

February 2016



## "HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS"

The Official Publication of Hidden Valley Ranch  
Property Owners' Association, Inc. (HVRPOA)  
Vol. XVIII, Issue 4 February 2016

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: 7600 Long Drive  
Mission, TX 78572  
Telephone: 956-580-4477  
Fax: 956-580-4478  
E-mail: hvr78572@yahoo.com  
Website: HVRPOA.com

Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Clubhouse Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Activity Center: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Exercise Room: Open 24/7

### 2016 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Freilingner  
Vice-President: Vern Drescher  
Directors: Mary Crawford  
Elaine Kekstadt  
Jim Moore  
Rick Radl  
Mike Yost  
Secretary: Judie Gustafson  
Treasurer: Gayle Constable

A list of Committee Chairpersons (such as for Architecture, Maintenance, Dance, etc) is posted online and on the bulletin board across from the front office counter in the Clubhouse.

*Hidden Highlights* Editor: John Constable

Submissions: HVRPOA.com to attention of the Editor. Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### President's Message

On behalf of the Park, I want to extend our gratitude to the four people who offered their time to take up roles on the Board. Welcome to the Team!

I think the new Board will have a good blending of experience and new ideas to bring to the meetings.

I look forward to working with all these people . your representatives . as we continue to bring improvements to your Park. Always forward!

Steve Freilingner, President

### HVR OPEN HOUSE

**JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup> and FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>**

If you have property for sale (or rent), here's an extra chance to show it. The key word, however, is **SHOW**.

First impressions are lasting impressions! Start these preparations now to increase its curbside appeal:

1. Clean up the exterior. Open the shutters, sweep off the deck and steps, trim the shrubs and pick up the rotting fruit in the yard. Hose off the siding (at least on the front and by the door).
2. Air out the interior (and the closed fridge?), take a layer of dust off everything, and open the blinds to let in natural light. Get the sitting-water stain out of the toilet. Remove family photos and old calendars.
3. Inform your Realtor or ask the neighbor who keeps an eye on your place to be available those days to offer interior viewings (including casita, shed, etc.)
4. Have information sheets ready to pass out or placed in an info box. Include an exterior view to help remind buyers later which place was yours.
5. Get some calendar/activity sheets from the office, because you also need to sell them on HVR's amenities. Direct them to the Clubhouse where there are guided tours of those facilities.

Ed. Note: I *could* be persuaded to clean fan blades (only), but it might cost you some home-baked goodies!

## AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

Reminder to those who signed up on the sheet posted to the left of main door for this driver refresher course (to maintain lower insurance rates) that they need to be at the Clubhouse **Feb 1** 10:00a-2:00p. \$15-20 fee required. Pack your own lunch.

## HOME FIRE SAFETY SEMINAR

Monday **Feb 8** 11:30a Main hall  
Mobile, Park model, and RV owners will be offered tips on: proper fire safety, proper types of fire extinguishers, proper types of smoke and carbon dioxide detectors, and more.

**FREE PIZZA** Luncheon.

Sign-up sheet is posted in the Club house.

## LADIES LUNCHEON

Tuesday **Feb 9** 11:30 am  
Tickets \$12. (by advance purchase only)  
All ladies are invited. Sponsored by the Silver Spur Ladies Group, it offers good food and good fellowship with live entertainment by Dale & Gayle. Great Door Prizes.  
Advance tickets sold at front desk or by contacting Margie Ford (817-320-5151)

## Kids Against Hunger PACKING EVENT

Sat **Feb 6** 9a. 1p at LVR Clubhouse.



The LVR/HVR Bible group is sponsoring this worthy cause to help the RGV needy. **30,000 meals** (yes, thirty *thousand*) will be boxed. Come help for a half-hour or an hour (or the whole four hours), helping

place vacuum-sealed meals into boxes as they come down an assembly line.

It's EASY, it's FUN, and you'll FEEL GOOD!  
(Sign-up sheet posted in HVR clubhouse)

For I was hungry and you fed me. Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me. + Matthew 35:40

## The Pool: Temperature & Chlorine

Q1: Why isn't the swimming pool water temperature being kept the same? Why is it so warm some days and so cold the next?

A: The pool's heaters keep the water temperature at a constant 85 degrees. It is the air temperature that makes it *seem* like the water temperature is fluctuating. If the air temperature is below 85, the pool water seems warmer, and if the air is above 85, the water temperature seems cool. Even the sun going behind a cloud can make you think the water just got colder. It's your body reacting to the air change around you, not to the water. Have you never felt cold one minute and hot the next, yet the room you're in hasn't changed its temperature?

The hot tub is maintained at a minimum 92, and will rise to 104 when the heater is switched on fifteen minutes prior to getting into it. Turning on the bubbles before then will only increase the time required for the temperature to reach its maximum.

Volunteers monitor the pool and hot tub temperatures DAILY, and document their readings.

Q2. Why is there still chlorine in the Pool? I thought we switched to salt to be rid of that.

A: We switched to a salt water purification system last Spring to REDUCE the amount of chlorine. We cannot completely eliminate chlorine, as salt water alone will not kill algae. If you have ever seen the green slime on the keels of ships, you know that algae can thrive even in salt water. We therefore still need some chlorine to prevent algae buildup, but there is now a great deal less chlorine required since the switchover.

The hot tub, however, is still chlorine-only. Because of the separate piping to the hot tub and its relatively small size, the Board could not justify the costs to install its own salt water system.

Both the pool and hot tub are technically operated by contractors who control the chemistry as well as clean the pool on Mondays and Thursdays. But since something could happen to the levels (like some sudden drop in PH levels) between the bi-weekly times when they check it, volunteers again ensure DAILY that chlorine and PH levels are maintained. This info is also documented, and the contractors are notified immediately to come rectify any unusual (but rare) changes.

Are you willing to drop a thermometer and PH reader in the water for a few minutes and record the readings? Say, one day a week, or for a one-week period some month. We need your help. Call Carter 956-310-8961

## FEBRUARY DANCES (7-10p)

**Feb 6:** Pure Country+

**Feb 20:** Sweetwater+

And, of course, there's Friday night **JAMS**.  
Don't miss out on some good music!

## RGV BORDER PATROL TALK

Feb 11 10:00a at Clubhouse

Sign up to for this interesting, informative talk.  
Q & A period to follow.

### ... and IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

According to the METRO LEADER newspaper (Jan 2016 vol 1, issue 2). **McAllen was named one of the nation's ten safest cities in America.** While border towns are often unfairly criticized as %dangerous+, our nearby Texas border town is proving otherwise. McAllen comes in at number 7, rated by SmartAsset, a New York City-based company that gathers data to provide for real estate, retirement, and insurance planning. Their study gathers data on vehicular mortality rates, drug & drinking mortality rates, air quality, and violent crime rates. With only 122 violent crimes per 100,000 residents (**their lowest crime rate in 24 years**), McAllen is ranked as %extremely safe+ by safety analysts. McAllen Police Chief Victor Rodriguez attributes the safety of the city to responsible citizens who report suspicious activity, and to a hard-working pro-active police force.

Ed. Note: In case you're wondering, Sunnyvale CA was #1 and Honolulu #2. Frisco TX was #10. Hmmm, Chicago didn't make the listõ .. Imagine!

### **J'Ever Notice.....**

.... how ironic it is that PHONETICS isn't spelled the way it sounds?

.... or that ABBREVIATION is such a long word?

And who thought it would be funny to put an S in LISP?

## HEART RANGERS

**We are the ONLY Park in the Valley to offer these vital Heart Ranger services:**

- Assist the ambulance to find your lot
- Assist gathering your meds & File of Life
- Assist locking up your house
- Drive the spouse to the hospital
- Dog sit pending other arrangements
- Call family or neighbor at your request
- Apply CPR if necessary

Basically, we assist in any way you wish

However, we need more volunteers to keep it going. Will You help? (CPR & ADT training provided) We meet the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 4:00** in room A1 and/or call Sharon (320-232-9874)

HEART RANGERS are also **in need of blankets** to cover patients during their ambulance ride (no, EMS doesn't provide any!) If you have an extra blanket that's been lying unused in your linen closet, **l**am sure they could make better use of it!

Cut and post the info below on your refrigerator. Be sure to fill in the blanks NOW while you're calm! Also, Update your *File of Life* info re medications.

**NOTE Correction below:** Say Palmview, not Mission:

### **In case of Emergency**

**1. Dial 956-213-3002, and when the message prompt ends, enter \_\_\_\_\_**

(your lot number)

**2. Hang up and dial 911**

Tell them you live in Hidden Valley Ranch at the end of Western Road in

**Palmview;** on \_\_\_\_\_  
Drive at house # \_\_\_\_\_  
lot # \_\_\_\_\_

Put the Heart Rangers # 956-213-3002 into your cellphone(s) as well. **LEARN** your lot #

## **KEEP YOUR MIND & BODY ACTIVE:**

***Changing a channel is NOT exercising, Y'all!***

WATER VOLLEYBALL: T, Th 1:00p  
No skill required . It's purely for FUN!

COMPUTER CLUB: Sat 10:00a in A1.  
Learn to use your computer better.

SHUFFLEBOARD: M, W, F 8:30a  
Players are willing to teach you how.

BIKING: See any Biker member for their  
next outing, or call G. Sanders for info

EXERCISE/DANCE: M, T, W 8:00a  
(and it's not just for ladies!)

WATER AEROBICS: weekdays 8a & 9a

EXERCISE ROOM: now open 24/7

Ed. Note: Is it true line dancing was started by  
women waiting to use a crowded washroom??

## **CRAFTER'S CORNER NEWS**

(Main hall unless otherwise noted)

### **FEB 2 12:30 EARRING MAKING**

Class led by Lynn Troutman  
Supplies are furnished. Cost \$1.00  
Sign-up sheet posted. (Might be rescheduled)

### **FEB 16 12:30 MATERIAL- COVERED SHOE BOX with BOW**

Sign-up sheet & list of required supplies posted

### **FEB 23 12:30 CRAFT SUPPLIES EXCHANGE**

Bring your project leftovers and exchange them  
for supplies you CAN find a use for!

### **ON-GOING PROJECTS:**

Crocheted or knitted slippers for Women's  
Abuse Center. Pattern available.

Mondays 9:30 A1 Gourd Fun

Tuesdays 12:30 Crafter's corner

Thursdays 9:30 A1 Acrylic Painting

For more information on any of the above  
crafts, contact Judy Hamilton 584-6727

## **CRAFT SHOW Feb 20<sup>th</sup>**

Sign-up sheet is posted for helpers

## **Re: THE NEW PARK MARQUEE SIGN**

Q.: Why is the sign located where it is?

A.: The Board wanted it close to the Park  
entrance, and that was the only spot Mr. Martin  
would allow for the sign to be erected.

He was very specific about its distance off  
the road, as well as the size of the sign.

(FYI, the Editor no longer does the Marquee)

## **Pssst! Let's talk about SMUT**

No, not THAT kind of smut; I mean the  
oddly-named disease that may be affecting  
your citrus trees. It's that black stuff (fungus)  
growing on the branches and more likely on the  
leaves. This interferes with leaf photosynthesis  
which, in turn, affects the fruit (black spots,  
smaller size, less quantity).

How did the fungus get there? It was  
likely transferred there from another diseased  
tree. **The biggest transferring culprit might  
be the pruner that you hired** to trim your  
branches. He may be unknowingly using  
contaminated tools from his last job (perhaps  
from this Park; perhaps from another Park).

To avoid this citrus tree disease, insist  
that the pruner disinfect his cutting tools before  
he starts trimming your trees.

Provide him with some old rags and  
disinfecting solution: 1 part bleach to 9 parts  
water, followed by rinsing the tools with  
(alkaline) soapy water before drying.

As well, have him disinfect after the  
trimming of one of your trees and before  
starting the next one. At the very least, have  
him use Lysol Wipes!

Help keep everyone's citrus trees healthy!

## **REMINDER: CITRUS SEMINAR**

Learn more: **JANUARY 29** 9-12  
A&M Univ. 312 N Int'l Blvd (Hwy 1015)

## **LETTERS / E-MAILS / COMMENTS**

Letters for publication in *Hidden Highlights* must be signed, but names can be withheld upon request. Editor reserves the right to correct spelling & grammar, and/or condense wording to fit into the available space.

### **About the last edition:**

Kudos on your first issue, John. I agree our Park is bound for a positive new year. (JF)  
ō An excellent job in a short time scrunch (VL)  
ō One of the best Hidden Highlights I've ever read, and we've been here many years.  
ō Love the Calendar idea. So simple!  
ō First time I ever read one all the way through. Laughed out loud at your RV experience. (JW)  
ō Best one ever! My husband even read it. (BB)  
ō Super, super, super, super, super! (LK)  
ō Good job!. I had no idea you were so funny.  
ō HVR is the best Park, and now we have the best Park newsletter!

### **About Western Road's deterioration**

We've been told that nothing will be done by the county to fix Western Road until the Water Park is completed, but that could take years (if ever). Meanwhile, my car's alignment (and yours) is getting damaged. We need to bombard the Road Maintenance Office with complaints on a daily basis to get them to do SOMETHING, even if it's just a decent patch job. The ones in charge are SAL (956-313-8124) and/or his boss MINGO (956-585-4509). Complaining amongst ourselves won't get us anywhere. Call them daily! (B. Bradshaw)

### **About the Craft Show**

Thanks to everyone who helped with the last Show, including: the pie makers, lunch servers, ticket sellers & cashiers, set-up/tear-down crew, and clean-up crew. A special thanks to the Helms: Lyle for signage and Lila for her knowledge and guidance in helping me to get my feet wet. Thanks again to all for helping me and for making the Show a success.

Sign-up sheets are posted for helpers for our Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Show. Sue DeWitt

LETTERS continued in next columnō .

Letters, continuedō

### **About a "paid in full" HOA bill**

You've done it again! I only wish I knew who is doing this so I could give you a big hug. Your kindness is much appreciated! You know who you are, so you know who this is from. Thank You! (Name withheld by request)

### **About having a positive outlook**

We here in HVR have a community of senior citizens. Most of us would like to live a peaceful, enjoyable life style with a minimum of stress.

Why is it that there seems to be a minority of people who consistently find fault with so many minor things? I have been a resident in HVR for over 13 years and I am positive that no decision by the Board of Directors has ever had 100% approval.

Right now, I feel our Park is in the best shape it has ever been in, Let's TRUST our B. of D. to do what is best for the majority and for the overall health of HVR, and quit complaining about minor grievances or imagined mis-deeds. We should all work together to create a superior Park atmosphere in which to live. At this stage of our lives, let's focus on all the positives, and we will ALL be happier. (D. Leonard)

### **About hosting the Cribbage Tournament**

Thanks to all who brought sweets for the 100+ guest players to enjoy. The remaining goodies were given to the Jam & Church. Congratulations to HVR's George Grothe and Sonny Bultman for placing third. (J. Roberts)

### **About the Editor's challenge**

You said you had four format changes, and you challenged us to find the third one. Well, I can't figure it out. What was it? (S. B.)

(Editor: Goal 3 was to juggle the news items so each one finished at the bottom of every column, with no sentence or news blurb wrapping around to the next column or page. If you check the last issue (or this one), you will see that I achieve that. This means spending a lot of time (a LOT!) manipulating spacing, re-positioning items (especially if a last-minute submission arrives), and rewording sentences to achieve that goal but, silly me, I enjoy the challenge. (JC)

## TWO QUILT SHOWS

**Feb 20-21** by RGV Quilters Guild  
At the SP Island Convention Center

**Feb 27** HVR 10:00a . 2:00p

First view the presentation and then later get a close-up look at the finer details during the display of the quilts, wall hangings, and class projects by our very talented ladies.

Ed. Note: This display is well worth seeing. It's more than just sew-sew; it's AWESOME!

## HEB COUPON BOOKLETS

For those who missed out on the limited handout of free HEB coupon booklets, we've been told HVRers can go to the (nearest) HEB store and ask for Benita or David to request a booklet. It offers free milk, bananas, and eggs, plus discounts off your total order. Show your HVR Park badge for authenticity.

Remember to say, "Thank you!"

## HVR FEB. ENTERTAINERS (7:00p)

- 1<sup>st</sup>:** Goldwing Express  
(Folk to Classic Country & Gospel)  
**8<sup>th</sup>:** Sherwin & Pam Linton  
(Artistic delivery of Classic Country)  
**15<sup>th</sup>:** Terry Smith  
(Classic Country & Gospel)  
**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Gordy & Debbie  
(Classic country, comedy, & Gospel)  
**29<sup>th</sup>:** Dave & Daphne  
(Excellent guitar & great harmony)

## J'Ever Notice.....

.... holding on to a grudge against someone is like holding on to a hot coal with the intent of someday throwing it back at that person.

YOU are the only one who will get burned.

## TRAVEL HUMOR

(as once told to me by a female friend)

I was sitting at our State Park picnic table, enjoying a little break after lunch cleanup. In the lot next door was a couple sitting out on their lounge chairs. She was reading a book and his two hands were holding a newspaper up in front of him, like a spy not wanting his face to be seen. It was a bright sunny day with not a breath of air moving, which meant voices carried easily. The cell phone on the little table between them rang, and she answered it while he sat unmoved.

"Hello?" Oh, hi, Dono .. yes, Dono .. no, Dono ..+ she said between pauses. This went on for several minutes, and I started smiling at her redundant replies to the phone conversation while her husband continued to just hold his newspaper unmoved.

"Sure, Dono .. Really, Dono?.....Yes, Dono ..OK, Dono ..Thanks for calling, Dono .. Bye, Dono.+"

By this time I couldn't help myself; I was trying so hard to stifle my laughter. The lady set the cell phone back down and returned to her book. Several seconds passed. Still not moving a muscle, hubby finally asks, "Who was that?+"

I couldn't believe him! Tears started running down my cheeks.

There was another long pause.

"Dono," she replied.

Another pause. "Oh.+", he said, and neither one moved or uttered another word.

I, however, had to rush into my RV to change. To quote the humorist Jeannie Robertson, "My water broke, and I wasn't even pregnant!+"

**Do you have a humorous Travel Story to share? Contact the Editor for an interview.**

(Common, folks, talk to me! .)

**J'Ever Notice.....**the many flags flying on poles throughout the Park? Very patriotic !

**J'Ever Notice.....** some of those flags still flying after dusk with no lights focused on them? Isn't that improper protocol?



## **CAUGHT IN THE ACT**



Dulcimer class, with accompanying musicians. Good music to listen to in the Back Hall on Tue, Wed, and/or Fri at 9:30a

## **RE: GARBAGE POKER....**

I stumbled upon something a couple of weeks ago that nearly floored me.

For years now, I've seen Garbage Poker listed on the HVR activity sheet. I figured it was just another variation of Poker, like Stud poker or Texas Hold'em, none of which I play. But, no matter which version it is, POKER conjures up the same image in my mind: A bunch of men late at night in a dingy poorly-lit back room sitting around a table with stacks of poker chips or money strewn across the table. Men, with cards in one hand, a beer in the other, and puffing on cigars sticking out from the corner of their mouths.

I know, I know, Guys. I'd just blame it on old movies and old TV Westerns I watched as a kid, but that's the Poker image I had.

Well, not anymore! Here at HVR, this activity involves six or seven women playing the game. WOMEN! Dear, sweet little ladies all sitting around a table ..

ō ..playing Pokerō .

ō .. on a weekday afternoonō

ō ...in the well-lit Main Hallō .

ō .with their coin purses by their sideō ō

ō .and beers in their hands and fat cigars dangling from their mouths!

OK, OK, maybe not that last part!

Have fun, Ladies. Your secret is safe with us.

What happens in Texas STAYS in Texas!

## **SAFETY ISSUES**

### **WALKING:**

Many of us keep healthy by walking the Park streets, but we need to be mindful of doing so SAFELY. Walk against traffic so you can readily SEE what's approaching on your side.

Switch to single-file when traffic approaches. They might not be able to veer around you because of traffic coming the other way.

Wear light-colored clothing after dusk and, better still, use a blinker or flashlight. Flashers can be cheaply bought at the Dollar Store for you and for your dog's collar or leash.

### **BIKING:**

Travel WITH the traffic.

Slow down at the corners. That loose gravel will not be friendly if your tires slip and you go skidding across the pavement!

Buy flashers or reflective tape for biking after dusk.

### **GOLF CARTING:**

Don't let your under-aged grandkids drive these motorized vehicles. That's incredibly dangerous for them as well as for others.

Turn on your headlights for evening travel. If your cart hasn't any lights, two inexpensive solar lights attached to each bumper would be better than nothing.

Use hand signals at intersections, so others don't have to guess which way you're turning.

### **ALL VEHICLES (incl. bikes & golf carts):**

Obey the posted speed limit (15 MPH).

Obey the STOP signs, and make it a FULL stop, not a rolling stop (and I'm as guilty of that infraction as the next one).

When you're backing out near the Clubhouse main doors, be sure to look all *three* ways: left, right, and behind you (for someone coming up Long Dr).

As you drive away from a Clubhouse function, watch out for pedestrians who are going every which way to their own vehicles.

## **SLOW DOWN, SEE & BE SEEN!**

## **BREAKFAST SCHEDULE** (7:30-8:30a)

Fri **Feb 12**: Biscuits and Gravy

Fri **Feb 26**: Eggs and Ham

BYOTS (bring your own table service)

Sign-up sheets are posted in clubhouse.

## **Re: GOLF CART THEFTS**

It seems the neighborhood kids still have nothing better to do than to steal golf carts and go joy riding in them for a while, and then abandon them in the canal water just past the gate.

Don't be the next victim! Here are some tips to aid in theft prevention of your cart:

1. Don't readily assist the thieves by leaving a key in the ignition. Yes, they have keys to most makes, but your habit could be an expensive contribute to their collection.
2. Park the vehicle facing inward to a building, rather than facing outward. That deters the thief from easily driving it away quietly with no worries about that loud back-up noise waking anyone. Maybe they'll seek an easier target where they won't have to first push the cart out to the street before making their get-away..
3. Invest in a wheel-lock or steering wheel anti-theft bar. They're a bit pricy, but not as much as your repair bill will be after your damaged cart is pulled out of the water.
4. Do you have an old worn golf cart tire and rim? Lean it up against the cart's back tire, so it's visible from the street. That now makes it look like the cart is under repair, so they'll move on to a useable one.
5. Buy a good length of sturdy rope. Put a BIG clip on one end, and tie the other end to your porch step. Let this big dog leash be visible in your driveway. Now the thief has to decide whether or not you REALLY do have a dog that will bark and alert you to any outside noise, or whether he should maybe just move on.

## **SWISS STEAK DINNER**

Tues. **Feb 16** 4:30 p \$8.00

Purchase tickets at the HVR office

## **BEAUTIFICATION FUNDRAISER**

Purpose: to raise more funds for on-going clubhouse improvements, including new kitchen counters.

Luncheon **FEB 23** 4:00p \$7.00

Menu: Soup (Chili or Broccoli/cheese)

Sandwich (Ham or tuna salad)

Dessert (asstd. cakes); Coffee or tea

Tickets \$7.00 by advance purchase only at the Front Office or through Margie Ford.

**NOTE: If you are willing to donate a cake for this event, please let M. Ford know.**

## **February Group Tours**

Gladys Porter Zoo (Brownsville) **Feb 18, 23**

Advance notice: Port of Brownsville Tour

Monday, **March 7**

This is a 4-hour cruise where you will view many large freighters in the harbor and see the salvage operations of the giant aircraft carriers being dismantled along the way. Chances are you will also see a family of dolphins swimming alongside our boat.

Tour also includes a "cajun shrimp boil" cooked right on board. The meal also offers sausage, buttery corn, potatoes, fresh fruit and garlic bread. Bottled water, soft drinks, wine, and beer are also available at no additional charge.

A special price of \$35.<sup>00</sup> pp has been negotiated for this tour. An excellent deal!

Further trip information, and advance payment info is posted on the board in the hall or contract Lew or Rita Fry, Lot 310, 7510 Putter Drive, Phone: 319-393-2219.

This month's feature article

## **THE WAY WE WERE (1997-98)**



This is the FIRST in a series of interviews with some of the early HVR settlers, who were asked to recall their initial experiences.

**George & Marian Grothe:** We saw a TV ad in Jan 87 about HVR, drove over and walked up a gravel road (Long Dr) until the gravel ran out at what is now East Bogey, and walked on through the field full of peg markers to a spot on Par (lot 62), decided this was a nice lot and went to Mr. Martin's office to buy it. Lots sold for \$4950 in 1997, but jumped to \$9000 within a year, so I paid almost as much to buy another half lot in 1998. By then, almost all lots of Phase 1 (Long, Par, Broken Tee, and Eagle) were sold and Phase 2 was underway.

We could not count on a steady supply of power back then, as construction crews worked day and night cutting power to install yet another line somewhere. When it was off in the evenings, the neighbors gathered in the middle of the street under the dependable county street lights and held a spontaneous Happy Hour.

Jack Martin was at our first Clubhouse meeting. He wanted to start the meeting but several people were still talking. I stood up and shouted, "Quiet." Impressed with my military voice, Jack turned towards me and announced, "You're the President," and so I was.

One of our first orders of business was to acknowledge the lack of funds to purchase dishes, utensils, and other supplies needed for the kitchen, so we all agreed to a \$35 levy to get the ball rolling.

**Herb & Wanda McGill:** We bought lot # 69 (7508 Par) in early 1997. We pulled in just before dusk to discover that, despite being told that everything was ready for us, our lot had no concrete. Mr. Martin kindly put us up in his fifth wheel until the concrete was poured a week or so later. The largest shed allowed on a lot back then was 8x10q

õ ..Continued on next column

McGill, continued:

By Fall, the Clubhouse floor tiling was finally completed and the Hall was opened. Coyotes and javelinas often ran through the Park at nights, and the wild pigs could often be seen lying in front of the Clubhouse's main doors in the early evenings.

The area to the South (which is now taken up by Birdie Dr., Bunker Dr., and Leisure's Clubhouse) was a practice driving range for the Golf Course.

By the end of the first year (1997), there were approximately fifty families. We had our first Pot Luck (corned beef dinner). Herb won the WTTA 9-Ball Pool Tournament, and built the display cabinet to hold this Park's first trophy and the others that would follow.

**Ken and Jan Steinhoff:** In January of 1997, Jack Martin brought a busload of people into HVR for his Open House. We were looking at a field with pegs marking off the streets. There was still a broken-down center pivot irrigation system off to the left of Long Drive and two cows grazing on the right side. The Clubhouse walls were only about four bricks high, and Mr. Martin proudly pointed to the hole in the ground where the pool would be. He offered buyers a rent-free spot in Sleepy until their lot was ready.

We bought a lot on Eagle Dr., and by Thanksgiving, there were about 25 other families here, many having moved from Canyon Lake or Seven Oaks.

What would now be called Board meetings were held every Saturday back then, I vividly recall Jim McKeever (now deceased) giving our first annual Treasurer's report: "We had some money. Spent some. We still have some left. End of report," and he sat down.

**Edie Baltzell:** My husband Bo and I bought lot 215 at the corner of West Bogey and Broken Tee in the Spring of 1998, and moved our Fifth wheel into place that Fall. (The current Park model came later in 03). We chose this lot because I wanted one close enough to the Clubhouse to be able to walk to it, but far enough to be away from its noise.

õ . Continued on page 10

Baltzell, continuedõ

I still vividly recall the day my husband Bo installed our mailbox on West Bogey (then unpaved).



Circa Fall, 1998: lot at the corner of West Bogey and Broken Tee, looking towards the Clubhouse

I helped organize a Purple Hatters Group, and 75 ladies ate at Renee's Restaurant on their Grand Opening day. As Christmas approached, I was asked to help organize a group to assist needy Mexican families, but I said if I was going to do that, there were families on this side of the border that needed just as much assistance. Thus, I helped organize the first Christmas Angels program.

**(Name withheld by request):** We bought a lot that first year, parked our trailer on it and on that very first night, we sat out in that open field with no nearby neighbors. Coyotes were howling nearby in the darkness. I turned to my wife and said, "What the H\*\*\* did we get ourselves into?+

But, you know, I look around today and figure we made one of the best decisions of our lives settling here in HVR. It is by far the best Park in the Valley.+

Editor's Note: Look for more interviews next Fall. 2017 will mark HVR's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Lots of celebration ideas are already in the works, like a 1997's DANCE (or maybe even 1920's??), and Evening HAPPY HOURS under the stars, just to name a few ideas. We'll also do a PHOTO DAY, so bring your pictures from home when you come back,

## The Final Word .....

Thank you to everyone (and there were a lot of you) who made an effort (via e-mails, phone calls, notes, and in person either to me directly or through da wife) to compliment me on my first *Hidden Highlights* issue. I appreciated the positive feedback.

It was indeed a rushed effort to get that issue out on time. Looking back now on that January 2016 newsletter, there were some things I would have done differently had I had more time but, overall, I'm pleased with it.

Although I've been in the Park six years, it seems many of you are just now getting to know me and my warped sense of humor. My attempts at enlivening the newsletter seem to be appreciated (or at least politely tolerated).

As I said, you're getting to know me.  
But, did you know that I know YOU?

Here are some things I know about you:

1. You are reading this.
2. You are human.
3. You can't say the letter 'B' without separating your lips.
4. You just attempted to do it.
6. You are now laughing at yourself.
7. You have a big smile on your face and you skipped # 5.
8. You just checked to see there's no # 5.
9. You're laughing at this bit of foolishness because you are a fun-loving person. You don't sweat the petty things (and I trust you don't pet the sweaty things). You are going to enjoy your day, even if it's cool and the sun's not shining. You will not laugh *at* others, but *with* them, and that is good.

Laughter is good for the soul!

**Do not regret growing older.  
It is a privilege denied to many.**

~I'll next month. . the editor