



Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association

VIEWS & NEWS



Cover Photo by Mike Hopkins

Summer 2023

Sun Valley Lake: A Director's Perspective

My wife, Linda, and I bought our first lot here at Sun Valley Lake from Quentin Anderson in 1976....slightly less expensive in those days! We have witnessed decades of change. We, as well as our two sons, daughters-in-law, 6 grandchildren, and many relatives and friends, have irreplaceable memories here. It's truly been a blessing!

Sun Valley Lake is a wonderful place that most of us take for granted. I'm not sure what motivated Quentin and Rita Anderson to create such a mecca of clean water, excellent fishing, boating, and golf. From those efforts spawned income opportunities for many people employed to dig foundations, build homes, install appliances, maintain lawns and more! It's estimated 35-40% of the tax revenue for Ringgold County comes from SVL property owners.

Watching the lake grow has been interesting. One of the first families to build a home here, local farmers Breezy and Pauline Wood, told us they were grateful for the lake because of all the new people it brought to the area, even if only on weekends. They were very social people, but like most farmers, unable to travel much because of the daily obligations of running their farm. They were always grateful for the many strong friendships they built with people from all over the Midwest.

Being on the Sun Valley Iowa Lake Board has given me the opportunity to learn more about the lake community and how the lake functions. Not enough gratitude can be expressed for the property owners who volunteer time and resources to serve the lake community. Much happens behind the scenes that the average Member wouldn't know. For example:

- Darren Hansen from the Fish & Water Quality Committee takes water samples monthly from numerous lake locations and transports them to an Iowa State Lab in Ames for testing. We can happily report that SVL has some of the cleanest water in any lake in our state.
- The Fish Committee has done a yeoman's job of maintaining a variety of fish populations for all to enjoy. These Members go to huge lengths to "count" and chronicle the various fish species in the lake and build and maintain the environments necessary for their survival.
- The RIZ Committee has performed behind the scenes to help prevent silt from flowing into the lake. Maintaining the 29 siltation ponds, improving the underground drainage system, monitoring building sites for proper silt control fencing, and initiating and managing the \$4.9 million dollar dredging project completed this year are some of the things that Committee has done to keep our water clean and safe.
- The Environmental Committee is crucial in helping keep new structures harmonious with other homes around the lake. They work to ensure silt and exposed dirt don't wash into the lake, as well as protecting our private roads from damage from heavy delivery trucks. This Committee meets weekly during most of the year and is a vital part of keeping the lake clean and neighborhoods attractive, thereby improving property values.

My point is simple: there's a lot of blood, sweat and tears invested into Sun Valley Lake on an ongoing basis to help make it the special place it is! My hope is Members will continue to treat neighbors and properties with care and respect. Leaving an old boat lift or dock parked behind your house for years is an eye-sore for your neighbors and does nothing to improve the value of the item or your property. Whether you live here full-time, or come during the "boating season," everyone at Sun Valley Lake deserves a safe, hassle free and attractive environment that we can be proud of.

I'm proud to be a member of the Sun Valley Iowa Lake Board of Directors as we work to help keep our lake, your lake homes and properties, and all of the surrounding areas a source of pride for you, our Lake Association Members!

-- Bill Wells, Board of Directors Vice President



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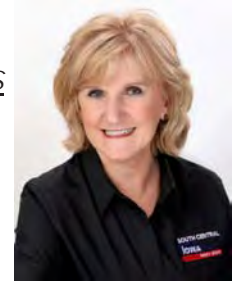
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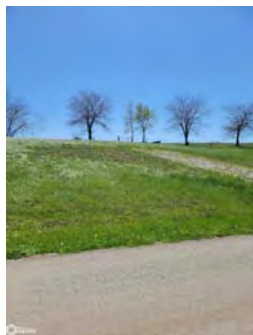
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Lake Lots For Sale



Lots 677 & **678**—Big Bend Road, unobstructed view of water and close to new boat launch; improved with gravelled lot entrance, perfect place to build and be close to all the activities—
\$26,500



Lots 1253 & **1254**—Prairie View Rd & Indian Point Dr., offered separately or combined, quiet location with lots of new construction —
\$17,000 each.



Lot #1117 - 2nd Tier lot with mature trees, between Frontier Rd and Depot Rd off Stagecoach Rd
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LAKE IMPROVEMENTS

A crew worked during Spring Clean-up Day to hang the wind screen around the tennis/pickleball court.



A second boat to be used to patrol the lake was purchased.



New deck at the Clubhouse! So much room!



Broadband service continues to improve at the lake with this tower and other line of sight towers being installed.



Work was done to remedy the drainage situation at the Beach House.

And there is more in the works! Read the lake manager's report as well as the committee reports included!

Projects, More Projects, and Improvements for SVILA Members

2023 is a big year of planned projects and improvements for our lake association. By the time this article is published, several of these bigger projects should be done, and we anticipate a season-long string of enhancements and improvements to our infrastructure, services, and overall environmental quality. We hope all our members will see and enjoy the changes being made this year – both now, and some for years to come.

Beginning this spring, here is a short-list of some of the projects and improvements you'll see going on at the lake:

- **Dredging Completion** – Finally! All dredging activity should be done by Memorial Day, if not shortly thereafter. Clean up at the West End ramp will follow immediately, and we'll work to open that ramp to member use as soon as possible.
- **Clubhouse Deck Upgrade** – Our clubhouse deck size and composition has been enhanced, to support both our restaurant operations and expanded private use of our Clubhouse facility by members. We hope you like the upgrades and look forward to seeing more of you visiting us on lake weekends.
- **Pickleball and Tennis Courts** – New wind screens were installed in early May, to help make the court more usable during changing weather.
- **Shuffleboard Court** – A new shuffleboard court (with benches) is scheduled for installation and completion in June. Equipment for play may be checked out and returned through the Association office. Regular players are encouraged to purchase their own equipment for use – so you won't be constrained by office hours and availability.
- **Bridge Improvements** – We are planning to add a 'Wear Course' to our spillway bridge, to extend the lifespan of the bridge decking and make it easier to plow and clean during winter season months. This project will likely take place later this year.
- **Common Area Gazebos** – Re-roofing, staining and enhancements to structural stability are planned for our remaining gazebos this year.
- **Broadband Services** – Already available for some lake residents, our new 'line-of-sight' broadband service will be enhanced this year through the installation of repeater pole towers. This will increase the coverage area and provide more members with a second option for internet service at Sun Valley.
- **Clubhouse Bar & Grill** – Expanded menu, hours of operation, and specials are coming. Stay tuned in to these enhancements through social media, emails, and postings at the Clubhouse.
- **Social Media for SVILA** – The Association has launched an official Facebook page, as a secondary means to communicate with members. We know many of you are avid social media consumers. Our site will be "Members Only" and will be used to convey a variety of updates and messages targeted to owners and their families.

Our Association continues to thrive and grow. With the help and support of our volunteers, committees, and a forward-thinking Board of Directors, Sun Valley Lake remains one of the fastest growing and best recreational investments in Iowa and surrounding states. We also think it's a fun place too!

So, with those exciting prospects, if you're a member ask yourself, "What am I doing to support and help?" If the answer you get isn't what you want it to be, then don't hesitate to change it! Find a project or a committee you care about and ask an existing member or one of the staff how you might contribute to our community.

On behalf of the SVILA staff, and with some good lake weather (including some additional rain), we look forward to sharing a fun-filled lake season at Sun Valley.

Gene Smith, SVILA Manager
Sunvalleylakemgr@gmail.com





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In the office: Vicki Smith, Breanna Young, and Barb Chlupach.



Outdoors jack-of-all-trades, Lyle Gilfillan.

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SUN VALLEY RURAL IMPROVEMENT ZONE UPDATE

As I write this at the end of April in time for publication, Dredge America is back to work in the West end of the lake. When you read this the dredging project should be completed and the work area cleaned up. I am sure that everyone will be glad to have the pipes gone and the West boat ramp open. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience during the dredging.

Overall, we are very pleased with the project. There are some areas that we were unable to dredge for many reasons including the hardness of the lake bottom, space in the holding pond, and costs involved. This is the first time the lake has been dredged in its over 50 years of existence. All the work that has been done to stop silt from entering the lake should prevent a large dredging project from taking place for a long time.

RIZ has many projects planned for this and future years. The big one our engineering firm is working on now is on farm land West of the lake. This is where most of the silt comes from. We also have many projects to do in our lake community. We owe a big thank you to our project manager Jon Vennink. If not for all his excellent overseeing of the dredging project and his contacts with property owners both inside and outside of the lake community, we would not have had such great results.

The Sun Valley Rural Improvement Zone was made possible by State of Iowa Legislative Action. The purpose is to bring economic growth and increased property taxes to rural counties with private lake developments. The Legislation has certainly worked for Ringgold County, as Sun Valley Lake properties are now paying about 40% of the total county property taxes. RIZ receives a percentage of the increased property taxes paid by Sun Valley property owners. The amount is now nearly one million dollars a year. RIZ receiving this money does not affect your property taxes. If RIZ was not in existence, your property taxes would be the same; the funds RIZ now receives would go to other county expenses. It is similar to buying a washing machine with a rebate: If you don't apply for the rebate, the washing machine company keeps the offered rebate money. RIZ money can only be spent on Sun Valley Lake water quality issues. Iowa law only allows full-time Sun Valley residents registered to vote in Ringgold County to serve on the RIZ Board and vote in RIZ elections.

RIZ has an email address: RIZdredging@gmail.com Feel free to email us your questions and comments. You can also contact our Project Manager Jon Vennink at 712-249- 3333 or call Mike Cheese at 641-772- 4218.

RIZ BOARD MEMBERS are Mike Cheese, Ron Rainey, Judy Green, Bob Weeks, and Rudy Lucia.



So long to a familiar sight the last couple of summers.



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Sun Valley Country Club Golf Course

Welcome all golfers to the treasure of Sun Valley Country Club! We have made a lot of improvements over the last year, including a shelter house for golfers who like to gather in the shade, a new building to house the improved mowing equipment, and the cart paths.



Pro Shop hours:

Friday: 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Friday: 6:00 p.m. reserved for Member's League

Saturday, Sunday: 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. Last cart rental 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Thursday a.m. reserved for Women's League

Thursday open golf 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Thursday: 6:00 p.m. reserved for Men's League

The golf course is a separate entity from the Sun Valley Lake Association, to play on the course, you must pay the greens fees or become a member. If the Pro Shop is not open, please pay at the paybox by number 1 tee.

Our website has contact information and details about membership, tee times, rates, and the course calendar.

<https://www.sunvalleylake.com/golf-course/>

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The Valley Sanitary District's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project has shifted into high gear. This spring and summer we will be working on the Linford Lane Sewer Replacement Project and the Collection System Upgrade Project that includes replacement of the Bunker Lift Station located on Indian Point Dr., near the intersection of Dogwood Drive and the Frontier Lift Station located on the corner Frontier and Stagecoach Roads. SVSD's contractors, Mike Page Construction (Linford Lane) and CL Carrol Company (Collection System), Austin Smith Garden & Associates Construction Observer, and SVSD Superintendent Dion Giles will be on site through the duration of construction.

Linford Lane work started last fall with the installation of the new forced main. This spring, Mike Page will be starting from the east working towards the west to 300th. He will be installing the new grinder pits, e/One grinder pumps and controls and connecting them to each home via a new sewer service line. Southwest Iowa REC will be onsite to install the new electrical panels and meters to supply power to the new e/one pumps. Other work at Linford Lane includes removing the old Manholes; Septic Tank Abandonment; Existing Sanitary Sewer Abandonment – Plug, surface replacement and restoration. Depending on the weather, Mike anticipates completion of this project by late June 2023. Mike Page, Dion Giles, and Austin Smith have been charged with coordinating with homeowners for individual sewer connections to the new sewer system. There will be a short loss of service at your home while the new sewer lines are being connected.

The Collection System Project is slated to start in June of '23 with the Bunker Lift Station Replacement, then moving to the Frontier Lift Station Replacement and completing the project at the West Lift Station with the controls upgrade there. This project is expected to be completed by May of '24.

Things you need to know:

Stay out of Construction Sites. There will be large construction vehicles digging deep holes in the ground. Please stay away.

Please do not disturb Iowa One Call utility locate flags or construction staking markers. The proposed locations of Grinder Pits on Linford Lane will be identified by a wooden lathe with a pink ribbon on top. The lathe will also have "proposed grinder pit location" written on it. They provide very important information and are very costly to replace if they are disturbed.

Watch for Heavy Equipment on Sun Valley Roads and stay clear of it.

Other than stated above, there should be no loss of sewer service during the construction process.

If your property or the SVILA's roads are disturbed during the construction process, the Sun Valley Sanitary District will restore the property/road to its original condition. It is the owner's responsibility to maintain the restoration once complete.

Should you have questions regarding the project, please email your comments/questions to Austin Smith at Garden & Associates at asmith@gardenassociates.net.

The board wishes to thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience as we work through this project together. As always, should you have any questions please call our office at 641-772-4550 and we will respond accordingly.

Thank you!

Sun Valley Sanitary Board of Trustees and Staff