



**Peaceful Valley Property Owners
Association Newsletter**

Visit our website at www.peacefulvalleylake.com
October 2017

If you would like to receive the splash via email, send your name and email address to pvl.gary@gmail.com

Welcome to October. What a wonderful August!! Temperatures averaged 83° and we only had 0.19” of rain. The trees are turning, leaves are falling, the Cardinals failed to make it to the post-season for the 2nd year in a row, and the Blues are entering the new season with a lot of hope but will be hobbled in the early weeks with injuries to key players. Owensville Football started slow but now have a winning record,

while the Dutchgirls’ Volleyball is 2-7-2 early in the season. Mizzou Football seems almost as hapless as their basketball team was last season, starting with a lopsided win over a much smaller Missouri State team followed by 3 dismal losses. For those of you that still care, the LA Rams actually have more wins than losses for the first time since 2005. Get out those mums and pumpkins, Fall is here for sure!!

October Events: (see the PVL Things to do calendar at <http://www.peacefulvalleylake.com/things-to-do-calendar.html>)

- Wednesday, October 18th 9 AM—Noon. **Tech Support Day at PVL.** Gary Hacker will be at the lodge basement from 9 to noon to help with any technical issues—computer, phone, popular software, etc.
- Friday October 20th, 5:30PM to 6:30 PM, **Public Water Supply District #1 Board of Directors Meeting.** This is the regular monthly meeting.
- Friday October 20th, 7:30PM to 9:30 PM, **PV Property Owner’s Association Board of Directors Meeting.** This is the regular monthly meeting.
- Saturday, October 21st, 5:00 PM-? **Annual Bonfire at the Beach**—See item below for details

Annual Bonfire October 21st, 2017 5:00 PM-?

It's October, and the days are getting shorter, trees are starting to show their fall colors, stores are stocking Halloween costumes and candy, and that means one thing-- it's time for our annual bonfire at the beach. This annual gathering usually draws one of the biggest crowds of the year. As in previous years, Peaceful Valley will be providing burgers, hot dogs, and fixins, along with paper goods and water and soft drinks. The rest is pot luck, so please bring something to share and your own adult beverages. We'll have picnic tables moved to the beach, but you may also want to bring a folding chair. So, mark your calendar, and we'll see you there!!



Tired of Spotty Cell Phone Coverage at the Lake? There may be a Free (or Cheap) solution

As most of you know, we have generally spotty mobile phone service here at PVL. In researching coverages and alternatives, I wanted to provide you with the following information on how to possibly overcome this issue.

According to www.whistleout.com it appears that only AT&T and T-Mobile have some level of coverage in PVL. Sprint and Verizon have virtually no coverage in PVL. US Cellular has generally good voice service over most of PVL and 4G LTE data coverage over the entire development.

If you've got a prepaid plan, those services run on one of the big 4 networks. For example, Cricket is owned by AT&T and runs on their network. Boost Mobile runs on Sprint's network. Walmart's Straight Talk buys time on all the big 4 networks, but their Family Plan runs on T-Mobile's network. Consumer Cellular runs on AT&T and T-Mobile's networks. Check <https://www.whistleout.com/CellPhones/Guides/which-network-is-your-mvno-on> if you've got a different prepaid phone to see which networks support their operations.

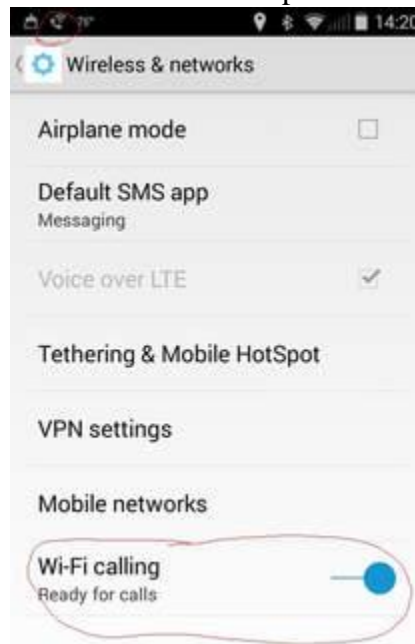
So, if you've got bad cell phone coverage, there are some alternatives, and it depends on if you have internet access your house. If you have internet, there are three ways to extend your service. If you already have wireless internet (Wi-Fi), the first (and cheapest) way to improve your calling experience is that many smart phones come equipped with the capability to make phone calls via Wi-Fi. This works by converting your cell signal into an internet-compatible format and uses the connectivity to route calls. If your phone is so equipped, you can enable

this on Android phones by going to Settings>Wireless & Networks>Wi-Fi Calling and click or slide to enable. On iPhones (5c or newer), go to Settings>Phone>Turn on Wi-Fi Calling. The upside is that it works and costs nothing more if you

already have (1) Wi-Fi in your house, (2) the feature's already installed on your phone and (3) your carrier allows it--the big 4 and US Cellular allow this. The downside is that voice quality may suffer and you may have some anomalies such as callers going to voicemail because your phone may or may not ring when they call.

If you have internet but no Wi-Fi, a more expensive method is to get a Wi-Fi router, either from the carriers themselves or just buy one and set your house up for wireless. Many of the carriers provide routers that "enhance" the Wi-Fi calling capability. Costs for these can run up to over \$200.

The third internet-based alternative is just slightly more expensive than method 1 and depends on the carrier and coverage. T-Mobile has what's called a Personal Cell Spot. This is an antenna that connects to your internet router and transmits and receives regular cell phone signals, then converts them into an internet-compatible signal to complete the call. What makes this different from the Wi-Fi solutions mentioned above is that any 3G or 4G mobile phone will work with this solution. Put another way, you can use this solution if you have a phone that isn't equipped with the Wi-Fi calling capability, meaning that many flip phones and older iPhones and Android devices will work on this system. The only downside is that since it's a bonafide cell signal with a range of up to 3000 square



Wi-Fi Calling Enabled on Android Phone. Note the circled icon in the upper left of a hand receiver and wireless icon showing the phone in Wi-Fi calling mode

feet, anyone in close proximity to the antenna will have access to make calls over the antenna and your internet. This means that you could have uninvited users on your network, which won't cause any cybersecurity issues, but may use some of your internet bandwidth. Most of the big 4 carriers offer this capability, but the cost varies significantly. T-Mobile only requires a \$25 deposit and the device must be returned, while other carriers may have similar programs or they make you purchase the device at higher costs.

So, what if you don't have internet? There are still a few options. Most carriers offer a signal booster or extender that basically grabs what signal there is and amplifies it to a stronger signal then boosts it through the house. Most of them work with a signal receiver that either sits near a window or is installed outside. It's coupled with an interior device that receives and transmits the boosted signal to/from

your phone. The biggest challenge is that you need at least some signal to be boosted, which may be an issue with Sprint and Verizon.

The links below provide additional details from the big 4 carriers about how to improve your service.

- <https://www.sprint.com/landings/airave/>
- <https://support.t-mobile.com/docs/DOC-24795>
- <https://www.verizonwireless.com/accessories/signal-boosters/>
- <https://www.att.com/att/microcell/?source=IC2Y0H000000000L&wtExtndSource=learn-about-microcell>

Editor's note: We currently have service with T-Mobile, and previously subscribed to Sprint and US Cellular. US Cellular has great service at PVL but sold their St. Louis market to Sprint in late 2012 causing us to switch service. Although I use my experience with T-Mobile to provide examples of how to overcome spotty cell coverage at PVL in the story above, it's not meant to be an endorsement of T-Mobile. Each of the other 3 of the "big 4" carriers (AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon) have similar programs and devices so check out your carrier for details.

Algae—Issues and Concerns

Editor's note: The following is from an email exchange among members concerning the Algae issue occurring in the shallower areas of the lake. I'm placing it here for those that weren't on the email address list. It's clear from the discussion below that we need to have a fair balance between the desire for a pleasing lake aesthetic and the need to provide adequate fish habitat. As an aside, the areas have been treated repeatedly with Copper Sulfate and 20 More grass carp were added this year in addition to the 50 that were put in last year. gh

Algae Control Needed by Gus Hoernschmeyer:

“INCREASE AND MULTIPLY AND FILL THE LAKE” --Not an exact quote from the Bible but appropriate for what happens at Peaceful Valley Lake at random times in its history. At least three times in the last XXX years we have seen vegetation cover most of the lake. It made it impossible to swim, and boats were confined to the dock because their props get entangled in the mess. The plague starts at the bridge by attacking the shallow areas, and then works its way down the lake. It disappears in winter and may or not come back the



following year depending on the severity of the winter. For example, long periods of ice on the lake, or significant silt in the water filters the sunlight which the plant needs to propagate. We seem to be watching it start its march down the lake this year.

The scientists call it Algae, and there are two general types and many subspecies. One type floats on the water and moves about with wind and wave action, normally finding its way to shore and beating itself to death on the rocks. The other kind affecting PVL is rooted on the bottom and grows until it reaches the surface where it spreads

and starts to collect and hold onto the floating algae, forming dense fibrous mats on the surface. You can see these mats from the lower entrance pavilion extending for some distance into the lake. The latter algae is called [Chara](#) (aka Stonewort, Skunkweed, Muskgrass, and Sandgrass) and is considered an invasive species and is prohibited in Michigan (Wikipedia). "Dense mats of vegetation can impede movement of fish, spawning activity, water flow, and recreational activity" Total coverage can restrict sunlight penetration and limit the production of oxygen and food items necessary for good fish growth. (Mo. Dept. of Conservation) Problems are usually caused by an overabundance of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in the pond. The problem will probably never be eliminated, but it is essential to get it under control when we see the first signs of

it in the spring. The Conservation Department lists many control methods including herbicides such as copper sulfate used with caution and non-chemical methods including the stocking of grass carp in adequate amounts. Reference "Nuisance Plants in Missouri Ponds and Lakes" MO. Dept. of Conservation.

While our board has made some progress this year with the distribution of copper sulfate and the introduction of a small number of grass carp it was a little late. We should investigate other chemicals such as AQUA THOL, more specific to our problem and further investigation of the proper number of grass carp to add, 50 does not seem to be enough.

We look forward to a clean lake next year.

Response to above note by Carol Eilermann:

I can no longer be quiet. Yes, the lake has chara weed, and yes, Gus, your end looks terrible. So does ours, just slightly below the surface, because it is a little deeper. My granddaughters also said "yuk" when they went swimming. My son-in-law told them this is a lake, not a pool, and they continued to swim (although a lot on rafts). The difference is all of the copper sulfate has been spread in front of your area. (4 times this year), and the rest of the lake has had absolutely no treatment! While my husband treated your area (again), I hand raked in front of my dock (see picture), but I can only reach out about 6 feet. It is everywhere in the lake, and a nuisance to all. It is spread primarily by waterfowl, who often land in shallower areas, but go all over the lake. You discuss different chemicals, but the active ingredient in all is a form of copper. Copper sulfate is the least expensive, and requires no equipment. Some people are opposed to any chemicals in our lake. You say grass carp (80% of those have been released in your area), and yes, these work, but not much in first year.



My real fear is the horrible mistake of 10(or so) years ago will be repeated. Excessive carp were introduced, and made the lake totally devoid of vegetation. While this might obtain the pristine look you seem to desire, it is horrible for a living eco system! It has taken until this year for the crappie to return in any number (as any fisherman will tell you). Weeds are needed for fish cover and reproduction, and are food for aquatic waterfowl (including many of the migrating species we are blessed with). Just because we are the top of the food chain, we do not have the right to destroy it. In fact, we have an obligation to help maintain it. Carp, once introduced, live 10 plus years, but are almost impossible to remove. Therefore, I caution against any radical action. The current managed approach may take a little longer, but is far more ecologically sound. I love this lake, and it must have a balance to remain viable. P.S.--the raked weed dries into a wonderful garden mulch.