

# Valley View Golf Club

April 2024 Newsletter

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## VVGC Staff Contacts

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## From My View

Steve Johnson, General Manager

Thank you to Ken and the entire kitchen and restaurant staff for an excellent Easter Brunch. Great food, service, and atmosphere, well done. Unfortunately, it sold out early, but those that were able to attend enjoyed it. As we plan for our annual Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday May 12, we are exploring ways to accommodate more members.

It has been exciting watching Ted, Paul, and Jack open and stock the new Pro Shop merchandise that has been arriving daily. It looks like they will be ready for the opening whenever mother nature feels it is time to give VVGC a little love.

Our friends at Riverside are once again inviting Valley View Members to participate in a Masters Calcutta. It will be held at Riverside Country Club on April 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating, please RSVP to Mandy at [mandy@Riverside-Country-Club.com](mailto:mandy@Riverside-Country-Club.com) so they can appropriately plan for complimentary appetizers.

For those of you that received an email last week stating that you needed to renew your GHIN, please disregard. This notice was sent out directly from the MSGA. If your March Statement was paid, then you are active until 03/31/2025. If you logged into the MSGA website and paid please contact the office so I can confirm that you are not double charged. If you were part of the MSGA for 2023 you were billed on your March Statement. If you have any questions feel free to call the office during regular office hours, Monday - Friday 9-2pm

## Membership Activity

### Outgoing Stockholders:

Trevor Peck

### New Stockholders:

Mike & Michelle Deming

### New Dining Affiliates

## Restaurant

Ken Hodgson, Food and Beverage Manager

Winter/Spring Greetings from the Valley View Restaurant Staff!  
This winter has been anything but winter. Golf season might just be peeking around the corner.

We have been keeping busy and helping the bottom line with events and private parties. Don't forget to come see us for lunch Monday-Friday from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, serving daily lunch specials and hot soup. The new salad bar has been fun for us to showcase some new items, come check it out! Thank you all for your continued support.



Members enjoying Easter Brunch

We will be closed for Spring Break March 9<sup>th</sup> -March 17<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> and will be ready to hit the ground running when the course opens. Please come check us out.

The next event we have scheduled is Easter Brunch Buffet on Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>. A menu for this will be sent out after spring break. Reservations are available via email [vvgckitchen@gmail.com](mailto:vvgckitchen@gmail.com). The restaurant email is the best way to get a hold of us for pretty much anything. It is checked multiple times per day and is also checked periodically when the restaurant is closed.

That is all we have for now,

Ken Hodgson and The Valley View  
Restaurant Staff

### April Calendar

Restaurant Hours 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, M-F.

**When the course is opened for the season restaurant and bar hours will be published.**

Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 PM – Men's League Captains meeting

Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – Masters Calcutta @ Riverside

Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> 5:00 AM – Board Meeting

Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:30 AM – Long Range Planning Committee

Place the 2024 Tournament Schedule on your calendars. It can be found at [VVGCBzeman.com](http://VVGCBzeman.com) by clicking [this link](#).

## Course

Gary Colstad, Superintendent

The thoughts of an early opening day at Valley View have vanished from my mind. As I look back at our December snowfall, plus some unseasonably warm temperatures throughout January and February, I was preparing myself mentally for a possible March opening. My next statement you can depict as a positive or a negative but...as we speak, the snow is getting deeper out here on the golf course! Mother Nature is not ready to loosen her grip on the winter conditions just yet. We will have to be patient for the upcoming golf season.

We are making timely progress on our off-season projects. The equipment maintenance is about to be crossed off our list. This includes the golf cart fleet which should be completed by the end of the week. Tee sign modifications (switching front and back nines) and painting is in its final stages. The only projects we have not started are the reconditioning of the benches and ball washers. By the looks of conditions out on the golf course...we will have time to easily complete these tasks.

The topic of moving the first tee time earlier and/or allowing golfers on Valley View prior to the first tee time has been a discussion of the Board and staff this winter. We understand our membership is full and tee times are a hot commodity. However, I would like to present a few facts and clear up some misunderstandings concerning the effects of golfers being allowed on the golf course at first day light in the morning. The first two hours of the day are VERY IMPORTANT to a golf course maintenance staff.

Our efficiency is far better when maintenance people do not have to wait for golfers that are scattered amongst our workforces. I've heard it before when members say, "You don't have to wait for us...keep working." But in fact...we do have to wait. We cannot mow when there is a golf ball in our path. We cannot mow, rake a bunker or travel to our next destination when a golfer is getting ready to hit their ball. There are safety concerns we deal with when golf balls are flying. We are trained to be respectful to golfers, but we are also trained to perform our duties in the safest manner possible. To eliminate golfers the first 60-90 minutes each morning allows us to perform those specific duties (such as mowing greens, mowing tee boxes, changing cups) in the most efficient manner, which allows us to move on to other tasks that need to be performed each day. We have a specific order that we try to follow each day to stay ahead of the golfers that have the first time. We do not go in numerical order. To mow greens and tees in numerical order would require too much traveling from hole to hole and this process would greatly increase the time required to perform each task! As a maintenance staff we basically divide the course into an east half and a west half, performing individual assignments on whichever hole they come to next. Basic example would be a greens mower which mows hole #4 first then #1, #2, #3, #15, #16, #5 etc. (forgive me...I'm using the old hole numbers). It is going to take me a while to reprogram my brain to use the new hole numbers. I would imagine more than once that I will send a member of my crew out to work on hole #5 when I should have said #14.

Sunrise is the major factor in setting starting tee times but the temperatures at Valley View in the spring consistently throw a curve at our maintenance schedule. Because of the location of Valley View we are more susceptible to frost than other courses in the valley. On occasions, frost will form as the maintenance staff is arriving for the day. The time that frost is forming (unless it is present all night) is usually 30-45 minutes before the sun rises. This is the same time of day when early golfers used to arrive in the parking lot to get on the course. Managing my staff, monitoring frost, and monitoring who is arriving in the parking lot to head out onto the course before frost formation takes place consumed a great deal of my time and energies. The formation of frost once daylight has arrived is a very unfortunate situation, but this does occur quite frequently. Eliminating the possibility of early golfers being out on the course during frost formation is beneficial to maintenance...and less stressful.

Spraying fertilizers, herbicides, and fungicides is a common practice in a golf course maintenance program. We are licensed by the state of MT which allows us to perform these duties. One very important criterion for this licensing is to

## 2024 Masters Tournament Live Auction



### LIVE Masters Tournament - Player Auction Wednesday, April 10th @ 6:00pm

Complimentary appetizers available at 5:30pm for those participating.

Players in the field of the 2024 Masters will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

**8% of the proceeds from the auction will again be donated to the High School Golf Programs in the Gallatin Valley.**

The Calcutta rules will be posted prior to and during the auction.

Please RSVP to [Mandy](#) to help give us an idea on the number of attendees.

follow label instructions on these chemicals. For some of these applications we must adhere to the re-entry interval listed. As a basic guideline many of these re-entry intervals state that no one is allowed on the turf after spraying, until the product has dried on the leaf tissue. Environmental factors each morning are extremely varied and have huge effect on this drying time. For the club to move up the first tee time too much or allow golfers out early jeopardizes our ability to perform these maintenance tasks needed to keep Valley View in conditions that make the members proud.

For early golfers, a common theme is “We don’t care if the greens are mowed”. Fact of the matter...we as a maintenance staff DO CARE! We were all hired to provide the best possible product for the members here at Valley View. We take pride in maintaining our golf course to the best of our ability. From the first golfer with the first tee time, to the last golfer with the last tee time, we would like the golf course conditions to be PERFECT for our members. Is this goal attainable? In my eyes, usually not... but that is our goal.

Having said that, we have worked with the Board to attempt to start our first tee times in the morning at least a half hour earlier than in the past. Following is the starting tee time schedule we will using to begin this year. Go Cats! Gary Colstad

### **2024 Proposed Starting Tee Times**

Opening Day through May 10 - 8:30 AM

May 11 through June 7 - 8:00 AM

June 8 through August 4 - 7:00 AM (We will experiment with a 6:30 AM start on Thursdays during this time period)

August 6 through August 26 - 7:30 AM

August 28 through Sept 15 - 8:00 AM

Sept 17 through Oct 13 - 8:30 AM

Oct 15 through Oct 31 - 9:00 AM

Monday Starting tee time is 10:00 AM all year.

## **Pro Shop**

Ted Babcock, PGA Professional

Dear Valley View Members,

March is here! We are getting closer to that opening day we have all been looking forward to. For those of you that attended the Annual Members Meeting you were made aware that the results of the MSGA Rating have been released. Valley View had a rating/slope from the white tees for men of 67.1/121 and ladies from the red tees 68.9/119. What do all these numbers mean?

- The first number is the course rating. Plainly put, the course rating tells you how difficult a course is for a scratch player. If a course rating is, say, 72.3, that means a scratch golfer is expected to average 72.3 on his or her better rounds there. It’s an easy metric to understand because it’s measured in strokes.
- “A Slope Rating is the USGA® mark that indicates the measurement of the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers, compared to scratch golfers. It is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating and the USGA Course Rating times a constant factor and is expressed as a whole number from 55 to 155.”

So, there you go. The new rating and slope for VVGC for men from the white tees 68.6/133. Ladies from the red tees 70.1/133. As you can see, there is not an enormous change in terms of rating/scratch golfer, and a very significant change in slope/bogey golfer. What is my opinion of the new rating? In my opinion, the new rating for the course is much more accurate than the old rating. Again, in my opinion, VVGC is the most difficult course in the Valley to shoot a low score on.

The golf staff just finished up some extensive training sessions with Golf Genius. Our goal for the 2024 season is to have all registrations for VVGC Tournaments and Group Lessons to be completed via Golf Genius. We feel this will streamline the entire process of registering for golf events at VVGC. There is no longer the necessity to call the golf shop or to physically be in the golf shop to register for events or group lessons. This benefits the membership in the following means: allows members to register for tournaments and group lessons on their schedule, members will be able to see all

other players registered, access to live scoring, along with easy viewing of the results. More information will be coming shortly, that will include material regarding setting up a profile for Golf Genius along with the benefits of it for the membership.

Paul and Jack have both submitted their third and final PGA work experience portfolios. They are both on track to become PGA Members this season. It is a huge asset to the club and me to have Jack and Paul come back for the 2024 season.

As always, it is my honor to be your Head Golf Professional,  
Ted Babcock  
PGA Head Golf Professional VVGC Valley View Golf Club

