



Peaceful Valley Property Owners Association Newsletter



Visit our website at www.peacefulvalleylake.com
August 2019

If you would like to receive the splash via email, send an email to pvl.gary@gmail.com

Welcome to August. So far, it's been an incredibly wet and unusually mild summer. We've suffered through a pool pump replacement on the big pool, and pool pump repair on the baby pool, two heavy downpours that caused significant damage while floating quite a few large logs into the lake, and the continuing battle with the lake vegetation are the highlights of this summer so far. As we wind up

summer, soon the kids will be back in school, Labor Day is just around the corner, and we'll be reverting to a fall schedule around the lake. August is National Catfish Month (who would have guessed?) and just like last season, the Cardinals seem to be in the summer doldrums, climbing briefly into first place then finding unique ways to lose in California to fall back behind the first-place Cubs.

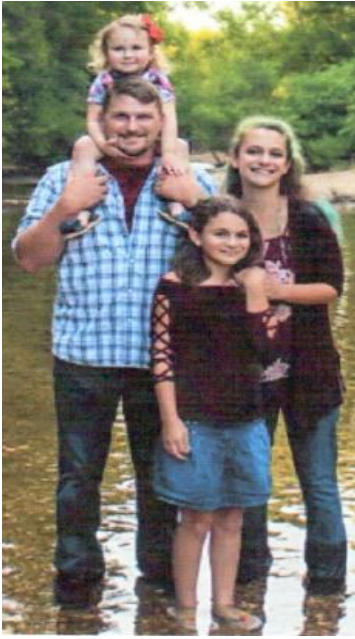
August Events:

- Friday August 16th, 5:30PM to 6:30 PM, Public Water Supply District #1 Board of Directors Meeting.**
This is the regular monthly meeting.
 - Friday August 16th, 7:30PM to 9:30 PM, PV Property Owners' Association Board of Directors Meeting.**
This is the regular monthly meeting.
 - Saturday August 24th, 8:30 PM: Float-In Movie near the Dam (check website for details)**
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Meet Chris Gilmore, PVL's New Maintenance Lead

Many of you are aware that the board did a cost/benefit analysis on how we were using our maintenance team along with the cost of repairing our aging equipment. We decided to hire a groundskeeping contractor to take care of cutting the grass and weeding during the summer, which had become the primary duty of our 3-person part-time maintenance team. With hiring a contractor to take care of the grass, we needed to change our maintenance skill set to someone with a variety of skills, such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry, etc. We posted a job vacancy on indeed.com and had 19

applicants for the position. We hired Chris Gilmore, who has many of these skills as a general contractor and apartment complex property manager. Chris came on in June and we were fortunate to have him with us right before the heavy rains wiped out the beach and playground by the swimming area and floated some huge logs into the lake. This happened right before the 4th of July week, so our priority was to get the beach and playground up and running for the crowds we normally get around the 4th. Chris was instrumental in getting the playground back in shape within a few days, just in time. Shortly after that, a



Chris, Jessy, and Daughters Sierra (10) and Dorothy (3)

pipe broke in the pool pump room, followed by the the 20-year old pump motor failing. This caused us to close the pool for several days as we had to retrofit a new pump motor into the old plumbing. Between Chris and Charlie Kinworthy working the plumbing and Rick Huesgen redoing some of the electrical in the pump room, we were able to get the pool back up and running in

about 5 days. This fix probably would have cost us over \$10,000 and taken several weeks if we would have had to bring in a swimming pool contractor.

Our cost ended up being \$1,700 for the pump motor, around \$250 worth of plumbing parts and Chris' and Rick's time, and Charlie's and Tom Bush's volunteer time.

A little more about Chris—he's 34 and married to Jessy and have two daughters- Sierra (10) and Dorothy (3). Chris has lived in Missouri most of his life; growing up in Valley Park and Ballwin and now living in St. Clair for the past 7 years. Chris tries to keep himself busy either working around the house fixing things up, doing mechanical work or gunsmithing. Chris' hobbies include instructing and studying at an Aikido dojo, hunting/fishing, or spending quality time with my family. Chris works about 20 hours per week for Peaceful Valley and is available to hire for odd jobs, light construction, repairs, etc. He comes highly recommended by us at Peaceful Valley. You can reach him at 636-388-1341

Pool Hours for the Rest of the 2019 Season

With school starting on Wednesday, August 14th, we're going to modify the pool hours as summer starts to wind down. From now until Tuesday, August 13th, 11-7:45 PM. Starting on August 14th, the pool will be closed on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. It'll open from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Thursday and Friday, then 2 PM to 7:30 PM on weekends (including Labor Day). We appreciate your understanding and hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!!



Water Aerobics to Continue until the pool closes



The last few years, several PVL members got together and started doing water aerobics on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at the PVL Pool. There's been as many as 12 or more and as few as 2, mostly women but occasionally some men, but this completely voluntary activity is done at no charge to the participants. It's just neighbors being neighborly, led by Louise Baker who organizes this activity. Louise normally brings her boom box and a selection of water aerobics workout tapes and CDs with the common goal of helping each other stay healthy. If you'd like to participate, just show up and bring an empty milk or juice jug for specific exercises. Times are 9:15-10:15 AM, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There're only a few weeks left before the pool closes.

WE VOLUNTEERS

Peaceful Valley wouldn't be half as nicely maintained if it wasn't for the many volunteers that go about, unpaid, on their own time, working to keep the development up and running. There are only a handful of paid employees, and all of them are part time. Members may be surprised to learn that the only paid employees include the PVPOA Office Secretary, 2 maintenance personnel (depending on the season), the cleaning service, and the security/pool monitors. On the PWSD side the clerk and the operations manager and deputy are compensated. All the rest are volunteers starting with the Boards of Directors of both the Property Owners Association and Public Water Supply District #1.

I want to give credit where credit is due, and I know that I will miss a few as I'm doing this from memory, so if I miss giving you a shout out below, please forgive me but let me know so I can make good on letting our members know your good deeds.

Just like last year, the lake has an issue with aquatic vegetation, especially in the shallow areas. Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars spraying and spreading chemicals, as well as raking out areas of the lake. Several of the people involved the Eilermann's, Charlie Kinworthy, Jr., Tom Bush.

Most of you have seen Tom Bush making his daily rounds in his blue Ram pickup. Most don't know that in addition to Tom being the PVL's Site Manager, he picks up trash around the facility several times a day, picks up downed limbs and leaves, and acts as camp host for the campground. One thing he's been doing lately is separating the aluminum cans, cashing them in, and donating the proceeds to the Central Missouri Honor Flight, which transports WWII, Korean, and Viet Nam veterans from St. Louis to Washington DC for a day of tours and visits to the various memorials. A Marine veteran, Tom went on an Honor Flight last year and digging

through trash for your cans is one way he's paying it forward.

We have many volunteers that help the PVPOA office during peak periods. Many of these same volunteers also help check people in at the annual meeting and with the set up and clean-up of the post meeting party. Others helped with counting the votes for the board of director candidates.

Similarly, we have a lot of volunteers that help keep the place pretty. Our maintenance contract typically takes care of cutting the grass, weed whacking, leaf clearing, etc., but our volunteers take care of watering the trees and flowers, weeding the landscaped areas, and in general keeping Peaceful Valley attractive. Many of you know that the beach area is heavily used over the summer, especially on weekends. Tom Bush, Carol Eilermann, and Charlie Kinworthy, Sr. do a lot to keep the beach area nice for swimmers and picnickers. Tom locks the bathrooms up at night and reopens them in the morning to keep vandals from damaging the area. Tom and Carol have been raking out the aquatic vegetation, Charlie uses his 4 x 4 to rake the beach every week to make it nice for the weekends.

As we wrap up the summer, many of the volunteers that helped take off the pool cover in the spring will be putting it back on in a few weeks. If you would like to help, please contact the PVPOA office for details. To all our volunteers: THANKS!!!



**Answers to the June Rebus Puzzles:
 Shape up or Ship Out; Sold Down the River;
 No Two Ways About It; Sailing over the Seven Seas**

Update on the Continuing Battle with the Lake Vegetation

Editor's Note: Several members have asked what we've been up to with trying to control the lake vegetation this summer and what our plans are for next year. Others have asked if we have hired, or will consider hiring, experts or professionals to treat the lake next year and to authorize a special assessment to cover the cost. Below is an edited response to one of the members that we felt was worthwhile sharing with everyone to provide a status of what we've done so far, and what our plans are for next year.

This spring, the Missouri Department of Conservation came to Peaceful Valley to determine the health of the lake, assess the fish population, and advise on the types of lake vegetation control measures we should take to safely control the vegetation without harming the lake ecology. According to their report, we've got coontail, milfoil, and chara in the lake. The milfoil is the most challenging of the three. The conservation department advised using Dibrox and Hydrothol (the first a liquid concentrate that you spray, and the second a granular type that you spread like grass seed) which are effective on all three types but incredibly expensive—Dibrox concentrate is \$100 per gallon, and the Hydrothol crystals are \$200 for a 40-pound bag. In previous years we used copper sulfate, which was effective on the chara, but not so much on the milfoil and coontail, and Cutrine Plus, which is effective on the surface floating algae only. In addition, we've stocked nearly 300 grass carp in the lake over the last few seasons with plans to add some 60 additional fish later this season. We've also encouraged people who have lakeside lots and are bothered by the weeds to procure some Dibrox or Hydrothol to treat the areas around their lakefront, and we purchased 3 floating rakes to help with clearing out the vegetation.

One other thing, the Conservation Department recommends treating no more than 25% of the lake at a time then waiting 2 weeks until the next application. Since early July, Charlie Kinworthy, Jr. and the Eilermann's have been out spraying every other week with the intention of (1) clearing the beach and swimming area and keeping it clear and (2) creating pathways on both sides of the lake through the shallow upper end of the lake from the

No Wake Buoys to the peninsula near the lower entrance. The purpose of the pathways is two-fold, one to clear the way for boats to get in and out of the area free of vegetation, and to make it easier for the grass carp to attack the vegetation in the shallower areas. The results so far are very promising but will take some time and a lot more funding to ultimately clear this up. One way we know it's working is that you're starting to see a lot of floating stalks throughout the lake as the vegetation dies and/or the leaves are consumed by the grass carp, leaving the stalks.

As for hiring a professional or doing a special assessment, that's something we discussed at the July board meeting. Since this is something the entire membership needs to approve at the annual meeting in April, we're going to formulate two budgets for next year for the membership to consider. One that will try to keep the budget at or near the \$325 per lot assessment we've had for the past two years, and one that would either include a significant increase in annual assessment or add a special assessment aimed at fixing some of the major issues here, including the lake vegetation.

By next spring, we'll have a better idea of how well these measures We have positive reports that in the areas we've treated near the beach and in the upper part of the lake (a.k.a., the fishing area) and other areas that the vegetation is dying within a few days of chemical application. We also know that as the grass carp are getting bigger, they're eating more—they grow up to 2 inches per month and can eat up to 3 times their body weight every day and are typically effective for up to 7 years or more. Our goal is that between the chemical applications to provide near

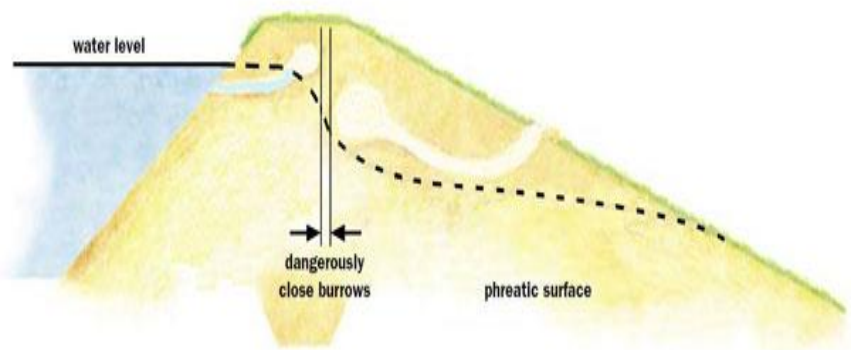
term results, and the grass carp getting larger and hungrier, that this will bring the lake back to where we stop getting complaints and keep it under control for the next several years.

Some have asked if there's a way to pre-treat the vegetation early in the spring before it has time to start growing, much like you would apply a pre-emergent weed killer on your lawn to take care of the problem before it becomes a problem. According to the experts at Lake Restoration, the chemicals are ineffective until the lake temperature is 65° or greater

and the vegetation must be growing. It's ineffective at cooler temperatures or when the vegetation is still in its winter dormancy. Our intention is to see what it looks like early next spring after this year's chemical applications and a full winter of the grass carp munching on what's left. That will help us determine if we can continue with the approach we've adopted for this summer, or if we need to change tactics.

Trapping Nuisance Wildlife at Peaceful Valley

Earlier this spring we've gotten reports of muskrats, beavers, and groundhogs at various locations around the lake. Many people may think these are cute little furry creatures, but in a lake environment with an earthen dam like ours, what FEMA calls "nuisance wildlife" can cause catastrophic failure of dams or blockage of the spillway. Burrowing animals such as muskrats borrow into shorelines and dams just below the waterline and then up into a dry burrow. Groundhogs on the other hand tend to burrow into the backside of dams. Where this becomes a problem is when the two types of burrows come dangerously close to each other somewhere in the middle of the dam, which can eventually lead to the dam's collapse (see diagram at right).



Beavers are also a problem as they will often cut down nearby trees and create a dam in the spillway, which can cause water to back up and overflow the top of the dam. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (see the brochure at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1447-20490-7840/fema-L264.pdf>) both advise controlling these nuisance wildlife by trapping or shooting them. We've been looking for a trapper since early spring, and we're fortunate that our new maintenance man Chris has the skill and equipment to do this. Unfortunately, Chris placed three of his traps at various parts of the lake near the lower entrance on a Friday, and by the following Monday, someone had stolen 2 of the 3. If you are the person who did this or know who did, please return the traps. These are Chris' personal property and belonged to his grandfather. Also, we now have cameras surveilling all the traps, so if this happens again, we will catch you and press charges. We are trapping these animals to ensure the safety of the dam, the lake, the members, and the homes and families downstream from us. Please do not interfere with these efforts as you're may be temporarily saving the life of a rodent, but you are endangering the lives of humans and the fish and other wildlife in and around the lake.