

# Valley View Golf Club

## May 2023 Newsletter

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### VVGC Staff Contacts

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### From My View

Steve Johnson, General Manager

The official opening day of the course for the 2023 season is this Friday, May 5. Yes, it has been a long time coming.

As I have mentioned before, the number one issue coming from last fall's survey was "no shows" for tee times. The Chelsea tee time system allows a member to make a tee time for a foursome. Regardless of who makes the tee time, we ask that you be aware of when your name is on the sheet. Everyone is sent an email reminder the day before their tee time. Be considerate of your fellow members by making sure you know when you are on the tee sheet and cancel your time if you are not going to play. The Board has taken two steps that we anticipate will help solve this issue. First, all play will start from hole 10, which will allow the pro shop staff to better monitor the first tee and mark down no-shows in the system. Second, we have converted the tee time system from a "random lottery" to a "points system". Members will receive points for not showing up for a scheduled tee time. More points are not a good thing, folks with higher points will have a lower priority in getting their preferred tee time if others with fewer points are trying to get the same time.

Since I can remember we have printed membership cards for our members. Last year we threw away over 90% of the cards because they were not picked up. Let us know if you have a need for a membership card and we will print one for you.

The Board has decided to form a Long-Range Planning Committee. The charge of the committee will be to look at the 5-to-20-year needs of Valley View and to anticipate the long-term needs and vision of the Club. We will keep the committee to a workable number (up to 8 members). If this sounds like work you would enjoy, please call the office and get your name on the "interested list". The Board will make the final decision of the committee members.

All of the VVGC phone numbers go initially to a recording. You can bypass the recording by pressing the extension at any time (Pro Shop is 1, Office 2, Dining 3 and Maintenance 4). Also, please note the updated email addresses for the Valley View departments on the left column of this page.

### Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 9th – Board Meeting

Sunday, May 14th – Mother's Day Dinner Reservations 4:00-7:00

Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Men's League Starts

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Two Person Best Ball

Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Woman's League Organizational Meeting

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Flag Event

## Restaurant

Ken Hodgson, Food and Beverage Manager

We're excited about the opening of the course. The bar is open until 7:00 this today and Thursday this week, no kitchen after 2:00. Starting Friday May 5th, the restaurant will open from 11:00 am -7:00 pm. The Shack will be weather dependent and start slowly. MSU finals are next week so staffing is still a bit up in the air through next week. We

ultimately plan to have the shack open much more consistently with expanded offerings. Our Mother's Day Dinner offering follows. Please call 406-585-2921 extension 3 or email [vygckitchen@gmail.com](mailto:vygckitchen@gmail.com) for your preferred time and the number in your party.

### Valley View Mother's Day Dinner 2023

Sunday, May 14th, 2023  
Reservations Required 4:30-7:30pm

Dinner

#### One Trip Salad Bar

Lettuce, fixin's, dressing choices, broccoli salad, orzo salad, sweet potato salad.

#### Choice of Entree

Braised Beef Ragout with smashed potatoes, grilled baguette, and roasted vegetables topped with gremolata.

Or

Chicken Cacciatore over linguine served with grilled baguette and fresh basil.

#### Choice of Dessert

Tiramisu Cake with Espresso Crème Anglaise

Or

Dark Chocolate Mousse Cake with Toasted Hazelnuts and Limoncello Syrup

\$50 per person

Kid's Menu Available

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## Course

Gary Colstad, Superintendent

Upon completion of the 2022/2023 winter marathon, the headline reads, "Voles... winner by technical knockout". This winter, by far, has been the worst I have seen in my 23 years as Superintendent here at Valley View Golf Club. The destruction that these creatures can inflict on a piece of land is mind-boggling. As areas on the golf course begin to firm up, we have been raking and sweeping up vole damage. We will fertilize these areas and hope for warm temperatures to start the healing process. My mental state also needs to start a healing process! The opening day is May 5th. You will be experiencing certain areas of the course that have not been cleaned up yet. This golf course will be a work in progress. Hopefully sooner than later we will have Valley View whipped into shape.

All the tree trimmings from the winter project have been spoken for. A group of people have been hauling loads off the premises. This was to save us from hauling MANY loads of material to the burn pile out on the golf course. The traffic to and from the burn pile during wet conditions can cause quite a mess, so I was relieved to hear that this group of people

wanted to haul this material away for free! My only concern now is the timeframe for which this work will be completed. At some point we might end up hauling some of the limbs to our burn pile. As for now, the area near the end of the maintenance road by #10 green will be played as ground under repair. Keep in mind there will be winter golf conditions throughout the golf course. Hopefully we heal up quickly. I am curiously waiting to see if some of our trees, hedges, and other vegetation will survive after being nibbled on all winter by voles. Please be careful of all the wet areas on the golf course. As with every opening day here at Valley View, we will be cart path only on 3,6,7,8,13,15, and 16. Please note that there will be very wet areas on many of our golf holes, so please respect these areas whenever possible.

Since this is an experimental year as far as switching the 9's, I'm going to also use this golf season to see how I'm going to relate to my staff while giving directions. Is hole #1 going to be #1, or will it be #10? I had better stick with the old sequence while giving instructions or I might have staff members going in circles as to where they are supposed to be going! Wish me luck...see you soon! Gary Colstad

## Pro Shop

Ted Babcock, PGA Professional

As I am writing this newsletter, it appears that the course will be opening soon. That feels nice to say. Much gratitude to Gary and his staff who have been getting after it as soon as the snow melted. The course is still extremely wet in many areas. I know this spring has been a tough one. Just a little more patience and we will get the season rolling shortly. Thank you to all the members that have stopped by and said hello the past couple of weeks. Always nice to see familiar faces.

As mentioned in the April newsletter, the plan is to use Survey Monkey to register for the majority of VVGC tournaments. We will email out a link to all members for next month's tournaments. For example, at the end of July you will receive an email for all the events being held in August. We hope this allows all members the opportunity to register for many of our more popular events. Please keep an eye out at the end of each month for following month's tournament registration. This week the golf operation will be sending out a link to register for the Two-Person Best Ball on Saturday, May 20th. This event will be a shotgun start and is open to all members if they have a USGA Handicap. Men, women, husband/wife, and junior teams are all welcome to play. Teams will be flighted based on their combine handicap and will include flighted net and gross skin along with a deuce pot. When filling out the tournament registration form please fill in the first and last name of both players. This will make it easier for us to locate their handicap.

The Golden Rams will be moved from Fridays to Thursdays. This is done to infuse some more participation in the Golden Rams. Over the past several seasons we have not seen many new players sign up and play. Often the response we have heard is, "I would play, but I already play on Fridays with another group." The eligibility requirements are all males 55 and older with a USGA Handicap. If you are interested in playing you can call the golf shop or let us know when you are here. The times will be posted on Chelsea Wednesday afternoon at 6:30. The format for the Golden Rams varies from individual to team competition, with handicaps always being included in the results. The Golden Rams play a nine-hole competition and play from the gold tees. Most players will hand their scorecard in and continue with playing the second nine.

Look forward to seeing you all very soon. Thank you all again for your support of the Valley View Golf Operation.

Warm Regards,

Ted Babcock, PGA Head Professional