone: 219-814-6470

"He wants to be your helping hand."

Plumbing repairs, painting, lawn work, light construction, carpentry type repairs

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GVL Girls' Club

The GVL Girls' Club is having a Carwash/ Hotdog Sale/ Bake Sale Saturday, June 15 from 11:00-1:00. They are raising money to go on a trip this summer before they go back to school. Please make plans to support them!

The hotdog combo is $5 and includes a hotdog, chips, individual dessert, and a drink.

There will also be a bake sale with a variety of desserts to purchase.

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A Reminder to Residents!

ANY AND ALL CONSTRUCTION MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO THE OFFICE!

Our covenants state that all construction must be approved prior to beginning work. To make this easier, the ARC committee has developed a simple form that can be filled out with the needed information. You can secure this form from Margaret at the office.

Grand Valley Lakes Board of Directors

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