

## 3/20/2022 Facebook / Website Posting

*(As discussed at 3/16/2022 Membership Meeting)*

We wanted to take this opportunity to update everyone on the current status of the Dam Loan repayment efforts. A huge thank you to the residents who have paid their dues for the 04/01/2021 - 03/31/2022 season. The past due balance for July has been paid in full. The next dam loan payment was due in January; however we currently have insufficient funds and are working with the DEP to reconcile.

We have tried all avenues to avoid the next steps, as our intention was never to burden residents but to repay the dam loan and continue to better our community, however, we have no other choice but to pursue an alternate means to collect the monies owed. We have been advised that sending each unpaid property owner to collection would be a huge financial burden on the Association and ultimately the residents. This would negate the mission we set out to accomplish. The alternate path we've chosen is a Declaratory Judgement Action. This is the same process that our neighbors in Collings Lakes, and many other lake communities used to ensure that their lakes, dams, and properties were upkept, updated, and regularly maintained. This is not new, it's only new to Victory Lakes. Many residents have complained about the condition of our lakes and neighborhoods, and we wholeheartedly agree. These steps are necessary for us to repay the dam loan, keep our lakes private, and to update and upkeep our properties.

The declaratory judgement is the first step of the collection proceedings. The declaratory judgement will declare the FVLA's rights to collect and because it will set forth who needs to pay dues and who does not need to pay dues (those outside of the deeded properties), it will name all property owners whether paid or unpaid. The law requires that everyone affected be notified and for this reason all residents should expect to receive a certified letter within the month naming the property owners and address. **If you have already paid your dues, no further action is required on your part.** If you wish to dispute your obligation to pay, you may act by responding to the complaint.

Please keep in mind that to dispute a declaratory judgement you will need to hire an attorney at your own expense or appear/respond without an attorney. It is our obligation, as we have our community's best interest in mind, to inform you that we've had multiple residents, some through an attorney, contact the attorney representing the FVLA to dispute their obligation to pay, and in the end they all paid their dues. We recommend doing your research regarding other associations collection cases, including the case law posted on the FVLA website. Collings Lakes had multiple disputes and in the end all their residents were required to pay not only their yearly dues, but also their legal fees. During this process, Collings Lakes accrued substantial legal fees as well, which only increased the yearly dues. Currently, the dues being requested by the FVLA are lower than any local lake communities.

If you wish to pay your past due amount or next seasons' dues, please visit our website at [www.fvlaonline.com](http://www.fvlaonline.com) or [www.fvlaonline.com/membership](http://www.fvlaonline.com/membership) for a direct link to the payment section. Here you'll find the option to pay via PayPal and Credit Card. If you wish to pay via check, please send to PO Box 1276 Williamstown, NJ 08094. The next dues payment for the upcoming season (4/01/2022 - 3/31/2023) is due on 04/01/2022. We will have member materials ready for pick up by 4/04/2022. Pick up dates will be posted on our Facebook page and website when the materials arrive.

On a more inspiring note, our Community Clean Up Day is scheduled for 04/23 - we receive \$500.00 dollars for this event with participation - save the date! We are in the process of planning a fishing tournament for the local youth using the \$500.00 grant provided to us by Walmart hopefully in early May. Our Jam on the Dam fundraiser will be on 08/06 this year. Planning has begun and we are excited to announce that it keeps getting bigger and better.