

December 2020



"HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS"

The Official Publication of Hidden Valley Ranch
Property Owners' Association, Inc. (HVRPOA)
Vol. XXII, Issue 2

GENERAL INFORMATION

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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

BOARD MEMBERS

V-President:	Mike Ford	817-528-4907
Secretary:	Glenna Perry	810-577-9855
Treasurer	Gary Weaver	612-240-0378
Directors:	Jim Bowans	515-778-6685
	Tom Klug	608-575-6662
	Don LaRose	989-619-5600

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.

Hidden Highlights Editors: Kathy Wiens
John Constable

Submissions Deadline: 25th of each month.

Vice-President's Message

As this year draws to a close, we cannot help but stop to ponder the events that have taken place in 2020 and which continue to disrupt the comfortable lifestyles that we all had become so accustomed to and had previously just taken for granted.

Here in Hidden Valley Ranch, the Board continues to monitor and uphold the County's Covid Restrictions. We will adjust our current protocol rules to meet their changing restrictions. We appreciate everyone's understanding of our desire to keep the Park safe for everyone, and we thank you for your continued co-operation.

As you know, the January Board elections are approaching and I wish to extend a large Thank You to the Candidates who have offered to give of their time and who can draw from their background expertises to create a Board that will work towards unifying the Park and moving it forward.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I want to wish all HVR members/residents (wherever you are) a Merry Christmas and a Happy (Happier?) New Year.

Mike Ford

Dec 11 9:00a Board Meeting
(Tentative) Park Meeting Dec 12 9:00a

Emergency Numbers

Hidalgo County Sherriff (POLICE)..... 956-383-8114
Ambulance / Fire/ Emergency 911

UPCOMING JANUARY ELECTIONS

Information on candidates and voting procedures can be found on page 3.

FRONT OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

So that our Office volunteers can enjoy a well-deserved break for the Holidays, please note that the Front Desk will be closed:

Thurs & Fri Dec 24th & 25th
and Thurs & Fri Dec 31st & Jan 1st

NOT RECEIVING OUR WEEKLY E-MAILS ?

If you do not start getting regular weekly e-mails from the HVR Secretary, first check your junk mail or spam mail in your email reader to see if they are going there. Another possibility is that we have an incorrect or outdated email address in our files. Please update it with us.

If you have questions please call Ray Fink at 402-733-8972 or email Webmaster@hvrpoa.com

SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION

Reminder that the newsletter deadline for publishing notices of upcoming events for any month is the twenty-fifth (25th) of the month before. Please inform us of your upcoming event so it can be included in the newsletter.

Ways to submit an event notice:

- E-mail John at gayle-john@hotmail.com
(Note: Info doesn't have to be typed. Take a phone-photo of the handwritten page/poster and email it to me. I can type it up from that.)
Or, call me with info: Cdn. phone #: 1-506-300-1488
- Contact Kathy: at 402-416-7888 or email kwiens68512@yahoo.com or see her in person around the Park
- Pass it to the office staff, who will place it in our wall folder. Items submitted must include a legible signature of submitter.

Your Co-Editors:

Kathy Wiens & John Constable

Please keep in mind info on Park activities and COVID protocol (restrictions) as printed herein are only as current as the final extended Dec 2nd deadline for this newsletter distribution.

HVR Covid protocol may have changed since then.

WELCOME (BACK) TO THE PARK

To our HVR **OWNERS** who have just returned in the last few weeks, welcome back to your Winter Home.

Welcome, also, to our HVR **RENTERS** (new or returnees). Renters are reminded that whether you are here for just a week, a month, or for the rest of the Season, you must be registered at the office. Renters, of course, are also under the guidelines of the current covid restrictions the Park has in place. As well, all Renters must obtain a temporary ID (to have when in HVR buildings). These IDs can be obtained from the main office, free of charge, on any weekday from 9-11 am.

ABOUT THE COVID RESTRICTIONS

The HVR Board is closely watching and adhering to all Hidalgo County orders pertaining to public safety regarding COVID. Orders from them are changing constantly and so then would HVR's protocol rules.

The info on the restrictions as printed in this newsletter may therefore become quickly obsolete. Residents are urged to frequently check with the office or through the HVR website messages for the latest updates.

But as of the final preparation of this newsletter (Dec 2), here are the current restrictions:

Most large-group (ie, more than ten people) activities are cancelled until further notice. This includes Dances, Craft Shows, Jams, Dinners, etc.

The swimming pool, exercise room, library, and pool hall are open, provided users wear masks and maintain social distancing rules.

Visitors and guests are currently allowed in the Park, if accompanied by a property owner from HVR and if they follow the same rules in place.

Renters in the Park will need a temporary ID that can be obtained free from the main office.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Fall down, go boom??

Park residents in temporary need of crutches, a cane, a rolling walker, potty chair, or wheelchair may borrow them free from the Office.

UPCOMING JANUARY ELECTIONS

Candidates offering for Board Positions:
(Nominations from Floor might also occur at Jan. Meeting)

President: Jim Bowans

Secretary: Clara Schiebout

1-yr Director (for **one** vacated position):

Jo Herndon

Diane Tardif

2-yr Directors (**three** positions open):

Carol Bishop-Bean

Barb Childress

Robert (Bob) DeMeyer

Kerry Roberts

Geraldine Sanders

Biographies of candidates are posted in the Clubhouse, and on the HVR website at:
HVRPOA.COM/WP-CONTENT/CANDIDATES

(Tentative) **Meet The Candidates?**

Plans to hold a live zoom web meeting is being attempted. Details and a mid-Dec date TBA.

Absentee Voting

Because of current County Covid restrictions, the January meeting will be limited to only a small group. However, **absentee ballots count towards a quorum**, so the Board is encouraging members both in the Park and especially those who are away to vote by this alternate method.

Ballots and absentee forms are (or will soon be) available at the office, or through the HVRPOA.COM website. Mail them quickly to be received before the January meeting.

Jes' Wondering...

FUN FACT: In 1910, 70% of the bread eaten in the USA was baked by women in their own homes. By 1920, just a decade later, 94% was baked in commercial bakeries.... by men. These loaves sold for pennies apiece in the bakeries.

So, I was jes' wondering....

.... could those Bakers be referred to as Penny Loafers?

WHO REMEMBERS CHRISTMAS OF 2004 ?

Dec 25, 2004 in HVR:

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas...."



Gifts we learned from Social Distancing

Have we realized it yet? Nobody really misses the material things. In fact, we now realize how few of those possessions we actually need in our daily lives. What we miss is the company of others.... the great conversations... the hugs... That's what brings happiness to our lives.

- the next time we can offer a friend a hug, we will take the time to appreciate the **gift** of their embrace.
- the next time we can sit in a crowded restaurant, we will take the time to look around at the smiling faces and overly-loud voices, and appreciate the **gift** of social gatherings.
- the next time we can attend Church listening to the voices of praise and worship, we will take a moment to thank God for the **gift** of fully congregating.
- we will realize we have become stronger, wiser, more connected to ourselves, and better able to enjoy and appreciate the **gift** of those people in our lives:
.....our friends and neighbors
..... and, most of all, our family.

In summary, we will be thankful for the truly valued **gift** of having human contact.

This is not the year to get all the gifts you want. It's the year to appreciate everything you already have – things that money cannot buy.

HVR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Cliff Stewart (970) 302-7033

Church Service Sundays 9:00am

Note: Our usual 8:30 Coffee & Fellowship
is currently halted.
Choir practice & singing is also on hold.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

(tentative) Dec 24th 6:30pm.

We will once again be collecting a Special
monetary offering towards the Penitas Food
Pantry. Please give, even if in your absence.

RECIPE FOR CHRISTMAS CHEER

Start with Faith, Family and Friends.

Mix in Blessings that never ends.

Fold in a spirit of Thankfulness.

Add a dash of Love and Warmheartedness.

Blend in a heart full of Wonderous Delight.

YIELDS: A Christmas that's Merry and Bright.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

Barb and Gerald Childress recycle on their own and,
as a friendly gesture to their neighbors in HVR, extend an
open invitation to them to drop off recyclables and/or assist
them in their sorting efforts on the recycling days.

When? Every Thursday 8:00 – 9:30 am
(If warranted, may be extended to Tuesdays as well)

Where? Across the Parking lot from Clubhouse

Items recyclable:

Aluminum beverage cans (they will remove the tabs for
Shriners Hospital before putting cans in HVR's chute.)
Cardboard (flattened), Newspaper, Other paper, Plastic
(squashed, please, to save space), Glass bottles (rinsed), Tin
cans (rinsed out and with labels removed)

Items NOT accepted:

Styrofoam, Batteries, Aerosol cans, Scrap Metal.

Overheard...

"Someone TP'd my house last night. It's now
assessed at double what it was last week."

HVRPOA FEES COMING DUE

HVR owner's yearly \$300 HVRPOA fees
are due January 2nd. Bills can be picked up at the
HVR Office weekdays 9-11.

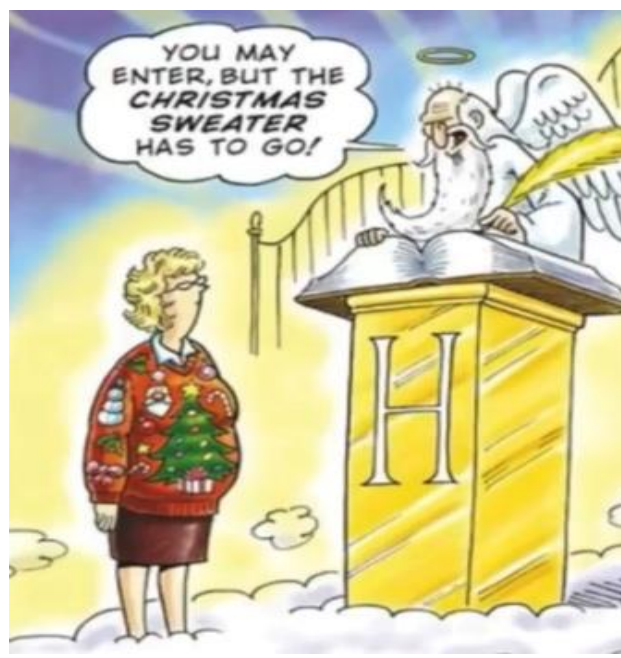
Owners not in the Park this Season are
reminded to make arrangements for payments
asap. Checks made out to *Hidden Valley Ranch*
should be received before the deadline. Include a
note specifying your lot number(s). Direct deposits
or bank transfers are not available at this time.

Late payments are subject to interest
charges being levied.

TO BOOK A PARK ACTIVITY

1. Pick up the appropriate request form at the
front desk (or directly from the document rack on
the wall by the computer room).
2. Complete the form and return it to the activity
file in the same rack.
3. Upon confirmation (or denial) from Board
through the Activities Director, your form will be
placed back in the appropriate file in the rack.
Do not just assume your activity is a "go" until you
receive notification via your form being returned to
the rack. Be patient. This process may take
several days.

- Kathy Gautier (512) 657-5350



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Park needs Volunteers for big and small tasks (some require as little as 20-30 minutes once a week or even once a month).

Be more than just a Member; take an active part in helping with the Park activities.

Grab a buddy, and help out!

I thought she seemed familiar!

Have you ever watched those ads with Flo, the Progressive Insurance saleslady, and thought to yourself, 'Where have I seen her before?'

Well, you probably didn't see Flo (played by Stephanie Courtney since 2008) *per se*, but you did see a similar character several decades ago.

Flo is based on the character Josephine the Plumber from the 1960's ads for Comet Cleanser.



Jane Withers played the character Josephine and claimed Comet "could get stains out of any sink".

Jane, who turned 94 last April, earned in the \$300-400 range for each of her ad roles back in the late 1960's, while Stephanie earns a cool \$1 million annually for hers.

Now, that certainly is Progressive!

FREEPLAY SHUFFLEBOARD

Courts are available any afternoon or evening (under new lighting). For equipment or possibly lessons, contact: Jim Pierce (641) 295-9957

Overheard:

"On Dec 31 at 11:59 pm we must all pour a shot and never speak of this year again!"

NEW HVR OWNER?

FACT: HVR Properties continuously change hands as previous owners sell and new owners buy.

Because of that, the following info (which might seem needlessly repetitive to some readers) bears repeating for new HVR members:

Congratulations! If you have not already done so, deed titles can be transferred at no cost from:

HVR'S Notary Publics

Lila Helm 7609 Par (507)377-2008

Sallie Remington 2500 Fairway Ct.
(509)539-3510

Most commonly requested services:

Warranty deeds	Title transfers
Affidavits	Rental agreements
Medicare enrollment	

No service fees, but photo ID is required.

Then, notify the office (to fill out a *property change of ownership* form. Bring age verification ID.

THINKING OF RENOVATING?

HVR owners wishing to make ANY exterior changes to their property (such as awning, deck, shed, concrete, etc) are reminded that they must **first seek approval** of their plans from the HVR Architectural Committee, then obtain proper permits from the County. Packets which set out both the Park and County rules and regulations are available at the Office.

The Architectural Committee usually meets every Thursday 10 am near the main office, but may be opting for a "necessity" basis only.

DID YOU KNOW....

If you ever need to get out of the Park in the middle of the night for a medical emergency or early flight, and you don't have the means to open the gate, you can **drive over to Leisure's gate**. It automatically opens for any vehicle that slowly approaches it.

(Note: You can get out that way, but not back in.)

J'EVER NOTICE.....

.....the large number of dyslexic drivers in the Park who think the posted speed is 51 mph ?

GARBAGE BAGS

Running low on garbage bags?

This is a reminder that pretty much every January 1st for the past decade, the price goes up a little for a pack of five, so consider re-stocking before the end of the year.

FYI, the price goes up for all Parks, including those Parks that do not offer recycling, so the price increase is NOT because the recycling program has reduced our own dependency.

ANDY Lander's Advice for Men:

Dear Andy: Is it true that everything slows down with age?

Andy here: Yes, except the time it takes for cake and ice cream to reach your hips!

Dear Andy: I recently found an old poster of Marilyn Monroe. Wow, she was gorgeous! Is there any truth to the old saying that "Beauty is only skin deep"?

Andy here: I think every woman has a bit of Marilyn in her. You just have to find out if it's Monroe or Manson!

Dear Andy: My wife is concerned that I am constantly talking to myself. I admit it's a habit of mine, but do you think there's really anything wrong with that?

Andy here: It's OK to talk to yourself. It's even OK to answer yourself. But when you ask yourself to repeat what you just said, you have a problem!

Dear Andy: I'm starting to go stir-crazy with this self-isolation. How are you handling it?

Andy here: Well, I've learned that apparently there ARE enough hours in the day to clean out my workshop and garage. Turns out, I'm just plain not interested in doing it!

SURVEY SAYS

According to a recent survey, most people don't notice when a word in a sentence is replaced with a musical instrument.

(Read it again if you must, Folks!)

GOLF CART PARADE DEC 16

Decorate your cart festively with your Christmas finest. Meet at Clubhouse parking lot at 6 pm Wed Dec 16th.

Wear your mask and stay inside your carts with a distance equivalent to one reindeer behind each other. Participate in the fun, or wave at us curbside as we drive through HVR's streets.

GOOD-BYE TO 2020



If 2020 is telling us anything.... it's telling us to enjoy the moments we have and don't take any day.... or any thing.... or anyone.... for granted.

Forget the things that made you sad.
Remember the moments that made you glad.
Forget the troubles that pass away.
Accept the Blessings that come your way.

*It's not how big your house is.
It's how Happy your home is.*