

January 2021



“HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS”

The Official Publication of Hidden Valley Ranch
Property Owners’ Association, Inc. (HVRPOA)
Vol. XXII, Issue 3

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: 7600 Long Drive
Mission, TX 78572
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E-mail: hvrpark@gmail.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

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

Welcome to 2021. Let’s all hope it will be a better year than 2020 was, and that Park activities can soon fully return to “normal”. For a start, the Board has OK’d the Monday Night Entertainment on a trial basis using the Covid restrictions to see if it is feasible.

As you know, the seating at the Jan 9th Elections meeting will be limited. Please consider the alternate voting method of submitting an absentee ballot by Jan 8th. The meeting will be viewable on Zoom for non-attendees. For those planning to attend the meeting, the protocol procedure to follow is outlined elsewhere in this newsletter.

I want to thank those Candidates who have offered to run in the election and look forward to working with the successful Candidates.

As well, on behalf of the Park members, I wish to thank those Board members whose terms are finishing up: Glenna Perry, our capable secretary whose timely emails kept the membership informed of events.

Don LaRose, whose contributions to the Board were also appreciated. Please keep him in your prayers as he is ill back home in Michigan.

Mike Ford

Jan 8 9:00a Board Meeting
Jan 9 9:00a Park (voting) Meeting
(Limited access: wear your ID)

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.

ZOOM, ZOOM

The Jan 9th Park Membership meeting will also be shown on Zoom, so you can watch the proceedings on the web in the comfort of your own home. (Of course, this method of "attendance" does not count towards the quorum.)

Watch for the announcement for information on how to connect to the Link when the time comes.

NOT RECEIVING OUR WEEKLY E-MAILS ?

First, check if it's going to your junk mail.

Secondly, do we have your correct or most-recent email address in our files?

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 event in time for it to be included in the newsletter.

Ways to submit an event notice:

- E-mail John at johnconstable852@gmail.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 deadline (Dec 26th) for this newsletter preparation and distribution.

HVR Covid protocol may have changed since then.

WELCOME (BACK) TO THE PARK

To our HVR **OWNERS** who are arriving "post-Christmas", welcome back to your Winter Home.

Welcome, also, to any 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, have access to every Park amenity (except HVRPOA meetings) and must adhere to 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 do HVR's.

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 26), here are the current restrictions:

Many activities are still cancelled, but some are opening up again under strict Covid regulations.

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

The swimming pool repairs have been completed, and it is now open again.

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

There are 9 Candidates offering for the six Board Positions that are open:
(Nominations from Floor might also occur at Jan. Meeting)

President: Jim Bowans

Secretary: Clara Schiebout

1-yr Director (**two** positions open):

Jo Herndon

Diane Tardif

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

Carol Bishop-Bean

Barb Childress

Bob DeMeyer

Kerry Roberts

Geraldine Sanders

Biographies of candidates are posted in the Clubhouse, and on the HVR website.

Absentee Voting?

Because of current County Covid restrictions, the January meeting will have a limit on attendance. However, **absentee ballots count towards a quorum**, so the Board is strongly encouraging members to vote by this method.

Absentee forms and ballots are available at the office, or through the HVRPOA.COM website. These must be received by Fri Jan 8th at 11:00 am to be valid. No others will be accepted after that.

Attendance at Meeting?

As you know, Covid has changed everything this year. Here are the steps to expect for this elections meeting:

1. Limited seating in the HVR hall during the meeting, because of 6 foot restrictions.
2. Credential sign-in will be done outside. Remember to bring ID with you.
3. You will have two options to vote, if you have NOT already voted by absentee:
 - A) Sign in and receive your ballots. You may enter hall if it has not reached its Covid capacity.
 - B) Sign in and receive your ballots, and place them in the outside ballot box.
4. If you have a printed absentee ballot, you must remove it from the envelope and trade that old ballot in for a white one before entering the hall or you can put the new ballot in the outside ballot box then enter the hall.

HVR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Cliff Stewart (970) 302-7033

Church Service Sundays 9:00am

HVR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Jan 10th at 9:00am Church Service honoring the HVR Members who passed in 2020:

David Bachmann

Lea LaRose

Jim Daily

Pat Lee

Richard Dickerson

Annette MacFarlane

Jack Hendricks

Jim Ong

Barb Hermes

Ken Thompson

Fred Hisaw

Carter Troutman

(Apologies for any overlooked names)

Their Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of them as gone away; their journey's just begun. Life holds so many facets – this earth is only one. Just think of them as resting from the pain and from the tears In a place of loving comfort which doesn't measure years. Just think of them as living in hearts of those they touched For nothing that's loved is ever lost.....
..... and they were loved so much.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY JAN 17th

It's our annual "Bring a Friend" Sunday. As well, we will be acknowledging **Veterans**.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 9-10 (starting Jan 6th)
At the home of Sandra Arnold. Limit: 15
Study: "Experiencing God"

PENITAS FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

A successful dry foods "doorstep" collection was made throughout the Park on Dec.18th and turned over to the Food Pantry.

As well, a Special Monetary offering for the Penitas Food Pantry was collected again this year. An impressive \$7711 was donated.

Thank You to all for your efforts and donations of food and/or money. Please consider continuing your support to the food banks over the coming months. The need does not stop after the Holiday season is over.

J'EVER NOTICE.....

..... a laugh is just a smile that burst.

MONDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

7:00 pm \$8.00 pp

(Why pay \$20, \$30 or more in Branson?)

Doors open 6:30. Limited seating; wear masks.



Jan 4th:

**Helen Russell
and Company**

Voted RGV "Best Small Band Variety Show" in 2018, 2019, and 2020, as well as voted 2020 Entertainer of the Year. With their great vocals, music, comedy, and impersonations, this high energy Show will leave you 100% entertained.

Tentative: Jan 18th



Absolute Country, Definitely Gospel

A glorious journey through Country and Gospel Music's best. Great keyboarding, according to the Reviews.

NOTE: Both the Board and the Entertainment Committee (EC) are attempting to offer Shows, yet comply with current Covid Restrictions. As well, the EC is working diligently to find suitable replacement acts for some of the previously-booked Entertainers who, because of covid restrictions, have not come down to the Valley this season. We thank you for your patience and understanding while we work things out.

Watch for updated entertainment announcements.

Overheard....

"I suck at playing the trumpet, but then that's probably why!"

STARTING THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT

Imagine this: If you had \$86,400 in your account and someone stole \$10 from you, would you become so upset that you would throw the joy of all of the remaining \$86,390 away in hopes of getting back at the person who took your \$10?

Of course not! You would move on and live.

So it is with your daily life. We all have 86,400 seconds each day. Don't let someone's 10 second crass remark aimed at or about you ruin the remaining 86,390 seconds of your day!

That negativity is *their* problem, not yours. This year, don't sweat the "small change" stuff. Life is bigger than that. So are you!

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!

FREEPLAY SHUFFLEBOARD

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

RECYCLING PROGRAM

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 recycleable:

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....

"I've reached that time in my life when I've finally getting my head together but now my body is falling apart."

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 long-time 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.)

HINT FOR CLEANING A FRYPAN

Are you discouraged by those ugly stains on the bottom and outer sides of your frypans?



(before)

(after)

Here's a solution: Boil ½ gal of water, add 2 T vinegar, 1 t baking soda, 2 cups of coca cola, ½ c lemon juice. Stir well. Put frypan in solution for 45 minutes. Remove and rinse off. It will look exactly the same, so throw it away and go buy a new one.

ANDY Lander's Advice for Men:

Dear Andy: My wife did something wrong the other day, and I pointed it out to her. This led to a big argument. Was I wrong to do that?

Andy here: Yes you were, and I speak from experience. I once told my wife she should learn to embrace her mistakes. So, she gave me a hug.

Dear Andy: I just received our credit card statement and was astonished at how much money my wife spent over the Holidays. Should I take her cards away before she maxes them out?

Andy here: You could, but then you best sleep with one eye open! As for my wife's credit card spending, I long ago conceded that she doesn't see it as a credit LIMIT, but more like a GOAL.

Dear Andy: My wife says I drink too much beer. I don't think so, but then I started wondering: how much beer does the average guy drink in a week?

Andy here: You're probably asking the wrong guy, because I might have a slight drinking problem myself. At breakfast this morning, my wife asked me to toast some bread for her. I raised my beer and said, "Here's to bread!"

HVRPOA FEES (OVER)DUE ?

With everything else going on during the busy Holiday Season, did you forgot to pay your HVR owner's yearly \$300 HVRPOA fees? If so, this is a friendly reminder that it's probably now overdue. Yes, the deadline was January 2nd.

Checks made out to *Hidden Valley Ranch* should include a note specifying your lot number(s). Direct deposits or bank transfers are not available at this time.

GARBAGE PICKUP

Since this does not happen until late morning on Mondays, please refrain from putting your bags out on Sunday evening. This will stop the raccoons and prowling cats from tearing the bags apart and strewing contents over your yard.

As well, collect fallen citrus fruit several times a week, so that the rotting fruit does not attract rodents and snakes. Make arrangements with someone to do this if you're not here this season.

GOLF CART PARADE

The Dec 16th event was a huge success, with many decorated golf carts gathering at the Clubhouse parking lot and then travelling throughout the Park. A fun time for all participants.



LIGHTS OUT, PLEASE

The "last ones out the door" of any of the HVR buildings are reminded to please turn off the lights and fans. Reducing our power bill saves us money better used for other Park improvements.

DOUBLE TROUBLE ?

Eleven years ago this month, \$6.8 million worth of jewelry disappeared from a Berlin department store. The only evidence police could find was a latex glove with a drop of sweat on it. A search through the German criminal base gave a positive DNA match to a known thief, who was tracked down and arrested. However, shortly before the case was to go to trial, the thief was released on a technicality. It seems he has a twin, and since twins share 99.99 percent of the same DNA, neither could be ruled out and hence neither could be definitely pinned to the robbery.

Closing Editorial....

I recently came across this story about two women, and want to share it as a reminder of how we need to make the most of our short lives:

MAKE THE CHILI

I met up with a close friend at a Starbucks. This was a couple months after she had unexpectedly lost her husband. We drank our coffees, chatting about nothing. She asked what my dinner plans were and I told her my hubby wanted chili but I didnt feel like stopping at the store for the ingredients. We sipped our coffees a few more minutes when she quietly said, "Make the chili."

It took me a few moments to realize we were no longer talking about dinner. She was talking about going out of your way to do something for someone you love because at any moment, they could unexpectedly be taken from you.

So I'm sharing with you that wisdom handed to me by my dear friend, that I've thought of many times since that day. Next time someone you love wants you to go for a walk with them or watch a movie or a football game or play a board game or just have you put down your IPAD or phone to give them your undivided attention, just do it.

"Make the Chili" : Take the time to Love attentively and selflessly while you still can!