



Peaceful Valley Property Owners' Association
Newsletter



February 15

Visit our website at www.peacefulvalleylake.com
February 2021

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

Welcome to February. For being the shortest month, February packs a lot of events— Groundhog Day (2nd), Valentine’s Day (14th), President’s Day (15th), Mardi Gras (16th), and National Margarita Day (22nd). It appears that things are taking a turn for the better with the COVID pandemic, with a set of vaccines starting to make it to the public and a general downturn in the number of cases reported. In

addition, the Blues are off to a COVID-shortened 56 game schedule and the Cardinals have made a blockbuster trade for Nolen Arenado, the best defensive third baseman in baseball today. Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog Day, so 6 more weeks of winter is predicted, and based on the snows we’ve had lately, he may be correct this year.

February Events:

--Sunday, February 14th, Valentine’s Day

--Monday February 15th, 5:30PM to 6:30 PM, Public Water Supply District #1 Board of Directors Meeting. This is the regular monthly meeting—see story below about public comments being accepted on a USDA grant application.

--Monday, February 15th, Presidents Day. Banks, Post Office, Federal and State offices closed.

--Friday February 19th, 7:00PM to 9:00 PM, PV Property Owner’s Association Board of Directors Meeting. This is the regular monthly meeting.

Groundhog Day Peaceful Valley Style, Saturday, February 20th at 10 AM

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources inspects the dam every two years usually around January and if it passes the inspection, we’re issued a permit to operate the dam for another two years. This year, the dam passed the inspection but the DNR found two discrepancies that we need to address. As reported in an



earlier newsletter, we need to raise the height of the dam just a bit to be compliant with the DNR’s regulations. This is not as big a project as you may think as the DNR inspectors suggested that we only need a truckload or two of gravel to smooth out on the south end of the dam and that should bring it into compliance.

The inspectors also found quite a few groundhog burrows on a sampling of the back side of the dam, so another recommendation is that we do a complete inspection of the back side of the dam to find all the burrows and backfill them. To find them, we're scheduling a grid search event for February 20th starting at 10 AM at the parking lot near the dam. Members of the Owensville Anglers Club have volunteered to help us with the search, but we need more volunteers to join the group. Our intention is to space people out at 6'-10' intervals to then hike up the back side of the dam to find the burrows and place a survey flag whenever they find one.

Why do this in the dead of winter? We had to wait for the groundhogs to go into hibernation in their "winter burrows" away from the dam. The department of conservation notes that they usually dig their hibernation burrows in wooded or brushy areas, so we shouldn't be running into any during our search. If we get enough volunteers, this should only take an hour or so. If the weather is uncooperative or there's still snow on the ground, we'll postpone until a later date. We'll make a "go/no-go" decision on the Thursday before and will send an email alert and post on our website to let you know. Bring your kids and grandkids to help!!

February Fundraisers in/near Peaceful Valley

Pre-Lenten and Lenten Friday night Fish Fries have started and will run from now through early April. Most places and churches that are hosting events are doing either drive-through or take-out only. If you recall last year, many of the events were canceled due to the COVID quarantine. For many of these sponsors, their Lenten Fish Fry Fridays are some of their biggest fund raisers. Sadly, most haven't had such an event in nearly a year, so please think about supporting them if you can. Scheduled Fish Fry events nearby include Immaculate Conception Church in Owensville starting on Friday, February 19th; Gerald Knights of Columbus every Friday through Lent; St. George's Church in Linn on Friday, Feb 19th, and Cuba's Holy Cross Church and St. James' Catholic Church on Feb 19th and 26th just to name. Check them out if you're at PVL for these upcoming weekends.



PWSD No. 1 Seeks Comments on USDA Grant Application

As published in the Gasconade County Republican, Feb 3rd, 2021, Page 7.

Peaceful Valley residents and property owners have a chance to offer written comments on an application by the voter-approved Public Water Supply District No. 1 application for USDA grant funding for sanitary sewer improvements. Don Burrows, operations manager for PWSD No. 1, said the lake community near Owensville is seeking up to \$1.3 million in USDA grants for an estimated \$2.6 million wastewater treatment facility expected to be constructed sometime in 2022.

Voters unanimously approved a June 2020 ballot question to fund improvements with bonds being paid for with sewer rate revenues. Burrows said the district is required to provide a public forum for comments as part of the application process. The

district is also enlisting the assistance of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to apply for grants and loans for the project. The district's Board of Directors will have their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, at the lake community's lodge, 3408 Peaceful Valley Road. Written comments will be accepted within 15 days of the advertised notice of intent to file the application. The notice appears in this week's issue of The Republican for the first of four weeks. "This is to let people know we're applying for funding," said Burrows, a lake landowner and former president of the homeowner's association. The plan calls for building an "oxidation ditch" system for treating wastewater.