



VALLEY
VIEW



NOV | DEC 2024



FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER
STEVE JOHNSON

Thank you to all the members that participated in the “Question of the Month” the last few months. The August question of the month dealt with satisfaction of the Club’s practice facilities. The overwhelming majority indicated the facilities meet or exceed their expectations. There were, however, a few suggestions that the chipping and putting areas could be improved. The board has asked me to get a price estimate for a Master Plan of the practice facilities. The September question was about your use and satisfaction with the restaurant and the October question asked for your input on each department. Again, the overall satisfaction level was very high. There were a couple of suggestions to improve the burgers served in the restaurant. As a result, Ken has changed the Club’s burger supplier to Daniels Gourmet Meats. We have already received compliments about the improved taste of the patty melt and the hamburgers. Other comments received will be helpful as we continue to work to improve our members’ experience.

October Board Action:

We did considerable research into the pros and cons of converting to electric golf carts. In addition to being substantially more expensive than gas carts, the environmental impacts of producing, charging and disposing of lithium batteries swayed the Board to lease new Yamaha QuietTech gas carts. We will receive the new carts in April 2025 at the start of next season. They will be equipped with independent rear suspension, dual USB Ports, sand bottles, a cooler and an information holder for posting club events and other information.

After reviewing the preliminary operating budget and Capital improvement needs, the Board decided to request a \$20 per month dues increase that will appear on the November 2024 ballot. If passed the increase will then be added to the monthly and annual dues starting in January 2025. We are committed to continuing the level of course maintenance and consistent quality service the members expect and deserve. The Club is in a sound financial position, but we continue to have inflationary pressure on the goods and services needed to provide a quality golf operation.

The Board changed the stock transfer fee to 10% of the stock selling price or \$750, whichever is greater effective January 1, 2025. The Board decided on a target of 10% of the selling price last year when the fee was changed to \$750. However, with the rapid increase in the selling price of VVGC stock, it was difficult to keep up with that target.





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GOLF **TED BABCOCK** PGA

We are making it all the way to the finish line this year for a change. This has been one of nicer and warmer Octobers I can remember in my nine years at Valley View. Overall, the golf operation was pleased with how our third season together panned out. Paul and Jack were outstanding in their third season as Assistant Golf Professionals and Head Golf Professional at Valley View and were an enormous reason for the success we experienced. Thanks to all the membership for their support over the last three seasons.

The “Turkey Sale” will kick off November 13 & 14 from Noon-5:00 around the Member’s Annual Meeting on November 14. The sale will be 50% off all Soft Goods (including all Men’s and Women’s Apparel/Clothing), along with 25% on all Hard Goods (including all Balls, Gloves, Shoes and Clubs). The benefit of the “Turkey Sale” is to decrease as much inventory as possible to enable a smooth transition for the Club to take ownership of the Golf Shop. Hope you all can make it, and we will see you at the Member’s Annual Meeting.

Keep an eye out for the 2025 tournament schedule. This most likely will be approved and published in late January or February. We hope to highlight the success of VVGC Wine Mixer going forward in 2025 along with the possibility of adding an additional Fun Scramble to the Tournament Calendar.

I would like to finish with a thank you to all the staff members at VVGC. At times during the peak season, it can be hard to realize what days it is. Tuesdays become Ladies League; Wednesdays become Men’s League; your weekends are defined by what tournaments are on the calendar. We really do have a great team at VVGC that are all in for the right reasons. Thank you to Steve Johnson for stepping into a difficult situation in April of 2022. It was not the easiest of times for myself, trying to figure out how to run a golf operation in my first season at the helm. Your calming demeanor and integrity were just what I needed.

Thank you. It is my pleasure to be your Director of Golf.





FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

GARY COLSTAD

Another golf season is in the books here at Valley View. There seems to always be little issues here and there throughout the summer but for the most part everything went smoothly. My blood pressure can manage little complications here and there, but significant issues make me shudder just a bit. Second snow fall of the year here at Valley View and it arrives on closing day. Perfect timing if I say so myself. We did not receive much snow so hopefully the white stuff is gone by the afternoon. We still have plenty of work to do on the course so I am hoping for a few decent weeks of weather so we can tidy a few areas up. The irrigation system is blown out, but we must still spray our fungicides throughout the golf course. Our big issue with spraying is trying to remove leaves first. I feel like we have been doing an excellent job of leaf removal the last few weeks. The weather has been cooperating, so it has been great to stay caught up with this task. I know this makes the situation much easier to locate a golf ball. This is the best time for maintenance staff to stock up on golf balls because not all are being found every day!

Hopefully, the weather holds for us to attempt more aerification on the golf course. I always try to hold off until the golf course is closed because this procedure can be a pain for both maintenance staff and the membership. But Mother Nature tends to bring these projects to a screeching halt. There are some areas on the course that are in dire need of aerification so hopefully we will be able to dive in next week and punch some holes!!!

Big decisions are coming in the next few weeks for Valley View. Board elections and a GM selection are going to shape our course for the future. Please do your research before you vote. Personal agendas sometimes steer people down the wrong path. Decisions made should benefit the entire membership, not just a handful of members. The membership at Valley View is evolving. I honestly believe, and this is just my opinion based on many hours spent at Valley View for the last 24 years, that the respect for the golf course by the membership is trending downward. I am not sure what the answer is to solve this issue but enforcing the written, and some unwritten, rules would be a start. This is an inconvenient situation, but it is sad that people do not take it upon themselves to take care of the golf course in a respectful manner. Different ideas will be presented and discussed but at the end of the day...we are still Valley View Golf Club. The club is strong and hopefully this trend will continue for a long time. I will protect the values that I have control over. Hopefully, decisions will not be enacted that make our job as a maintenance staff...more difficult. It is tough enough right now to produce a product that meets the membership requirements, but even tougher yet to meet MY EXPECTATIONS! I do not think people realize how valuable the early morning hours are to a golf course maintenance staff. The amount of fast, efficient work that is produced before golfers arrive for the day drops off dramatically once we are required to avoid golfers. That is just an idea to think about for future times here at Valley View.

I felt like we had a great golf season in 2024 here at Valley View. Hopefully, your golf game is in top form, and you can find a few warm places to play some golf throughout the winter months. Everyone have fun, stay safe, stay healthy, and GO CATS!



FROM THE F&B MANAGER
KEN HODGSON

Thank you all for a wonderful Golf Season!!

November is here and the restaurant hours are as follows: 11am-2pm Monday-Friday. This will continue until Friday, November 22nd when we are closing for the Holidays (except for Holiday parties) and kitchen deep cleaning. Please join us in November for weekday lunches. We will be showcasing multiple lunch specials that will change every Monday. We have several private functions in November as well to keep us from getting bored.

Speaking of private functions, we still have a handful of dates available for members to book Holiday parties; but our calendar is filling up. We are also happy to book Holiday parties in November and January if December does not work.

Save the date... The Valley View Membership Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 6th. We still have some openings so please email the restaurant to reserve your table. vvgckitchen@gmail.com

Starting on Monday, January 6th the restaurant will re-open for M-F lunch service. Keep an eye out for weekly specials and specialty dinners. We really would like to make this winter the best yet for our members.

Thank you all for your continued support!



Restaurant, Bar, and Snack Shack hours and notes can be found on the club calendar!





CLUB UPDATE

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Serving under the direction of the VVGC BOD and General Manager Steve Johnson, the long-range planning committee (LRPC) is wrapping up its second year of service to our club.

Why?

Strategic planning is simply the process of defining long-term goals and resources needed to achieve them. Projected revenue is planned to meet Facility needs and member priorities.

A long-range plan provides guidance and discipline to address maintenance and improvements to the VVGC clubhouse, course, equipment, systems, and other assets required to provide services to the members.

Where budgeting addresses operational needs on an annual basis, long-range planning involves projected investments for many years in the future. Comprehensive planning provides financial stability and a cohesive guide for VVGC management, directors, and members to follow when making decisions.

VVGC BOD approval is required prior to implementation of any aspect of the Long Range Plan.

What has been done?

Over the past two years, the LRPC has met with all department managers and studied their anticipated needs and estimated costs.

Where are we going?

The LRPC is in the process of prioritizing these items and will begin looking at funding options. The long-range plan is a constant work in progress. The group looks forward to engaging the incoming General Manager and leveraging their expertise in building up reserve funds, uncovering new revenue streams, and simultaneously executing and building our long-range plan.



BEHIND THE SCENES

ETHAN KREIN

Department: Course Maintenance

When did you start at VVGC: 12 years ago, 1 in pro shop and 11 on the grounds crew.

- 1. What do you do at Valley View on a typical day?** Anything from mowing greens, spraying chemicals, irrigation work, mechanical work on equipment, and watering.
- 2. What is the hardest part of your job?** Finding affordable housing (ha ha ha) or working every other weekend.
- 3. What do you enjoy the most?** Being outside, the view of the valley, getting off early enough to fish before most people leave work.
- 4. What do you wish VVGC members knew about what you or your fellow team members do for our club?** Most days our priority is to make the club as enjoyable and fun for golfers as possible.
- 5. What can VVGC members do to make your job more enjoyable or easier?** Fix ball marks, place broken tees by tee markers, throw trash in the trash cans.
- 6. Do you have any funny or crazy stories to share?** After a rainy couple of days I was bet \$40 I wouldn't jump in the biggest puddle over by 3's (hole 12 at the time) blue tee box. I jumped and slid through the puddle.





Photos: golfpass.com

VVGC MEMBER TRAVEL

GOLF ON THE ROAD

Course Name: Pryor Creek, Huntley, Montana (2 -18 hole courses - Johnny Walker & Elmer)

Getting There: 8-10 miles east of Billings on the Interstate to Miles City.

Staying There: Drive to Billings early one weekday morning, play a round on one of the courses, spend the night in Billings, play the other course the next morning & then drive back to Bozeman that afternoon.

Review of Clubhouse and Facilities: Nice clubhouse and great practice facilities. Restaurant in clubhouse is quite limited but has a good bar.

Review of Courses: Both courses are top notch & challenging with lots of big elevated tees, and left and right doglegs. The Johnny Walker is public & the Elmer is private but both are easy to get on if you tell them you are from VV. Call 5 days in advance to get tee times & make sure to avoid Men's, Ladies' and Tournament days.

Pros: Very, very reasonable green and cart fees on both courses with the Elmer costing a little bit more; their season is quite a bit longer than ours; and their greens are really tricky.

Cons: Limited restaurant facilities but don't pass up dinner/lunch at the Cowboy Bar in Huntley. Try the pork chop sandwich. Very reasonable prices and it's right on the Yellowstone River with an outside patio.

Go Again: Heck yes - we try and do it 3-4 times a year. The courses are really fun.

Advice to Others: Take a cart for both courses. An 11am tee time on day one & a 9-10am time on day two works well in getting there and getting back to Bozeman.



SHARE YOUR GOLF TRAVEL ADVENTURE!

Tell fellow VVGC members about your latest golf adventure! Send us a few photos and answer these questions in an email and we'll feature your story in an upcoming newsletter.



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

None

OUTGOING MEMBERS

None

WELCOME NEW DINING AFFILIATES

Brandi Mergenthaler
Aaron Smith
Stephen Voigt
Kyle Tolliver
Debbie Ward

HOLE-IN-ONE CELEBRATIONS

Karen Kress Hole #7

If you get a Hole-In-One report it to the Pro Shop along with your witness. Members receive a \$200 credit on your bill (usually used up by your bar tab). Also, don't be shy about taking a picture for the newsletter.

VVGC Club Calendar

Our club calendar can now be found online! Click [here](#) to view.

VVGC Club Newsletter

We appreciate the members who are participating in improving our newsletter. Please send us ideas, comments, funny photos, travel reviews, or topics for our newsletter!

The VVGC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 14 @ 6PM in the Clubhouse. The meeting information has been emailed to all members. If you did not receive yours please email the office at office@vvgcbozeman.com. For the Ballot and to Vote please click this link [VVGC 2024 Ballot](#).





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