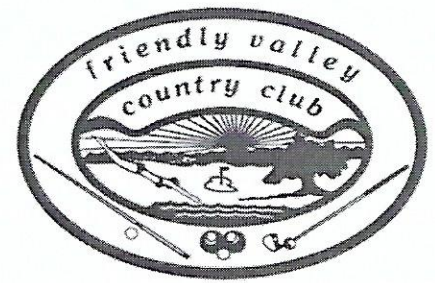


Villager Newsletter

June 14th, 2020 – June 27th, 2020

www.friendlyvalleycountryclubwebsite.com



Friendly Valley Voice

By: Michael Fennick, Board Member

Friendly Valley Recreational Association, Inc.

Pool & Spa

Before going into detail for those who don't already know about the pool, restrictions and rules dictated by COVID-19, I have a brief story to tell...and I hope you will listen.... what else could you all possibly have to do?

I personally use the pool often for workouts. Granted, I usually go early in the mornings knowing that classes take place and, on several days, children and grandchildren share our time with us. I am usually somewhere around our common areas at various times and for several hours each day otherwise. So, when I say that I have never seen more than a few people at any given time using the pool, you can take it as fact. And from this most recent experience, I can assure you that other avid swimmers agree. But a previous number of days, length of time in the water, or Michael Phelps' training schedule would not equate to anyone becoming entitled to more pool time in this present situation. Every resident has the right to use that facility whether they swim laps or float on noodles. With that in mind, and well before the County Health Dept ever released the restraints on pools, I formulated a "fool-proof" plan and proposed it to the board. "So, let's say 25 people frequent the water... if I can give them 3 days a week for an hour it would give them all a chance to at the least live some life again. I can control it by a reservation system," I told my fellow members. "It's a piece of cake!" And when the County eased the restrictions on closures, I convinced them to let me try out my plan.

Sooooo... you can imagine the anxiety that both myself and my trusted, faithful companion, Daria, felt when we arrived at the sign-up site. The only words our maintenance man, Austin, could say were, "Dude, you're in trouble".

Right after Memorial Day we were given the word - POOLS ARE OPEN! And that is *all* that people heard. We could open our "still yet to be determined as Public or Private pools". I caught my first glimpse of the line practicing six-foot physical distancing. It extended from the table in the Lawn Bowls Parking Lot to the Gathering Place. I was transported to the Dakota Territory and the Little Big Horn battlefield, looking into the eyes of General Custer and asking him, "George, what did you get us into?"

Math was never my strong suit. The first 12 or so residents booked their 3 allowable days and 1-hour sessions that I over-generously offered. I watched as my own version of "toilet paper leaving the shelves" reached full pandemic mode. I quickly realized the plan I told my other board members was fool-proof, wouldn't work well. People take what they are offered, I guess. It's just the modern-time programming of a human.

Long story short, I improvised and by the end of the grueling sign-ups, we filled nearly every time slot and took an additional 15 names promising to accommodate them all with pool time this summer. And, of course, there were several more phone-in requests when I reached the office that day. That is when the real work started. But WE did it, over the next 4 days. But this is not where the story ends. It's where it begins....

Immediately, what I gaveth I would soon taketh away for those "first in line" residents who patiently waited out their turn in the sun-drenched heat of the morning. With my tail between my legs and the taste of humble pie on my pallet, I cringed and made the first of many phone calls. I braced myself on each one and tried to explain to resident after resident about the mistakes that we made and covered my ears to avoid eardrum breakage.

But something unexpected happened...Many...most...of your friends and neighbors understood. Many even sympathized. All cooperated. That spoke volumes to me about the place I chose to call home...the place I chose to volunteer to try to make better for you. Were some upset? Ya think? But, one of the most upset residents ended our conversation with a message to me I may never forget, one that I would love to hear much more often around here. He was disappointed. He had followed the guidelines I laid out, to the *tee*. He expected me to do the same. I failed him. I admitted it and took his reaction like a man in my position was taught to do a long time ago. In the end, when he agreed to forfeit one of his three days, what he told me reached home. "As long as I know that I'll be helping another resident of this community, I'll give it up". That is how you earn another's respect. It's those type of residents who will keep me trying to help build a better Friendly Valley in the time I have left here.

This virus has put us all on common ground. We have all had to make adjustments and changes. Opening the Golf Courses and the Pool have at least renewed a little of the life we knew a few short months ago. I understand that if you are a long-time resident that you have been disappointed and let down in the past. But we really are trying to revitalize FV and we will always appreciate your support in doing that.

Someone once told me that I could be a fountain or I could be a drain.... I made a lifelong choice that same day. Have you made that choice yet?

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

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I also feel that I need to explain some of the factors that determined our decision regarding the new rules and restrictions for the Pool and Spa. There still seems to be some confusion, and I get suggestions every day as to how other individuals would have opened it. So, allow me to clarify some things.

We could have taken the same stand Governor Newsom is taking and keep all public pools closed for now. Easy. Wash our hands and go home. But we chose to pursue getting our residents in the water.

We have always told our residents that we are going, strictly and exclusively, by the rules set in place by LOS ANGELES COUNTY! And the Health Department of that branch of government determined that all HOA, condominium, and apartment pools were considered to be PRIVATE in their eyes.

We could have taken the same road as the other 14 HOAs who are serviced by our pool service, Pro Pools, and either remain closed or sit quietly and make no decision as of yet. We could also be under the thumb of a property management company who doubtfully would even entertain any thought of improvising to safely provide this amenity for you.

I tried to work it out so our residents could get back some semblance of life here. I tried to develop a safe plan for an "at risk" community that is surrounded by an external environment that is allowing businesses to open, despite the fact that COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to occur daily.

A NOTICE was approved by the Board and distributed as quickly as possible to advise FV residents of our pool opening and the restrictions we would deploy to protect everyone as best we can.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, in the hot June sun that pushed the temperature to 105, Daria and I tried our best to accommodate the residents of FV for 3 hours. It certainly was not our intention to cause an inconvenience or hardship for anyone, and we commend our residents for understanding and bearing with us under those conditions.

The rest you probably know by now. A reservation schedule was drafted, amended and finalized and on Thursday, June 5th, and the first FV swimmer in many months hit the pool water. And it has been used ever since. We have both walked by there, greeted residents, distributed pool passes and waved and watched many smiling faces enjoying one of our favorite amenities again before summers officially comes.

Were there problems? Some. Were there suggestions? Many. Will there be changes? Most likely. The residents who took the "first come, first served" notation seriously and were given 3 days had to have that adjusted to only two in order to accommodate other residents and they all complied...most of them very willingly. In order to attempt to make check-ins and check outs easier for our security staff, all reservations were changed to begin "on the hour" and sessions were limited to 45 minutes with a 15 minute "rest period" prior to the next resident entry.

Without a doubt, the question asked most stems from misconception. Some are under the impression that pools can be opened for 25% maximum occupancy or 10 people at a time, whichever is smaller. That is correct. But don't stop reading there. In order to do that, a pool manager must be on site during all hours of operation and a custodian must be made available to assure proper sanitation for safety. We are open from 8AM to 11PM daily, seven days per week. Even I can do this math. At least 3 managers and custodians would be needed to cover all hours of operation. If you were on this board, would you consider that option? If you answer "yes", think about the reaction of residents who never use the pool facility if you needed to invoke an assessment to fund that decision.

To the people who are back in the water, you should applaud yourselves. You worked with us and accepted a viable option to do just that. And it's still a work in progress. Hopefully, this will be shortly lived but if it continues, you at the least will have another way to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

We will continue to work on a plan to give residents more and more opportunity while keeping them safe. This week we will establish a cancellation policy and a cancellation/stand by list plan to have residents be able to take daily advantage of open pool times during the time frame that the virus dictates terms to us. I have gotten other suggestions that will be discussed in the upcoming weeks to try and make this as pleasurable an experience as possible for each and every swimmer.

Things to Keep in Mind When Using the Pool

- No guest or visitors are permitted at this time.
- The pool and spa are restricted to one household per reserved time slot.
- Bring your Badge and pool pass each time you use the facility.
- Restrooms, chair, tables, umbrellas, and floating devices are NOT available for use at this time. You CAN bring your own chair or umbrella or acceptable floatation device.
- Entry is only allowed by Security. All handrails, gate knobs, and touchable surfaces will be sanitized prior to your visit. Security will make every effort to be present, but emergencies will prevail and take priority every time. Please be understanding and cooperative with these occurrences for the welfare of all residents.

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Reminder

At this time, we are NOT taking donations for the Library or otherwise. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Association 3 Board Meeting

June 12th at 10:00am at 26838 N. Avenue of the Oaks. Masks and socially distancing, outside. Please bring a seat, or golf cart. Limited parking.

Election Chairperson Needed!

Elections *cannot* take place without an Election Chairperson/Inspector of Elections. Anyone interested in volunteering for this position, please submit a Request Form to Keith Pierce or Community Council ASAP. Thank you.

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).

Fridays with the Professors

Fridays with the Professors concludes the current academic term with these topics offered by videoconferencing (1:00pm).

- June 12—"The PLACE Project and our Community"

Contact FGJordan@socal.rr.com to be included.

Business Office Update

If you need assistance, please call the Business Office at 661-252-3223 before coming down, so we can give you proper instructions. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

BOARD MEETINGS

Are you involved with your Association?

Assn. 1	July 7th	TBA
Assn. 2	July 7th	TBA
Assn. 3	June 12th	See box for details
Assn. 4	July Mtg	TBA
Assn. 5	June 16th @ 10am	26499 Fairway Circle
Assn. 6	June Mtg	TBD
Assn. 6A	June Mtg	Cancelled
Assn. 6BC	June Mtg	TBD
Assn. 7	June 24th	TBD
Assn. 8	June Mtg	TBD
Assn. 9	June 15th @ 6pm	Outside, Madison's Home
Assn. 10	June 10th @ 5pm	Western Driveway
Assn. 11	No June Mtg	

Community Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Meeting TBD.

Rec Board Meeting

Monday, July 13, 2020

Meeting TBD.

SECURITY NEWS

Reminder that the Security Office is CLOSED. Staff are still available via phone. Call the Security Office if you need a Parking Permit, to add someone to your Guest List, or if you have any other concerns. Please obey all posted speed limits and stop signs.

Sunday June 14

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

Monday June 15**Tuesday June 16**

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Wednesday June 17

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Thursday June 18

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Friday June 19**Saturday June 20**

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Sunday June 21

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

Monday June 22**Tuesday June 23**

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Wednesday June 24

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Thursday June 25

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

Friday June 26**Saturday June 27**

6:15 pm Lawn Bowls

NEXT VILLAGER DEADLINE:

Monday, June 22

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- Security can be called at any time if the pool area is breached by a non-authorized source
- Each session is 45 minutes and begins at the top of each hour. Please don't ask the guard to either enter early or stay late. They are trying their best to maintain a schedule that we are asking them to interrupt each hour to accommodate the new appointment system.

Please bear with us while we initially adjust to open time slots and cancellations. The pool policy is a work in progress. And as luck will sometimes have its way, this morning, Pro Pools, our pool service company, informed me that we are having heater issues...oh well, back to work.

Renovation Report

All contractor operations have progressed satisfactorily since the rains have passed. On Friday, Precise Air completed the installation of the HVAC system in the Office to Annex buildings and the only thing that remains now in that area are the internet connections. Both the Office and Security Staff have returned to their normal areas and once again are operational. The COVID-19 restrictions are still in effect during business hours. The HVAC crew has moved their focus to the equipment installation for the Auditorium. Now that the overhead work is completed, we can contract and schedule all internal ceiling holes to be patched. When completed, the attic insulation can be blown in the opening.

GP Roofing has completed the auditorium seal coat and also the initial phase of composition shingle on the section of roof where Solar panels are being installed. Once attic insulation is completed, GP will be scheduled to complete the balance of the shingle roofing over the activity buildings.

The Solar installation has been constantly progressing and will complete later this week. The inspector will be contacted for buy offs directly after. We are still on target for a June 30th completion date.

Lawn Bowls

Recently, we received a request from the Friendly Valley Lawn Bowls Club asking for us to resume bowling. We asked that they submit a list of the required restrictions that would be followed in compliance with safety procedures regarding COVID-19. Although there is no formal statement from the County Health Department regarding Lawn Bowling specifically, we feel that Tennis restrictions are similar and the request to resume bowling was considered.

On June 8th at the Rec Board meeting, a motion was made and passed to open Lawn Bowling once again in Friendly Valley under the guidance of Club President, Judy Brothers.

In this time of having little to do as compared to past years, it may just be an optimum time for you to discover Lawn Bowling. It is a wonderful activity to participate in on a warm summer evening and employs skill, competition and above all, fun with a great group of residents passionate about the game. Contact Judy Brothers for further details on bowling.