







**CRAIG T. JOHNSON**

GENERAL MANAGER

It's Golf Season, Baby — Let's Go!

It's been exciting getting to meet so many of you already, and I'm looking forward to connecting with even more members in the coming weeks. As I try to learn names at firehose speed, please forgive me if I need a reminder or two—it's a top priority for me to get to know everyone!

Keeping members informed is another top priority. I've been working on new communication tools for the Valley View team, and you'll be seeing improved updates across multiple platforms as we move into the heart of the season.

Spring cleanup is underway, and we're excited to announce that a new roof is scheduled for the Clubhouse, tentatively starting May 12. While we'll do our best to minimize disruption, please be aware that portions of the parking lot may be temporarily closed during construction.

And some fun news—our new golf carts have arrived! Each cart features a removable cooler you can take with you to the restaurant or snack shack to load up on your favorite beverages (also known as aiming fluid).

See you on the course! Who's better than you? NOBODY!





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As a friendly reminder to all golfers, please be mindful of private property surrounding the course — particularly along holes 4, 6, 10, 11, 16, and 18. While retrieving a ball from a nearby yard is understandable, players should never play a shot from private property, and under no circumstances should any other behavior (including urinating) take place off-course. Specifically on hole 18, please note that the area west of the fairway bunker and treeline — including what may appear to be open space — is not part of the golf course and should be avoided entirely.

Let's all do our part to be respectful neighbors and preserve a positive relationship with the surrounding community. Restroom facilities are available on the course for your convenience. Thanks for helping us keep the peace with our neighbors — and for keeping the game classy!

**Help us care for our greens by properly repairing  
Ball Marks.**

### How To Repair a Ball Mark

A few extra seconds is all it takes to keep the putting greens looking and playing their best.





**CHOOSE WISELY**  
A ball mark repair tool is recommended, but other pointed devices can be used.



**PUSH DON'T PRY**  
Starting from the back and sides, gently push & stretch the turf to the center of the mark.



**WORK AROUND**  
Work around the ball mark until it's filled in. Avoid lifting & twisting the turf harshly.



**FINAL TOUCH**  
Use your putter to lightly tap down the mark. Fix other marks in addition to yours.

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**TED BABCOCK** PGA

DIRECTOR OF GOLF

Well, we have had six days so far this season with more than 100 golfers. We have had a worse start to the season. By all accounts, the golf course came through the winter in fantastic shape. Thank you to Gary and his staff for all their hard work in having the golf course open as soon as we did. Not unlike many springs, we are receiving our fair share of moisture. We will email all golfers through Chelsea if there are any frost delays, carts or range restrictions in the morning of your tee time. Thank you for your patience, springtime at Valley View leads to drastic changes to the golf course overnight in terms of moisture.

Registration is open for the Two-Person Best Ball on Saturday, May 17th. If you would like to enter this event, log into your Golf Genius account (all members with an active handicap should have received an email on 4/28). This event will be a 10:00 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.

VVGC first Demo Day will be Friday, May 16th from 10:00-2:00. We are happy to have Cleveland/Srixon, Callaway and Ping here will all their new head and shaft combinations. Titleist and Taylor Made Golf are scheduled for their Demo Day, Friday, May 30 from 10:00-2:00. QR Codes will be posted in the golf shop and emailed to anyone interested in booking an appointment with a fitter.







**TED BABCOCK** PGA

DIRECTOR OF GOLF

This paragraph is a tough one to write both personally and professionally. Our Head Golf Professional Paul Bennett has accepted a position at Broadmoor Golf Club in Seattle. As we all have known since Paul started at VVGC in the Spring of 2022 he is an incredible golf professional and superior person. I am happy and supportive of Paul in his future endeavors as he no doubt will have continued success on and off the golf course.

I am happy to announce that Jack Thorsen has accepted a promotion and the title of Head Golf Professional at VVGC. Jack will graduate in May from the University of Idaho and will become a PGA Member. Each season, Jack has expanded his responsibilities at VVGC. Jack is a major reason for the continued success of the Ladies League as he has been the lead coordinator for Ladies League since major changes were implemented in 2022. He will take more of a leadership role in our Ladies Playing Lesson along with VVGC's Junior Golf Program among other areas. Reminder the Ladies Spring Fling is at 5:30 on Tuesday, May 20.

It is my honor to be your Director of Golf.







**PAUL BENNETT** PGA

EXIT LETTER

Dear Valley View Members,

As many of you have heard by now, I'll be moving to Seattle this month on May 16th. I received a job offer at a golf club in the city, and Emily and I are very excited about this new opportunity.

While this will be a good move for us, it is bittersweet having to say our goodbyes to the excellent membership and staff here at Valley View Golf Club. I was originally hired by Ted as an Assistant Professional in 2022, and these past three plus seasons have been wonderful. From day one, I've felt welcome here, and I've always done my best to reciprocate that feeling to you. It's been a pleasure getting to golf, teach, and work with you all. Although I didn't get to know everyone as well as I would have liked, I feel blessed with all the great relationships that I made over the years. I know you will all be in good hands with Craig, Danielle, Ted, Jack, Gary, and Ken at the helm.

Thank you for everything, and I wish the best for everyone this season!

Paul Bennett, PGA







## GARY COLSTAD

SUPERINTENDENT

### Spring Has Sprung (Finally!)

It looks like it's time to hit high gear! The mid-70s I'm seeing in the forecast are going to wake this golf course right up—and no, I don't mean more wildlife. We already have our fair share of critters enjoying our little sanctuary. I'm talking about the sound of grass growing!

On the one hand, I've been eager to see those pesky winter scars start to heal, and the course begins to look like itself again. On the other hand, who's going to mow all that grass once it starts growing? We've been running on a skeleton crew the past few weeks, and I've had May 12th circled on the calendar for a while now—that's when our MSU students wrap up classes and hop on the mowers. Relief is in sight!

Speaking of winter scars, we did have quite a bit of vole damage this year. A few seasons ago, we tried a remedy with mixed results. I'm planning to give it another go this fall—assuming Mother Nature doesn't throw me a curveball.

Unfortunately, our biggest post-winter issue was snow mold damage. We had a mechanical hiccup with the sprayer just when we were racing the first snow to get our fungicide treatment down. We tried a quick fix, but it didn't quite do the job, and some areas took a hit. The turf will recover (along with the vole spots), but I'll admit—I'd rather not start spring in "healing mode."





## GARY COLSTAD

SUPERINTENDENT

Now, a friendly reminder about golf cart etiquette. Long-time members know this, but for our newer friends: **please do not drive or park golf carts near the greens.** In the past, we've used yellow lines and cart signs to help with this, but I'd love to phase those out. That doesn't mean the rule is going away—just that we're hoping everyone can follow it without the visual cues. If you see someone heading where they shouldn't be, kindly remind them. We all share the responsibility for keeping the course in great shape, and if issues persist, we may have to reconsider cart privileges.

A few more morning maintenance observations:

🛑 **Please repair your ball marks on the green.**

🛑 **Replace those massive divots (we love your swing—but not the leftover craters).**

🛑 **And...what's with all the golf balls left out on the course? Are people launching their old ones and just abandoning them? Whatever the reason, please help us keep things tidy.**

Respecting the course helps everyone. Thank you for doing your part, your fellow members and the maintenance crew truly appreciate it!

See you out there,





## KEN HODGSON

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

Greetings and Happy Golf Season from the Entire Restaurant Staff! There's a lot of exciting news to share from the Restaurant!

**Summer Hours Are Here:** We've officially started our summer hours! The Clubhouse is now open 7 days a week from 10 AM to 8 PM, with food service available from 11 AM to 8 PM. Please note: early and late-season hours may vary due to weather—feel free to call ahead if the forecast looks questionable.

**New Menu Items & Gourmet Burgers:** We're thrilled about the upcoming changes to our menu. You may have already heard that we're now sourcing our burgers from Daniel's Gourmet Meats, delivered fresh to us multiple times each week—and they are fantastic! After Mother's Day, we'll be rolling out several new made-from-scratch items and specials, developed by our

hardworking kitchen staff over the winter. Stay tuned for some delicious additions!

**Snack Shack Opening Soon:** We're aiming to open the Snack Shack during the first week of May, weather and staffing permitting. Until the MSU semester ends, hours may vary. We'll be working closely with the Pro Shop to keep you informed daily. Expect Shack favorites like breakfast burritos, hot dogs, sandwiches, and a wide selection of chips, candy bars, protein bars, and snack mixes. The team has been working hard to make the Shack more accessible and enjoyable—please stop by and support them!

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







## KEN HODGSON

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

**Mother's Day Dinner – Reservation Only:** Join us for a special Mother's Day Dinner on Sunday, May 11th. Seating is limited and reservations are required, so don't wait! To reserve your table, email us at [restaurant@vvgcbozeman.com](mailto:restaurant@vvgcbozeman.com).

The kitchen will serve the regular menu until 3 PM, after which we will shift to the special Mother's Day Dinner menu (featured in this newsletter).

**Save the Date:** Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 29th—our Member Appreciation Celebration featuring drink specials and FREE refreshments!

**Thank you for your continued support! Come by and see what's new—we look forward to serving you.**

Ken Hodgson & The Valley View Restaurant Staff

### Follow Us on Social Media:

Instagram: @valleyviewgolfclubmt

Facebook: Valley View Golf Club (look for our logo as the profile picture)



  
**Mother's Day  
Dinner 2025**  
Sunday, May 11th, 2025  
Reservations Required 4:30–7:30pm

**Appetizers**

- Cup of tomato-basil soup with a warm roll \$5
- Seared crab cake served with mango aioli, avocado, frisée and pickled onions \$13
- Roasted beet and chèvre with arugula, roasted fennel, pickled radish and pesto vinaigrette \$12

**Entrées**

- Grilled lamb chops with a red wine demi-glace and huckleberry relish served with an orzo salad with cucumber, mint and tomato and grilled broccolini \$24
- Braised bison short rib served with roasted fingerling potatoes, Brussels sprouts and carrots topped with gremolata and fried onions \$26
- Seared wild caught salmon served with mushroom risotto and grilled asparagus topped with lemon hollandaise and fresh chives \$26
- Bouillabaisse with bay scallops, mussels, shrimp and cod in a garlic-saffron infused fish broth with fennel and leeks topped with tomato relish and grilled bread \$17

**Desserts**

- Limoncello Crème brûlée \$9
- Housemade huckleberry ice cream \$7





## GOLF TRAVEL

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

**Course Name:** Gold Canyon | Phoenix, AZ

**Getting There:** West of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport—45 Minutes

**Staying There:** Gold Canyon Resort (no drive) or a hotel in the Phoenix area.

**Review of Courses:** There are two courses at Gold Canyon. Dinosaur Mountain is more difficult and scenic, winding up and around the Superstition Mountains. Elevated tee boxes promote longer tee shots, but fairways are narrow. Dinosaur Mountain is one of the most unique courses in all of Arizona.

**Pros:** They have a great overall facility with great golfer services, a nice range, and well-stocked clubhouse. The clubhouse offers panoramic view of the property and like Valley View is a great place to replay post-round highlights with your friends.

**Cons:** Reviews online are mixed—possibly due to the time of year. I can't imagine how difficult it would be to keep this course in pristine condition in this environment. It was also a little expensive at around \$250 a person.

**Go Again:** Absolutely

**Advice to Others:** Stay at Gold Canyon— we would have but didn't think it would be as isolated as it actually is.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

### NEW FULL MEMBERS

Joe Walsh  
Brandi Mergenthaler

### NEW DINING AFFILIATES

Denise Wiedenheft | Josh Bowden  
Carl Pearson | Jordan Siemens  
Debbie & Roy Kaiser | Sarah DeGroot  
Julie Cook

### OUTGOING MEMBERS

Eli Harmon  
Dustin Jackson

### HOLE-IN-ONE CELEBRATIONS

Brett Tudsbury—Hole 4  
Cheryl McNicholas—Hole 15

*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.*

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







## UPCOMING EVENTS

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

🏌️ **May 7th:** First Day of Men's League

- **May 11th:** Valley View Board Meeting

🏌️ **May 11th:** Join us on for a special Mother's Day Dinner

🏌️ **May 12th:** The Southwest parking lot will be closed for new roof construction.

🏌️ **May 16th:** Calaway/Srixon/Ping Demo Day

🏌️ **May 17:** Two-Person Best Ball Tournament – grab a partner and sign up soon!

🏌️ **May 20th:** Lady's Spring Fling

🏌️ **May 26th:** Red, White, and Blue Scramble

🏌️ **May 30th:** Titleist & TaylorMade Demo Day

🏌️ **New Golf Carts:** They've arrived and feature removable coolers you can take to the restaurant and stock with your favorite beverage.

🏌️ **Pro Shop Update:** New merchandise is in stock! **Members enjoy 15% off all apparel throughout the month.**

🏌️ **Patio Season:** We'll be setting up the patio as weather permits—perfect for relaxing after your round.



**CLUB CONTACTS**

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

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