

Valley View Golf Club

January/February 2024 Newsletter

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From My View

Steve Johnson, General Manager

The VVGC Board of Directors has been busy the last couple of months. They completed and approved a comprehensive review of the Club Rules and Regulations. We think you will find the revised version a little more user friendly and easier to read since topics were reorganized and a table of contents was added. The most significant change was the elimination of Tuesday and Wednesday restrictions. The women's and men's leagues will remain on those days, but the playing restrictions during the day have been eliminated. Please review the Rules and Regulations of the club. They have been posted in the members only section of the website and can be found [HERE](#). If you are unable to find them, we would be happy to provide you a copy.

The Board also approved the 2024 Events schedule (posted on the web page [HERE](#)), the 2024 operating budget and is working on a few required policies to maintain the Clubs tax-exempt status. They have also approved charging a fee for using a credit card at the club including paying your monthly bill. The initial fee will be 3.5% starting March 1, 2024. If you would like to avoid the fee, ACH payment is an excellent auto pay option and of course we accept checks and cash.

If you have been around the Club the last couple of weeks you may have noticed a little activity around the storage units on the west side of the parking lot. Those two buildings are used extensively for storing items, primarily in the off season. Unfortunately, they have accumulated a lot of worthless junk over the years and as a result the needed usable storage space has significantly shrunk. They are also in need of a great deal of TLC to maintain their ability to keep items clean and dry. Many more of our members are using electric hands-free carts to allow them to keep walking. Each year we run out of space for storing them and as a result members are required to haul them to and from the course. The plan is to reserve a few of the stalls in the storage sheds for additional rental space for those carts.

Annual Stockholder Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2024, 6:00 PM

Issues to be voted on:

- Election of President and Vice President
- Election of Directors – Three directors for 3-year terms and One director for a 1-year term.
- Bylaw Changes
- Dues Increase

The election will be held electronically again this year. The official notice of the meeting was mailed last week pursuant to the club Bylaws. The meeting documents and a link to the ballot have been emailed. Reminder that there is only one vote allowed per membership.

Notice to Annual Dues Payers

The January statements included the Annual dues for those of you that used that option in 2023. Over 450 of our 525 members pay their dues annually. If you wish to change to monthly billing or from monthly to annual, please contact Danielle at the office. Reminder of how it works:

- Stock Members paying Annual Dues with check, cash or ACH before the end of January receive 8 guest passes. There is a locked after-hours drop box for payments in the front door drive through area.
- Guest passes are non-transferable and have no monetary value.
- The member using the pass must play with the guest.
- Guest passes will be valid for the 2024 season only.

Restaurant

Ken Hodgson, Food and Beverage Manager

Happy New Year from the Valley View restaurant staff!!

Well, the new year has arrived, and the restaurant is open for lunches 11am-2pm Monday-Friday. It has already been a tumultuous off season and we are just getting started. The kitchen has been deep cleaned and the fire suppression system has been replaced. We have been open for nearly 2 weeks and it has been wonderful to see such a good turnout for lunch. We will have rotating soups and specials daily and as always; we will have New England Clam Chowder every Friday!

We have a brand-new salad bar for the dining room. It will be savailable daily with fresh and exciting cold items. Please come join us for lunch and see what's new on the menu!

It is that time of year already, where we must start planning for Valentine's Day! I have put together a new and exciting menu that is highlighted on this page. The dinner will be 4 courses for \$55 per person excluding tip. Reservations are a must, so sign up early! Please email me to reserve your table. vvgckitchen@gmail.com

We are hoping to plan some pop-up dinners soon as we figure out timing and staffing. We will send out emails for those as we start planning them. They will also be reservation only.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Ken Hodgson and The Valley View Restaurant Staff.

February Events

Restaurant open Monday through Friday 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Monday February 5th - 4:30PM – Board Meeting

Monday February 5th - 6:00PM Annual Meeting

Wednesday February 14th – Valentines Dinner reservations starting at 5:00 PM

Valentine's Day Menu

First Course

Italian Style Tuna Tartare

(capers, lemon, shallot, parsley, truffle oil, grilled baguette)

Pair with a glass of Heinz Eifel Reisling Kabinett 2021

Second Course

Butternut Squash Soup

(topped with fried sage, fresh herb crème fraiche and fresh grated nutmeg)

Pair with a glass of Ca' Del Sarto Trebbiano D'Abruzzo

Entrée

Braised Bison Short Rib

(Chianti braised bison short ribs, carrot puree, roasted golden beet, grilled broccolini, lemon-dill fingerling potatoes)

Pair with a glass of Badia Al Colle Chianti DOCG 2022

Dessert

Dark Chocolate Sorbet

(vanilla-almond crumble, strawberry compote)

\$55 per guest, excludes gratuity of your choice.

For reservations, please call 406-587-9751 Ext 3 or email vvgckitchen@gmail.com.

Seating is limited.

Course

Gary Colstad, Superintendent

Hello everyone. It looks like winter is now upon us. I was beginning to wonder if we would have any substantial snowfall in the month of December. I was feeling kind of silly having the “No skiing until December 1” signs up on the golf course when there was extraordinarily little snow until December 23rd. Mother Nature pulled through for us on the 23rd, just in time for a white Christmas. I really could have gone without the arctic blast we received in January. I was praying for snow...I did not mention minus 40 degrees anywhere in my request.

I will take this opportunity to explain the “No skiing until December 1”. Quite often our chance to winterize the greens is delayed to the point where we get snowfall before we get a chance to rope them off. The normal procedure is to spray fungicide, topdress with sand, and then rope off the greens. We prefer to limit ski traffic on the greens due to the buildup of ice where people ski. Ice damage is a key contributor to turf damage in the spring. If we should receive snow at the golf course before we get the greens roped off, we have no control of who or where people ski at Valley View. The decision was made to not allow skiing until 12/1 to be sure that we would have the necessary areas roped off before people begin to ski on the golf course. I am very curious as to how bad the vole damage will be when snow melts away this spring. We did experiment with spraying castor oil around all ponds and streams. We also drove the tractor around these areas once it snowed to create an ice layer that hopefully prevents the voles from tunnelling too far away from the water. There are environmental factors that affect the vole population. Hopefully, I will be able to distinguish which maintenance task we performed had the most (if any) effect on visible vole damage to the golf course.

We have begun the “equipment maintenance” portion of our winter schedule. Scheduling was a bit different this past fall. We were able to stay outdoors and work on the golf course much later than in most years. This put us a little behind our normal schedule. We have also taken on maintenance of the golf cart fleet, so I will be keeping an eye on equipment maintenance progress along with how early Mother Nature is going to allow us back outdoors on the golf course. Hopefully, the timing will be right so we can transition smoothly from indoor to outdoor projects without my blood pressure going off the charts!

Here is to everyone having a great winter! Stay healthy and we will see you out on the golf course in no time at all. As always...GO CATS! Gary

Membership Changes

Outgoing Stockholders:

Jake Scott
Richard Wiersma
Phil Lang
Willie & Rhonda Eide
Ben & Catherine Jones
Greg Murrey

New Stockholders:

Ben & Sarah Alke
Todd & Kara Barton
Barbara & Joel Lowery
Andy & Candace Babcock
Elsie & Mike Clark
Michael & Kyla Robitaille

New Dining Affiliates

Nathan Wiens

Connor Hausauer

Frank Amknecht

Pro Shop

Ted Babcock, PGA Professional
Dear Valley View Members,

Happy New Year! Hope you all are doing well and enjoyed the Holidays. It has been an odd winter or lack thereof a winter in terms of snow. Let’s hope it doesn’t decide to come all in March and April. The golf staff is excited to start the 2024 season in early April for a change. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Member Meeting.

This time of the year we have been finalizing the majority of buying phase of merchandise. The decision has been made to completely revamp the Ladies Merchandise. Complete new line and vendor should be at your disposal this Spring. Tail, Cutter and Buck, Level Wear and Golftini will highlight transformation to our Ladies Merchandise. The always well-liked Sun Mountain Outerwear will also be stocked for Men’s and Women’s. We look forward to your response and feedback this Spring.

Expect new lines of ladies merchandise this Spring including Cutter and Buck, Golftini, Level Wear and Tail.

I know I have mentioned this in a previous newsletter, I did want to mention the importance of stretching. For those of us that aren’t lucky enough to head south for the winter this may not seem worth thinking about when our clubs are collecting dust in the garage. In many ways, this is the most crucial time to start a stretching routine. If we neglect our stretching till Spring when we are all excited to play it may be too late. Personally, I have made the mistake of not stretching all winter, come spring overdo it for first couple of practice sessions and then everything hurts. A simple 15-to-20-minute stretching routine can go a long way to circumvent those early season aches and pains.

And lastly, the 2024 VVGC Tournament Schedule was approved by the BOD this month. You can find it on the VVGC website [HERE](#). 2024 will bring back the extremely popular MT State Senior Tournament. This three-day tournament is easily the most participated in tournament in the state of Montana. The Men’s Invite will continue with the same format as last season; however, we will play our five matches over two days not three. It is my pleasure to be your Head Golf Professional.

Warm Regards.
Ted Babcock Head Golf Professional
Valley View Golf Club

