



April 2023

Greetings from the Chair Juliann Salerno

Well, we seemed to have made it through the big bad winter..... Oh wait, we really didn't have winter, did we? For those of you who enjoy the lake for ice skating, ice fishing, ice boating and long walks across the frozen water, Mother Nature had a different plan this winter. The good news is that spring weather and those long warm summer nights are only a few weeks away. With that great weather comes more and more of our kids and residents out in the street, at the playground and soon enough at our great beach. As you will read throughout this Vails Voice, there are gentle and strong reminders regarding the speed with which we ask you to travel through the Grove. The good news is that I have noticed many of you have slowed down; and for this, we the Board thank you. BUT, there is still work to be done; so again we ask that you please, please, please be mindful of your speed--it really might make a difference between an injury and a tragedy.

Spring also brings new and beautiful things. Flowers are blooming, grass is growing and getting greener, and our neighbors are working to make their homes the beautiful places that we see throughout the Grove. Spring has also brought a new look to the inside of the pavilion. It is still a work in progress, but the large room is almost completed. If you have some time during the day, please feel free to check out this wonderful transformation. All the work has been done by our new maintenance person, Petr, with some assistance from your Buildings and Ground Chair, Hugh Andrews. We have saved so much money by having the work done by our employee, and I thank both Hugh and Petr for the job they have done.

As many of you know, our longtime resident and board member Jack Waltzer passed away in January. Jack served on the Board, he was a member of PLEC, and he was the driving force behind the beautiful Vail's Grove Veterans Monument. Jack's dedication to that cause is why we have that beautiful place to honor our VG veterans, living and deceased. It is because of Jack's commitment to the monument and his years of service to Vail's Grove that the Board of Directors has decided to dedicate the park area around the monument to Jack. We will have a dedication ceremony, and all the community will be invited. The date for this is still undecided, but the community will be notified as soon as a date is picked. We miss Jack at our meetings, and I know he will be missed terribly at the 4th of July parade, which he led for many years. Enjoy the SPRING and we will see you around the Grove.....Going slow of course!!



A friendly reminder to slow down and please observe the 10 MPH speed limit while travelling through Vail's Grove. Please consider the width of the road before passing and parking as many of our roads are almost one lane. One of the wonderful aspects of our community is the safety of our roads. Please keep an eye out and use caution for the many children, baby carriages, pedestrians, joggers, pets and bicyclists.

Michael Early – Board Member

Office News

From Cindy



Happy Spring!!!!

The office is very busy. As much as I love my visits with everyone, there are times that you will see the shades down. If it's not an emergency, please wait to come in another day.

Our maintenance employee, Petr Trlica has been so wonderful to work with and I thank him for that. April invoices are enclosed with this newsletter. Please be sure to check the amount due as many people did not pay the correct amount for January's bill. If you did not, I have noted that on your April bill. There will be a port-a-potty again this year at the playground. The garbage dumpster enclosure fence will be extended for aesthetic purposes and privacy.

You must sign the Boat Storage agreement and submit with 2023 yearly payment by April 15th or you will need to remove your property. Any questions, please call office.

Thank to Hugh Andrews, as well as the rest of the Board, for working so hard for the benefit of all. Let's all hope for warmer weather and enjoy Spring!

PLEC

If you would like to receive information about the Peach Lake Environmental Coalition (PLEC), you can subscribe with your name and community. PeachLakeNY+subscribe@groups.io.

Then reply to the email you receive to confirm your subscription. PLEC would like more people to participate in discussions about Peach Lake. There are new plans to clean out the brook to lower the lake to a safe level.

Sunshine News

From Sue Enos



Get well wishes to **Trudi Born** who is in rehab in Stamford, CT. and to Dave Bruen who recently had foot surgery.

Condolences

to the family of Gene Battenfeld, long time past resident, who passed away on Feb. 13, 2023 while residing in Florida.



Congratulations to Pat & Becca McParland on the birth of their new daughter, Gracie

FROM RONNIE WALTZER



Dear Vail's Grove Friends and Neighbors,
Your outpouring of friendship, condolences, cards, visits and gifts of food since Jack passed away has been more comforting and touching than I can begin to describe. From the funeral service to the celebration of his life, to the Shiva service, he would have been so honored.

Thank you all for your contributions in his honor to the Wounded Warrior Project. He would have been so pleased and proud.

Jack loved it here. He was always community-minded and believed in his responsibility to participate in our community. He served on the Board of Directors, worked to help plan our wastewater treatment plant, helped with the lake cleanup days, and helped to develop the Veterans Monument with all the committee members who worked with him. Needless to say, he loved our parties and recreation activities and

participated enthusiastically. Summers and holidays here were filled with children and grandchildren, all of whom he personally checked out on the safe use of boats and jet skis.

Thank you for all your friendship, support, and kindness to our family at this time. Jack planned to never leave our lake or community, and now he will always be close by. This is such a wonderful place to live.

With heartfelt affection, *Ronnie*

Buildings and Grounds From Hugh Andrews, Chair



The spring brings many big and little projects throughout the Grove, and we anticipate a busy season ahead. In the meantime, our Pavilion is getting a complete makeover Special thanks to Petr and his many skills in doing an amazing job. Also, thanks to the Pavilion Committee for the selections of colors, flooring and lighting. The Pavilion has taken on a whole new look that we can all be proud to show off. Two major water leaks have been repaired in the Grove since February. Thank you all for your patience during the water shut-offs while repairing. Please note that if a repair was done at or around your area, black top will be applied when the plants reopen in the spring. Thank you for your patience. B&G along with Pat M., Cindy B and VRI have attended to major issues during the winter with our pump house and pump house generator. Due to the recent power surges and age of our well system, components had to be updated and/or replaced along with the #3 well which is our major well had to be replaced. Service agreements were updated also to make sure that our water system is running at its optimum capacity. All residents should feel confident that our water system is now in good running order and in peak condition. We have talked about installing surveillance cameras around the common areas of the Grove because of the continuation of dog waste left on the grounds. DO WE REALLY WANT TO GO THIS ROUTE???? We are known for being a unique private community where the residents work together to enjoy the lake and the grounds as however we like. Whether it's boating, fishing, sunbathing, swimming, baseball, walks through the Grove, kids playing on the playground... our community offers it all. Everyone shares the space. No one should have to be under a camera's watch if you love your community and take pride in it. Please be mindful of this when you're in the situation and don't feel like bending down to pick up your dog's waste. You are affecting the whole community and if you don't care then ... surveillance cameras may be the only way. Once again, any issues or concerns regarding buildings and grounds, please contact the office.

Pump House Reports by Pat McGuinness

Greetings all!

Due to more stringent rules regarding water testing, reading of the meters, etc., that are required at the pump house, the board decided to hire the company VRI to do ALL monitoring of our pump house, 24 hours a day/7days a week including holidays, starting the week of March 13, 2023.

Previously, VRI was testing chlorine levels and such Monday through Friday, with the weekends and holidays being taken care of by me (Patrick McGuinness). However, as I am not an employee of VRI, if any mistakes happened under my watch, VRI, being the official Water Operators of Vail's Grove, would be held responsible and that now makes me a liability as opposed to an asset.

So, moving forward, the Water Operator position will no longer be a voluntary one here at Vail's Grove. In the past, the late Jack Waltzer, Kathleen Heuschkel, myself, have all proudly taken on the responsibility of Water Operator. However, due to changes in regulations, equipment used (along with knowledge of such equipment), new tests, etc., it was my suggestion that we hire VRI as they are more qualified than I to do this work on a permanent basis. I unfortunately did not have the time to learn all that is now required to perform these duties. I also felt it was too important a responsibility to the entire community to allow for any mistakes, regardless of good intentions. VRI has been working with Vails for several years now, and they are no strangers to our operation. I can say with complete confidence we are in good hands.

I thank you all for allowing me to serve in this capacity over the past years. I will, of course, keep my eye on things from time to time as I live right across the street from the pump house. While I am still an Official Water Operator, I will only inform those necessary if I spot any irregularities. Once again, this is due to liability issues as they pertain to VRI. Many thanks to VRI for their continued support and expertise, insuring on a daily basis that our water supply is always safe for our community++++

Boat Ramp/North End Storage

Greetings and welcome to what looks to finally be the turn to better days of weather.

As some of my may have seen and if you haven't you should, the North End is much improved thanks to the gargantuan (always wanted to use that word in a sentence) efforts of one Hugh Andrews – Head of Buildings and Grounds! Clean-out of just about every non-usable piece of equipment has taken place, the leveling out of the entire area, the relocating of vessels parked, has made the North End storage area much more accessible, maneuverable and most of all safe. The time will be approaching soon (if it hasn't already by the time you all receive this) for the relocation of vessels in the North End from land to water. This transition has for the most part gone very smoothly every season because of the cooperation, communication and patience demonstrated by all of you who partake in this migration.

Here are a few reminders:

Please make sure you are all paid up with fees prior to requesting keys from the holders.

Please make sure that your name and phone number are written on a piece of duct tape that should be affixed to any trailers or parts of your vehicle that can easily be seen if you need to be contacted for any reason as it pertains to your property at the North End.

Please return all borrowed keys on the SAME DAY as they are borrowed.

If a company is hired to move vessels, please be sure and notify the Office ASAP, hopefully at least 24-48 hours PRIOR from said company needing access to the North End so that proper arrangements can be made. Any company that is hired is REQUIRED to lock the North End immediately after leaving it. Ideally, we would prefer that the stockholder be present with their hired help to insure all goes well.

All Key holders are responsible for all keys. Please be sure to have your sign out sheet available for those needing to borrow the keys so we know who has what and when.

As previously stated, this for all intents and purposes is a pretty smooth transition. For anyone that is new to how we handle all this, please do not hesitate with any questions.

Enjoy the warm coming weather and most of all BE SAFE!

Tree Committee By Jason LaRocca



Hi to all! This is an annual reminder to look around and see how our trees have fared over the winter. Keep an eye out for trees and limbs that don't develop buds/leaves this spring. The Tree Committee will be performing visual surveys throughout the Grove to try to identify potentially hazardous trees on Common Property. If you see a tree on a neighbor's property that you are concerned about, please reach out to that neighbor directly.

Lend-A-Hand Committee by Helen Vail



The Lend-a-Hand Committee is composed of neighbors who voluntarily provide meals for residents who are sick or just overwhelmed, as well as, rides to doctor's offices etc. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you are willing to volunteer or you know someone who could lend a "hand" call the office or Helen Vail at 845-661-4082. That is what makes Vail's Grove so special!

Recreation Report

By Sarah Broderick

Our wonderful neighbors, Dan and Julie Collins came to the Recreation Committee with a desire to host another community event, with proceeds being donated to basketball court replacement. On March 11, we held a spaghetti dinner with live music, all you can eat dinner, and many raffle opportunities. It was a great evening with our neighbors and friends. Thank you to all who generously donated to the basketball court fund.



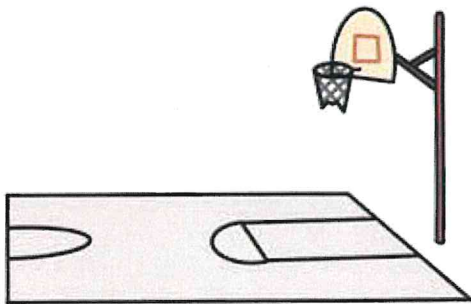
Coming events include the annual Easter Egg hunt on Sunday, April 2 at 1 pm. Come join us at the Vail's Grove Playground and search for eggs. Additionally, the Easter bunny will be hopping through for some photo opportunities. This is a weather permitted event.

Summer is just around the corner, and the Recreation is planning many fun events including the annual 4th of July parade, beach happy hours, water sports day, and more. Look for more details about the upcoming events.

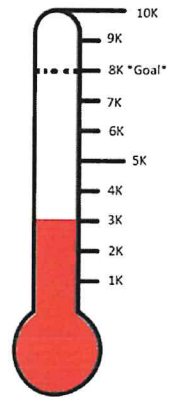


We are always **looking for volunteers** to help with events; please reach out if you would like to help. Additionally, if you have any ideas for events or would like to host an event, we would love to hear from you.

Basketball Court Fundraising by Sarah Broderick

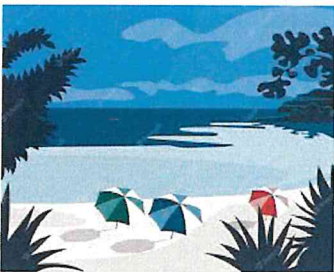


Our next focus is to raise funds to replace the basketball court. Our goal is to raise \$8,000. With the last recreation event, we were able bring our donations up to nearly \$3,000. This includes a generous donation of \$500 from Kingsley Deli; please be sure to stop by and thank Kinsley's! Thank you all who have already generously donated towards this cause. Please consider donating to this endeavor, donations large or small will be valuable in helping to reach our goal. In making donations, make checks payable to Vail's



Grove with "Basketball Court" in the note section.

Beach Report: Julie Salerno/Meghan Cassidy Chairs



With the approaching summer, the beach committee is working with recreation to have the best summer yet. But before we can have some fun, we have to take care of a few things first. We are hoping to have the beach ready to go for Memorial Day Weekend. If that works out, the beach will be open on Saturdays/Sundays until the end of the school year. Once school is over, the beach will be open daily, weather permitting.

Since our beach has become so popular, and people from outside of VG are deciding to just show up and go for a swim, we will be instituting an identification system. Every household will be given an ID bracelet for every member of the family who will be coming to the beach. **(residents can get these either from the office or when they go to the beach)**. This bracelet must be either worn or attached to something that can easily be seen by our lifeguards or beach guard. This is to not only protect the residents but will hopefully help our guards to identify those who do not belong.

As a reminder, while we do not discourage you from having guests at the beach, we would like to remind you that the rules state that the guest **MUST** be with the resident. Please refrain from inviting people to come and be at the beach unless you will be there with them. Anyone who is at the beach without the resident will be asked to leave until they are properly accompanied by a VG resident. This is for the safety of all.

Finally, if you are over 15 and would like to apply for a lifeguard position, please check out the VG website for the qualifications necessary and pickup an application at the office. We ask that all applications be submitted with your credentials, no later than May 8. Please email myself or Meghan Cassidy for any further information you may want. Email: sproutbtp025@gmail.com or meghanacassidy@comcast.net

Looking forward to a great Beach Summer!!!!

Pavilion Renovations to Date



It's come a long way!!!!

Brewster Blue/Gold Dinner held at the Pavilion on February 4



Spaghetti Dinner held at the Pavilion on March 11

