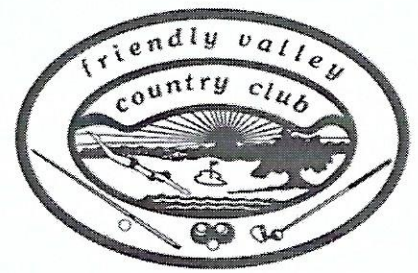


Villager Newsletter

August 9th, 2020 – August 22nd, 2020

www.friendlyvalleycountryclubwebsite.com



Friendly Valley Voice

By: Michael Fennick, Board Member

Friendly Valley Recreational Association, Inc.

Sometime in the next few weeks, a long journey will finally reach its conclusion. We all will then realize the end of the period that was necessary to renovate our Village activity center buildings. A community vote, resulting in a highly favorable percentage to fund this effort, was cast in June of 2019. Your vote allowed us to completely modernize our HVAC systems and assure us all of a safe, comfortable environment to return to once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. It also permitted us to perform the long-overdue reroofing of the Auditorium through the Annex structures which will now serve us trouble-free for many years. It further sanctioned us to take a major step towards our future by installing a solar system that will considerably reduce ever-increasing energy costs. Once construction is finalized, the new rooflines will provide a fresh landscape; the solar panels positioned on them will assure us daily that we have moved progressively forward; and once new foliage camouflages the HVAC ground units, Friendly Valley Village can proudly announce the beginnings of a long-awaited rebirth.

But the changes have only just begun.

This is a very exciting time for us. Many interior improvements to several of the rooms have taken place during renovation. But there is much more required to provide us the community center we deserve from our monthly contributions. Plans are in process to repair, repaint, and further enhance the exterior of the structures recently upgraded in order to make them attractive to both current and prospective residents. Extensive repairs to our pool have been postponed for many years and, similar to our buildings, time has expired to address the issues. Contractor proposals have recently been submitted and decisions on how to proceed are now in progress. Once a plan of action is formulated, a community vote will again decide its fate. Whether those modernizations are realized or whether the facility that has been enjoyed by so many residents, their families, and guests eventually becomes a bygone memory by order of the Health Department will once more lie in your hands. Auditorium remodeling, focused on flooring, continual enhancements to outdoor facilities, and several ideas to transform The Village into the center of a social atmosphere are all topics in discussion. In time, these ideas will be presented to our community in order to not only better our own days, but to also entice future, activity-oriented residents to Friendly Valley. Without attracting homeowners who will one day serve on our boards, our internally-staffed government, incumbent and successful since ground was broken in this community, will one day likely cease to exist.

But there is always a caveat. And it usually begins with funding.

In a month or so, along with a ballot that would allow us to completely renovate our pool area, we will also ask for your approval on a proposal to continue progress and establish your facilities as a gathering place where you can further feel a sense of pride in ownership. This Rec Board will NOT be petitioning for increased HOA fees to individual households to accomplish this task. We will NOT be entertaining the idea of levying an assessment in order to perform necessary improvements and projects. We WILL ask that you keep an open mind to what we feel is an obvious solution to secure the operating capital required to be able to fulfill these necessities and desires that residents can appreciate and enjoy long term without the need to asses our current homeowners.

More information regarding the items on this year's ballot will be disseminated in the following weeks. Be sure to stay abreast by means of follow – on Villager articles and Rec Board meetings to familiarize yourselves with the ballot that will be mailed directly to homeowners in mid-September. Thank you for helping to make our unique and thriving community a "Friendly Valley".

DID YOU KNOW?

- Your Rec Board is accountable for insurances, taxes, budgets, project funding, proposals, contracts, restoration, renovation and upkeep of all Recreational Common Area grounds and facilities?
- The Rec Board is responsible for the salaries, grievance solutions, benefits, and the hiring of both the Office and Security staffs?
- The Rec Board is composed only of Volunteer homeowners such as yourself?
- That no member of this board receives any salary or incentives to try to make this the best community possible?

[Continued on Page 2]

Due to ongoing construction, all Club, Class, and Group events that take place in the Recreational Facilities have been **CANCELLED** *until further notice*.

[Continued from Page 1]

If you feel you possess a skill and have the desire to become a part of a proactive and progressive Rec Board, determined to continually improve each and every aspect necessary to make our home the model of what a Volunteer government can achieve through dedication and success-driven work ethics, we would appreciate your assistance in accomplishing that goal. **Candidate Nomination Forms** were included in the July 9th Villager. If you have not received one, or misplaced it, please contact the Business Office. **Candidate Nomination Forms** must be submitted to the Business Office by **Monday, August 10, 2020** at 5:00pm.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED...THE ONLY PAYMENT IS THE SATISFACTION PROVIDED WHEN WORKING IN A TEAM ATMOSPHERE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF FRIENDLY VALLEY.

There are three (3) open positions to be filled and many challenges and subsequent solutions to become a part of while serving your term. We know it is not for everyone. Please don't apply if personal intentions or agendas influence your decision. Thanks for considering this rewarding opportunity.

PLEASE, DO YOUR PART

It has been two months since the decision was made to reopen our pool and spa amidst COVID-19 restrictions to provide swim time to residents this summer. Those choosing to use the facilities understand the magnitude of the undertaking, are appreciative of it and have expressed sincere gratitude for the efforts. It is a hell of a lot of work...and worth each hour of it.

The reopening of the pool facility was a complicated task. Friendly Valley is among the small percentage of HOAs that have attempted to operate this season. Our Security staff has done an exemplary job in sanitizing, greeting, and allowing entry to reservations. This is not part of the job they were hired to do for us. This is something that we have asked them to work into their schedules in order to make your summer more enjoyable. Please respect their efforts and be on time to enter and ready to exit at forty-five minutes after your session begins so they can return to their normal duties as soon as possible.

But as well as this undertaking has gone, at times, people's tendencies are to return to familiar and natural habits. Therefore, although most have cooperated flawlessly in keeping themselves and other residents as safe as possible, it is time to remind all swimmers of the restrictions that they agreed to when signing the Release Form.

- Group Leaders: Please frequently remind your members about keeping the proper six-foot minimal distance both inside AND outside the gate and in AND out of the water. For those who choose only to socialize, please remember to wear a mask when not within safe distance.
- Although most are very conscientious and responsible about informing the scheduler when not using the facility, all swimmers should cancel reservation times, giving as much notice as possible, in order to allow another resident additional pool time. There is nothing worse than having onlookers notice and inform us that "there is no one in the pool". It is our objective to have each and every available hour reserved.
- Most importantly, all individual group swimmers should act responsibly in regards to the established safety guidelines in virus protocol. It is not up to other residents, the scheduler, or the Rec Board. If you experience any symptoms known to be related to COVID-19, please stay home until you are sure you have not contracted it. If you have been exposed to someone who is known to have the virus, please stay home until either self-quarantine or test results assure you of being virus-free. You owe this to each and every neighbor you have chosen to swim with. Please do the right thing.

Thank you all for your compliments and your understanding and cooperation in trying to build a sense of community in Friendly Valley during these abnormal times. We will get through this. In the meantime, stay conscious of your surroundings and don't let your guard down.

August 10th Rec Board Meeting— Two ways to join this meeting:

- Option 1: Listen via Phone
 - Dial: **1 (312) 757-3121** When prompted, enter the Access Code: 542-334-509
 - Once you have joined the meeting, please **MUTE your phone immediately**
- Option 2: Listen via Computer, Tablet, or Smartphone
 - Visit: <https://www.gotomeet.me/RuthGauthier/fvra-august2020-monthly-gen-meeting>
 - **If you would like the link for this meeting emailed to you, please contact the Business Office and provide your email address**
 - If you have a microphone, please **MUTE it immediately** after you have joined

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Business Office Update

If you need assistance, please call the Business Office at 661-252-3223 to schedule an appointment. Masks are **REQUIRED** at all times when visiting the Business Office. Dues and Update Address Forms may be mailed or placed in the red Rotunda box or the Drop Box between the Business & Security Offices. Thank you.

Association 3:

Board Meeting Friday, August 14th at 9:30am in the street at 26838 N. Avenue of the Oaks. Bring a chair or golf cart and a mask. No cars please—parking is limited.

Travel Advisory/Reminders

Here are some things to keep in mind when considering traveling this season. According to the CDC:

- Travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19
- Please don't travel if you are sick or if you have been around someone with COVID-19
- If you travel, take steps to protect yourself and others:
 - Wear a mask in public settings
 - Social Distance (6 ft) from others
 - Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer
 - Avoid contact with anyone that is sick
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, & mouth

In order to protect your friends, family, and neighbors, you might also consider quarantining for the suggested 14 days after traveling. Thank you for keeping yourself and others safe.

FV Lawn Bowls Club

Come join us! Tues., Wed., Thurs., & Sat. meet 6:15pm, start 6:30pm. Free lawn bowls to use & instruction. For more info call Roy M. (323-850-6569).

BOARD MEETINGS

Are you involved with your Association?

Assn. 1	August 4th	Conference Call, See Insert
Assn. 2	No August Mtg	
Assn. 3	Aug. 14th, 9:30am	26838 N. Ave of the Oaks
Assn. 4	No August Mtg	
Assn. 5	Aug. 11th @ 10am	26499 Fairway Circle
Assn. 6	Aug. 20th @ 6pm	Location TBD
Assn. 6A	August Mtg	TBA
Assn. 6BC	No August Mtg	
Assn. 7	August 26th	Location TBD
Assn. 8	August 25th	Location TBD
Assn. 9	Aug 17th @ 6pm	Outside, Madison's Home
Assn. 10	August Mtg	TBD
Assn. 11	No August Mtg	

Community Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 5, 2020
10am, Gathering Place—Delegates ONLY

Rec Board Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2020
10:00am Conference Call, see Page 2

SECURITY NEWS

If you need a Parking Permit or a Decal, please call the Security Office to set up an appointment. NO WALK INS. Masks are **REQUIRED** at all times when visiting the Security Office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sunday August 9

10am—11am FV Community Church—No Service, but the Church will be available for prayer

Monday August 10

Tuesday August 11

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Wednesday August 12

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Thursday August 13

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Friday August 14

Saturday August 15

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

NEXT VILLAGER DEADLINE:

Monday, August 17th

Sunday August 16

10am—11am FV Community Church—No Service, but the Church will be available for prayer

Monday August 17

Tuesday August 18

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Wednesday August 19

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Thursday August 20

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

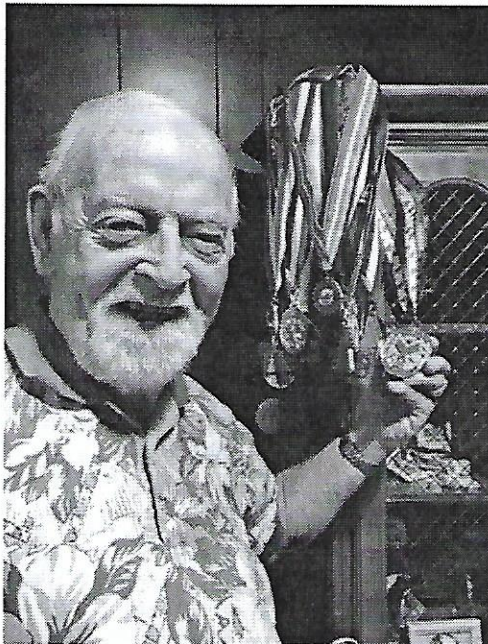
Friday August 21

Saturday August 22

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Bob McMeekin Interview

By: Daria Landress



Covid-19 “Bummer Summer” will be one for the memory books for sure. As we navigate through these uncertain times and uncharted waters, many blessings have also come forth. During the time I’ve lived and volunteered at Friendly Valley, I have met some very nice and very talented people. I have also met some very inspiring people who have become very dear to me. One of my new acquaintances is Mr. Robert “Bob” McMeekin, a resident of Association 1.

I had heard about this octogenarian who was a serious swimmer, but never had the chance to meet him until the pool reopened in June. As time passed, I came to learn of his passion for swimming and of his successes in competitive swimming.

A couple of weeks ago, Bob invited me over to share some of his racing experiences. He was easy to talk with and I teasingly started calling him “Bobby Mac” which he took in good cheer.

Prior to the pandemic, Bob conditioned himself in our FV swimming pool and every morning he could be seen swimming his laps. He played a variety of sports in college, but his passion was and still is, swimming. He got into swimming again at the Santa Clarita Swimming complex, where he learned about the local and regional swim meets. Bob, who is a freestyle swimmer, recruited his twin brother, a breast stroker and a childhood friend, a back stroker, to compete in swimming events which they did for years. They were a formidable team.

Bob has outlived both his brother and friend and has continued with his swimming. He has participated in swim meets in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles at UCLA, San Diego and has traveled to Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and other states. He has competed in the Inland Empire Senior games in swimming events for seventeen years. In 2019, at the age of 84, Bob was honored as *Inland Empire Senior Games Athlete of the Year*. He was looking forward to competing in the Games in 2020 when the Corona virus shockingly came into our lives and radically altered our existence. Bob plans on getting back in the water soon to start training for competition when the swimming meets commence.

Numerous swimming medals are proudly displayed on the walls of Bob’s home. When I asked him if he had a favorite, he chose a silver medal that he won at the Fire/Police Championships in San Diego.

Bob is a Brooklyn, New York native who attended Syracuse high School. He married his long-time girlfriend and they raised three beautiful daughters together. He earned both bachelor and master’s degrees from Cal State LA and retired from the LAPD.

Thank you, Mr. Bob McMeekin for inspiring others and for sharing your passion for swimming. Congratulations on all your achievements. Here’s to you and to many more swim meets and medals!

Every race is an opportunity to measure yourself against your own potential. -Speedo Ad