

# VAIL'S VOICE

Newsletter of the Vail's Grove Community  
located on Peach Lake

Editor: Carol Harting: [c.harting@verizon.net](mailto:c.harting@verizon.net)

## JULY 2020



### Office News from Cindy



**Happy Summer** – We have all had a very stressful few months and hopefully this pandemic will be behind us soon. The front door of Pavilion is now unlocked; but please, if you are coming into office, have a mask on – there is a gate at my office door - please stay behind it - Hoping you all stay well during this difficult time.



Please remember that there is no parking on roads. The speed limit in the Grove is 10 mph - its summer, please be aware of your surroundings when driving – children on bikes, many walkers, people with dogs - **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** – when you are driving in the Grove, you really need to be going slowly.

The Board of Directors asks that you please limit your guests at the Beach during this time. If the numbers at the beach remain the same, there is a possibility that guests will not be allowed at beach. This is for safety of all. Please be mindful of the parking situation at the beach. There is parking available at the Pavilion. Thank you for your cooperation!

Enclosed with this VV is your third quarter bill, which covers July, August, September. Payment is due in office by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Before we know it, it will be time to elect Board members. Four seats will be expiring in September. In a few weeks, I will be mailing out information about this and the date that petitions will be due.

Warren Lucas would like residents of the Peach Lake Sewer District to create an Advisory Board, and we are looking for two folks from Vails to volunteer for this. The purpose of this Board would be to make guidelines for who pays for repair of Grinder pumps. Recently, Warren received a bill for \$10,000 for a weekend call out, which adds \$20.00 to everyone's yearly bill. The question is should everyone pay or just the owners? Please let the office know if you are interested.

## PEACH LAKE IMPORTANT ALERTS

**While we all clamor to get fresh air from sheltering in place for many weeks, please be aware that we need to sustain all efforts to protect Peach Lake.**

Please continue to use safe practices in our Peach Lake community and remind our neighbors to do the same by following the guidelines, as listed: With regard to storm water runoff, each time it rains, and water washes over our driveways and yards, the water picks up any pollutants along the way that flow into our storm drains or directly into our lake. This runoff may contain pollutants; yard clippings, pet waste, litter, lawn chemicals, antifreeze or other toxins which can pollute our water supply as well as clog pipes and culverts which can lead to flooding. We all need to be reminded that whatever enters into our drains in our area, can go into our lake.

You can help by adhering to the following practices to prevent pollution: Properly dispose of hazardous waste and recycle motor oil. Fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides must be used sparingly, if at all. If needed, please look for safer products that don't contaminate the lake and follow the manufacturers' directions. Clean up after your pets and dispose properly in your garbage can, keep yard waste, trash and dirt off the street and out of drains. Refrain from washing your car. Instead, take it to a car wash facility. If you need to rinse off your car, please do it on grass or gravel surfaces. Please do not feed the geese and ducks. Their waste is high in phosphorus which is a pollutant.



Largely because of the tireless efforts of many of your neighbors, we have a sewer system and a multifaceted plan to contain and purify a good amount of storm water. We have a jellyfish system in large drains and other smaller drainage apparatus in smaller drains all around the lake to treat storm water before it enters the lake. All of these interventions were given to us for free, by the government. But these systems can only work so much. We all need to remind ourselves and our neighbors how to help continue to purify Peach Lake. With regard to the sewer system, our Town Supervisor, Warren Lucas sent out brochures with information about how to protect each of our grinder pumps from malfunctioning. These brochures are important resources to learn how to protect our sewer system, which each homeowner, new and previous alike, should read. For the past few years, the town has paid the bill for such repairs of malfunctioning grinder pumps. However, the cost of these repairs has been passed on to all of us in our sewer taxes, which is unfair. An advisory committee is in the process of forming to decide how to charge individual residents when their grinder pump malfunctions. Please read the brochure to learn what is not allowed down your drains. You would be surprised how careful you need to be. If you do not have the brochure, contact your cooperative board, your homeowner's association or the town of North Salem.

With regard to boating and the use of other watercraft on Peach Lake, we will be sending out a separate notice to you about some of the main safety rules, regulations and recommendations.

**It has been a difficult spring with the coronavirus. In order to sustain the decrease in our neighbors contracting the virus, please continue to follow the CDC guidelines by practicing social distancing, wearing masks and washing your hands frequently.**

We are grateful to Warren Lucas, our North Salem Town Supervisor for his dedication to Peach Lake and his frequent updates on the coronavirus in our state, county and town. Enjoy a well-deserved fantastic summer. We are so lucky to live in a gorgeous community. Let's keep it that way.  
**Sincerely, The Peach Lake Environmental Coalition**

### **Bears and Bird Feeders**



Bears and other wildlife are readily attracted to back yards because of the presence of bird feeders. At certain times of the year, bird feeders are involved in over 80% of the bear problems at homes. DEC highly recommends that bird feeding activities cease by April 1 and resume November 30. Bird feeding should only occur during the winter months when bears are in their dens. Birds do not require supplemental feeding, especially during the warmer months of the year. When bears emerge from their dens in early spring, natural foods are lacking. Bird seed presents an abundant and easily obtained food source. It is also important to remember that residual seed remaining on the ground will attract bears. It should be removed or treated with a covering scent, such as ammonia. Report bears in your neighborhood before it becomes a serious problem. **Contact you regional DEC office. 845-256-3098.** Store bird seed securely indoors at all times.

### **Lend a Hand Committee**

Hats off to Medical and Essential Workers  
Vail's Grove Recreation and Lend a Hand Committees Give Thanks



In mid-May, the Vail's Grove Recreation and Lend a Hand Committees established a fundraiser, featuring "Vail's Grove Strong" caps, to raise money to thank local medical and essential workers who continue to selflessly step up during the pandemic.

Today, Lend a Hand Committee chair, Helen Vail, reports that the "Vail's Grove Strong" caps fundraiser has been a great success. Priced at \$12, nearly all (200) caps have been sold, with total net profits expected to exceed \$1,000.





In June, the money raised from the first 100 caps was used to purchase breakfast bagels and other baked goods for hospital staff, supplied by local businesses. Bedford Bagels prepared the donation for Northern Westchester Hospital, and Country Kitchen in Brewster Village made a delivery to Putnam Hospital.

The committees are discussing how to spend the remaining sales profit.

## Peach Lake Boating



The following is a consolidation from a) the NY State Boaters Guide (**NYSBG**); Chapter 145 "Motorboats", North Salem Ord. No.11 (**NS**); and Chapter 50, Boats, Town of Southeast(**SE**). Peach Lake is listed as being under jurisdiction of the State and one or the other towns. PLEC hopes you will promulgate and enforce as possible by rule or regulation the following:

- **Operators:**  
**NYSBG** - Children aged 10-18 may only operate a mechanically propelled vessel with direct supervision of a person over 18 or after successfully completing an approved boating safety course. For Personal Watercraft (**PWC's**) i.e. Jet Skis. The operator must be **at least 14** and hold an approved boating safety certificate. Courses are listed at [nysparks.com/recreation/boating/education](http://nysparks.com/recreation/boating/education).
- **Operations:**  
**NYSGB** - limited to 5 mph within 100 feet of shore, dock, pier, raft, float, or anchored boat. Operator is always responsible for damage caused by wake. Proper Navigation lights are required between sunset and sunrise; the red light is properly displayed on the port (left) side, a white all around light at the stern. Paddled boats are encouraged to carry a white light to demonstrate their presence on the water when in hearing of a nearby vessel. As a courtesy, operators of boats with headlights and spotlights should only use these when docking, as these lights destroy the night vision of other sailors and tend to obstruct the viewing of the proper navigation lights on the boats with headlights on.  
**NS** - No motor boat shall be operated within 100 feet of shore, beach or bathing dock, or float in excess of 5 mph. Speed between sundown and sunrise shall not exceed 10 mph. No refuse or litter may be thrown into Peach Lake by operators of boats, swimmers, or any other person in or about the lake.  
**SE** - No motor boat shall be operated within 125 feet of beach, bathing area or dock. Speed between sundown and sunrise shall not exceed 15 mph. If towing a skier or aqua planer, 2 or more persons are required in the towing boat; the operator watching his course and not the skier; the second person watching the skier.  
**NYSBG** - Operation of PWC's between sundown and sunrise is **prohibited**. Operation of boats while intoxicated is **prohibited**. Penalties are severe.
- **Personal Equipment:**  
**NYSBG**- Every vessel operated in NY waters must have on board 1 USCG approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. And for boats greater than 16 feet in length have a throwable USCG approved type IV flotation aid. Those who must wear the life jacket are **children under 12, all persons being towed and all persons on a PWC**. All vessels approved for nighttime operation shall carry night time distress signals. It is recommended that paddled boats should also carry these. All mechanically propelled vessels less than 26 feet in length must carry 1 B-1 USCG approved fire extinguisher. If greater than 26 feet 2 must be carried. Mechanically propelled boats, except PWC's, must have an anchor with sufficient weight and strength to provide a safe anchoring. Anchor line should be 7 times the depth of water in order to hold in severe wind and weather. A horn or loud whistle is **required** except for canoes, rowboats or kayaks, and for these it is recommended.
- **Penalties:**  
**The State and both Towns all have penalties of fines and imprisonment for violations of their boating rules. Be aware!**

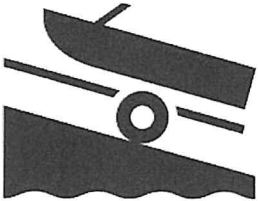
### **Additional Recommendations from PLEC**

- By tradition, boat traffic around the lake is in a counter-clockwise direction.
- Inspect your boat for both flora and fauna before launching.
- If towing tubing and/or making sharp turns on a PWC, use the center and least crowded part of the lake.
- On crowded days maintain a 30 mph limit.
- "Snake Island" has rocky close-in areas, as does the large cove in the eastern portion of the center of the lake
- If guests are operating your boat(s) advise them of the boat safety issues pertaining to the lake.



- Sailboats have right of way over motorized craft. Paddled craft have right of way over sailboats and motorized craft. Boats at anchor or on a drift have right of way over all other craft. Boats overtaking another boat must give the overtaken boat right of way.
- Guests should not be authorized to use launching facilities without special permission from the appropriate Board or Association, **nor** without proper cleansing of the boat for flora and fauna.
- Do not create heavy wakes near shore, especially near designated swimming areas.
- If you have a float, platform, buoy or any other item far enough from shore to interfere with boating, especially at night, PLEASE move it closer to your shoreline.

### **Boat Ramp** from Patrick McGuiness



Greetings all! It seems there have been no issues in regards to the retrieval and launch of motorized and non-motorized vehicles on Peach Lake. Of course, we remind everyone to continue to be mindful of the SAFETY and consideration of all that use the lake. It has been noted that some vehicles are coming a bit too close to those vessels that are not motorized, especially those being used by children and young adults. We expect that everyone who rides on the lake knows about courtesy and consideration given to each other and do not cause undue concern while on the lake. Technically speaking, being in the lake has its own inherent

dangers that are, hopefully, addressed prior to going on the lake, let alone being caused by those that use it. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE know the rules and the affects your vehicle can have on others while using your recreational water device, whatever it may be.

For those who gain access to the boat ramp, it is YOUR responsibility to open and close the gate when you have the key. If you get the key and you find the gate open when you use it, please make sure you LOCK the gate regardless of whether you found it open or not. The assumption is whoever opened it already has a key and will be able to open the gate again. We have been getting reports of people using our boat ramp who are not Vails residents and do not know Vails residents. Of course, boat owners have access to the lake at various other locations around it, but we have to show due diligence in that we are doing our part to minimize non-residents from using our boat launch. Of course, if it is a guest of a resident in Vails Grove, that resident MUST BE PRESENT in order for ANYONE to use a boat, jet ski, etc.

Thank you all for your continued cooperation and have a safe enjoyable summer!!

### **Sunshine News** from Sue Enos



Get well wishes are sent out to Anne Marie Keiley for a speedy recovery.

Best wishes to Pat McParland and Becca Palmese on their recent engagement.

Lots of good baby news... Congratulations to all the following parents and grandparents:  
 Jamie & Joanna DiMauro have a new baby girl, Sunny, grandparents Joe & Joan DiMauro and Mary Lou Martelli

Henry & Tanja Myers also have a new baby girl, Ada, grandparents John & Joan Myers.

Matt & Lisa Foley welcomed a new baby boy Ryder James.

Dave & Karen Bruen are grandparents again... a granddaughter, Verity Karen, born to Mark & Lauren Nicholson

Ken & Joan Ford are also grandparents again... a granddaughter, Emma, born to John & Natalie Ford

Todd & Jayne Cammisa have a new granddaughter, Adlyn, born to Amanda Cammisa & Jeyson Noriega

**Congratulations** to Taylor Duffy graduating from Fordham University; Christian Duffy, Matteo Rubini, Alex Blackwell, Harry Blackwell on graduating from North Salem High School.

And on a sad note, condolences are sent to Jyotsna Gorti on the passing of her father, to Ron Sarno & family on the passing of both of Ron's parents, to Joan Ford & family on the passing of her sister, to Diana Stevens on the passing of her husband Tom, to Jay Moore on the passing of his father and to Jackie Lester on the passing of her dad.

Wishing you all a great July 4<sup>th</sup> and a great summer.

