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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vice President - Chris Day  
Secretary - Chris McElyea  
Treasurer - Jim Krupa  
Jim Besancenez  
Fred Goldman  
Janice Ohmes  
Dennis Schubert  
John Watts

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**From the Board of Directors:**

The month of February is rapidly drawing to a close which means golfing season is near. We look forward to a great golf year. What better place could there be but Lake Valley for wonderful days on the course.

Even though the weather has been poor, work continues on the course and in the clubhouse. I think you will be pleased with the improvements. Additional work will be completed as the weather improves.

I received more feedback from the last article than any previous article. All comments and suggestions were appreciated. As most of you know the restaurant and it's operation is a matter of concern. Rest assured we are all resolved to make the best decision possible. In addition, we will not allow the restaurant to lose at the rate it has for the last few years. Whatever changes that need to be made in our operation will be made. Dan and all board members welcome additional comments and suggestions.

We welcome John & Sharon Bevolo as new club members this month. This keeps our membership at 350. We anticipate more new members in the next few weeks.

Hope to see you at Lake Valley in the near future.

Thank you!

Mac Green, President

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**Pro Shop:**

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

March 29 - Course closed for aerifying and top dressing

April 1 - Ladies Kick-Off Event

April 5 - Ladies Sr. Scramble Opening Day

April 7 - Men's Sr. Scramble Opening Day

April 10 - U.S.G.A. Rules Seminar & Master's Party

April 19 - Greens top dressing (course closed a.m.)

April 24 - Goebel and Cochran golf groups

April 25 - Men's Golf Association Kick-Off Breakfast & Golf (course closed a.m.)

April 30 - Southern MO Container golf group

**RULES OF GOLF SEMINAR** -The Men's Golf Association is sponsoring a Rules Seminar on Saturday, April 10th. This will be a brief addition of a Rules Seminar that will focus on those everyday occurrences at Lake Valley. Hopefully the information will be delivered with a little fun featuring some of our locals. Following the presentation please stay with us and enjoy the third round of this year's Master's Golf Tournament on the new Big Screen. The event is open to any Lake Valley members and yes, Ladies are welcome to attend.

**LAKE VALLEY SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT** - Be sure to mark May 31st on your calendars to be a part of the Lake Valley Scholarship Fund Raising Event. The format is a four-person flighted scramble. This event has already awarded three deserving students with much need scholarship money to further their educations. We need your help in making this event something special. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Dan in the golf shop. More information will be following but be sure to reserve the date to help in this very worthwhile event.

**MEN'S MONDAY NIGHT GOLF LEAGUE** - May 3rd will be the start of the regular schedule for the 2004 Men's League. Team registration is currently underway. This is a two-man team event using handicap. This year teams will be divided into two divisions, one will play the ball up as in past years and the other will play the ball down. Be sure to state your preference when you sign up in the Pro Shop. There is a limited number of spots available, so sign-up early. The deadline for signing up will be April 25th at the Kick-Off Event. All players must be members of the Men's Golf Association and have current handicaps in the club's GHIN system. Be sure to record all your scores this Spring to make sure a current handicap is on file. The season will last fourteen weeks and conclude with a playoff night. Once again, substitutes will be allowed if you cannot make a particular night of play, but the substitute must also be a member of the Men's Golf Association and have a current handicap.

**PRO SHOP MERCHANDISE** -

Spring is right around the corner. Be sure to drop by your Pro Shop and see all the

latest in golf fashion and equipment. Remember, that members receive discounts on all purchases from the Pro Shop. There are always specials to take advantage of too. Don't let things get picked over before you act, shop while a full selection exists.

**CONGRATULATIONS to Fred Lowtharp** for his recent hole-in-one. Fred aced hole #2 on January 5th. That's a great way to start the new season. We will expect more good things from Fred this year.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR **WEBSITE** LATELY? If not, I invite you do so soon. Dennis Jones continues to provide us with one of the finest golf course websites around. It's also a great source for club information at all hours of the day and night. In case you forgot [www.lakevalleygolf.com](http://www.lakevalleygolf.com) is the address.

**IT'S TIME TO TUNE UP YOUR GAME** - Shake off the winter rust with a refresher lesson or series of lessons to make sure your game is in tip top shape when Spring finally arrives. Contact Andi today to reserve a time to get into the groove. Private and group lessons are available in single lessons or a series. Call the golf shop at 346-7218.

**TIRED OF HAULING YOUR EQUIPMENT AROUND IN YOUR CAR?** Then sign up for a locker or bag storage slot at the club. We currently have a few spaces available for the coming season. Bag storage slots are offered for only \$45 and lockers for \$20 per year. Call ahead and your clubs will be loaded on a cart and ready to go when you get here. No more lifting and carrying and they won't be in the way when you need extra trunk space in your vehicle.

**RANGE PASSES** -Be sure to sign-up for your 2004 driving range pass. Individuals may purchase the plan for \$100 and families for only \$175. The range pass is good for the entire year of 2004 and offer unlimited range balls for your practice needs. Just call or stop by the golf shop to get a plan in place.

**DISCOUNTS ON GOLF CARTS?** Yes, golf cart packages are available to all members. Packages can be purchased in \$100 increments and they offer you a \$2 per use discount on your riding carts. The cart package balances also carry over from year to year and may be refunded should you leave the club. You have nothing to lose and money to gain so sign up today. Just call or drop by the golf shop to get setup for the coming season.

**DONATE A TREE** - The tree planting program is going well. I would like to thank all the members who have stepped forward to help. If you would like to contribute a tree for the planting this Spring contact Dan or Alex. Trees will cost approximately \$150 a piece and can be billed to your club account. Thank you again.

**ATTENTION SENIOR GOLFERS!** The start to the weekly Men's and Ladies Senior Scramble Event schedule is just around the corner. We will begin play in early April. Be sure to look for sign-up sheets around the end of March. This is a great chance for new members to meet other members and enjoy a pressure free golf experience. Cost for the events remain \$4 per week and includes coffee and donuts before the round. Start making plans now to attend these events on a regular

basis.

Dan

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### **From the Greenside:**

Greetings from the Greenside! It's great to see so many of you again.

We've received a lot of suggestions from our members and we appreciate your input. As always, our goal is to better serve our members and their guests.

March is looking great. We have several things booked.

Several changes are in the works. We now have pizzas. Four choices, Pepperoni, Sausage, Canadian Bacon & a Masterpiece (the works). Right now we have a special price of only \$7.00 per pizza. They are great for two or four people and they are always available no matter the time of day or night.

Our first **Sunday Brunch** will be Sunday, March 7th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Be sure to come out and bring your friends.

We are now serving lunch Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be expanding those hours as the weather warms up.

We have done some remodeling in the kitchen which looks great and have new carpet in the bar area.

Thanks to the Men's Golf Association for the nice Big Screen TV.

Looking forward to 2004.

Don & Staff

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### **Historian Column:**

By Dennis Jones

#### **Murder on the farm** (and other cases of death on the golf course)

Take yourself back to the late 1860's or early 1870's. Civil War sentiments are still running strong. Henry Laughlin and his wife, Americus, are living in eastern Camden County. Henry, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Confederate Army during the War, is a strong Confederate sympathizer surrounded by Union supporters. Recognizing the danger of their situation they move to Arkansas to surround themselves with other Confederates. Henry is killed by bushwhackers anyway.

Following Henry's death, Americus returns to Camden County with her 12 children, including James, the oldest, plus Henry Jr., Josh, George, and Richard. Their family farm was on the property that is now Lake Valley, with the farmhouse thought to be somewhere near the catalpa tree on #14, and a barn at the top of the hill behind #17 tee. The Forest Grove School was located in the vicinity of what is now John Bearden's house, across Highway 54 behind #15 tee.

James Bunch and his family, including son Emanuel, lived across the river in the area that is now Normac Estates. The Bunch's were strong Union supporters. Bad blood boiled between Richard Laughlin and Emanuel Bunch as a result of the two families divergent war sentiments, and on November 21, 1873, while on his way to the Forest Grove School, Richard was attacked by Emanuel Bunch and hit in the head with a rock that resulted in his death. The attack would have taken place somewhere in the area around #15 tee. Emanuel Bunch was ultimately convicted of 2nd degree manslaughter and served 2 years in the penitentiary. His father, James, was also charged but was found not guilty. About a year before the murder, Richard's sister Narcissa Laughlin had married Emanuel Bunch's brother, Isaac, which surely made for a case of strange bedfellows following the murder.

In addition to the current LVCC property, the Laughlin offspring settled much of the surrounding area. James held the property that is now Lake Valley, and owned the land all the way to the river. His brother, Henry Jr. acquired the property that is now Old Kinderhook, brother Josh owned land across the river while another brother George owned land further down the river. James' family sold the farm after the lake was built, under the impression that the raising water would mean falling property values.

More tragedy hit the James Laughlin family in September 1904, when his son Floy was killed in a sawmill accident on the family farm. Floy was preparing to be married and was sawing lumber to build a house when a board kicked back and hit him in the abdomen. He died a day or so later on September 2, 1904, presumably from internal injuries. The sawmill was set up on the family farm, which very possibly puts it on what is now the club property.

Another interesting story involving James Laughlin has it that he learned that his sons were carrying pistols, planning to settle another feud when the opportunity arose. Upon learning they were carrying iron James took the pistols from his boys and dropped them into the family well. Is this the same cistern / well that is near the catalpa tree on #14?

Finally, on a more contemporary time frame, an automobile accident resulted in a death on the course on Sunday, April 23rd 1995. A car was heading toward Camdenton on Highway 54 when the driver lost control on the wet road, hit the guardrail and went airborne. The car flew over the trees on the bank left of #14 fairway, ejecting the driver, and landing on the cart path right in front of the ladies tee on #14. The driver was killed in the accident.

Many thanks to Mac Green for providing the Laughlin family history. Next month: Money, Money, Money; or lack thereof.

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### **Ladies Golf Association:**

Don't forget to sign up for the **Ladies Kick-Off Breakfast Thursday, April 1st**. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast & golf to follow. There is a sign up sheet in the Ladies Locker room or call the restaurant and have them sign you up.

See you soon!

Marge Sromek

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### **Men's Golf Association:**

2004 season...is almost here and we've got a great season planned, including "Match Play" which begins June 5-6.

**Men's Kick-Off** Breakfast & Golf is Sunday, April 25th. It will be a 4-Man Scramble, draw teams.

**Rules Clinic** - Circle Saturday, April 10th on your calendar. Visuals on the big screen TV. Many from our own course will be used to illustrate "rules of the game". New rules just enacted will be covered as well. Ninety-nine cent (.99) "finger food" will be served. Following the clinic we'll be enjoying the "Master's" on the big screen for those who wish to join in on the fun!!

**Thursday Night Events** we will have our first one May 20th followed by once a month on Thursday nights, some unusual fun formats.

**Monday Night League** will begin May 3rd. Notify & sign up in the Pro Shop along with paying your \$20 entry fee.

\*April 25 - Season Kick-Off

Draw teams. A.B.C.D. player.

\*May 3 - Monday Night League - two 7 week sessions + playoffs

\* May 20 - Thursday Twilight

\*June 5-6 - Match Play - Saturday - Stroke play 100% handicap to determine Sunday qualifiers for 1st round of match play

\*June 17 - Thursday Twilight

\*June 26-27 - "The Draft"

"2 net ball" 4 man teams- full team captains select 3 players (Draft Auction Party 6-24)

\*July 15 - Thursday Twilight

\*July 23-25 - "Member Guest"

\*August 26 - Thursday Twilight

\*August 30 - Monday Twilight

\*September 13 - Ladies & Gent's Twilight

\*September 20 - Monday Twilight

\*October 3 - "Fall Blow-Out"

\*"If a lot of people gripped a fork & knife the way they do a golf club...they'd starve to death" - Sam Snead

See you on the course!

John Stephens - MGA

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### **Rules Corner:**

Hello again and welcome to Spring! OK, so maybe it's not quite Spring yet, but it soon will be upon us again. Golf will return to being a priority. Of course, I would hope it stayed a priority with most of us all year round. Golf balls will soon be flying in all directions around the golf course. Since there are others like me that often get off the fairway, I thought a refresher course in water hazard procedures might be a good idea.

There are two types of water hazards that you will run into at Lake Valley, water hazards (marked by yellow lines or stakes) and lateral water hazards (marked by red lines or stakes). Why are there two types? As usual the U.S.G.A. wants to keep us confused. The difference lies in the procedures for dropping your golf ball in taking relief from the hazard. Here are your options if you find your ball in one of our ditches or pond.

#### **Relief From a Water Hazard (yellow)**

If a ball is in or lost in a water hazard (whether the ball lies in water or not), the player may under penalty of one stroke:

A. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played; or

B. Drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the water hazard the ball may be dropped.

### **Relief From a Lateral Water Hazard (red)**

The same two options (A & B) above still apply for a lateral water hazard but the following allow you additional relief:

C. As additional options available only if the ball last crossed the margin of a lateral water hazard, drop a ball outside the water hazard within two club-lengths of and not nearer the hole than (I) The point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard or (II) a point on the opposite margin of the water hazard equidistant from the hole.

Please remember you always have the option to play the ball as it lies. This option is without penalty unless you mistakenly ground your club in the hazard. Weigh your situation carefully before deciding what to do. Often times discretion is the better part of valor. Make sure you don't get yourself into a bigger mess trying to be heroic. The best advice I can give you regarding water hazards is to avoid them. The game is a lot simpler and scores better when this is accomplished. But at least you now know your options if you fail to avoid those nasty water hazards.

The rules of golf had some changes this year. I strongly recommend that you mark Saturday, April 10th on your calendars. Be sure to join us for the Lake Valley Rules of Golf Seminar. We will help answer your questions on these changes. This is also your chance to become more familiar with common occurrences while playing at Lake Valley and have a little fun in the process. See you there!

Dan

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### **Grounds:**

I would like to thank the members of Lake Valley and the Board of Directors for all the support and compliments during my first year at the club. It has definitely been a learning experience getting to know the course. I am looking forward to another great year at Lake Valley.

We are happy to announce that we have now acquired sufficient donations for the 8 trees we'll be planting between #7 green and #10 fairway. I expect to have them planted by the end of March. The native area on 6, 7, & 8 has been adjusted and we are still open for comments and suggestions regarding boundaries.

I would like to take a moment to remind all players to repair ball marks. It is sometimes difficult to see them this time of year but the extra effort will be

rewarded with nice greens later this Spring. The biggest problem with ball marks this time of year is that since the turf isn't growing much, the ball mark will not heal until mid to late April. We have purchased some new signs that are located on the flag sticks to help remind players to repair "your's and one other."

Thanks,

Alex