

## 2024 First Quarter Newsletter

### Frends we have lost: -

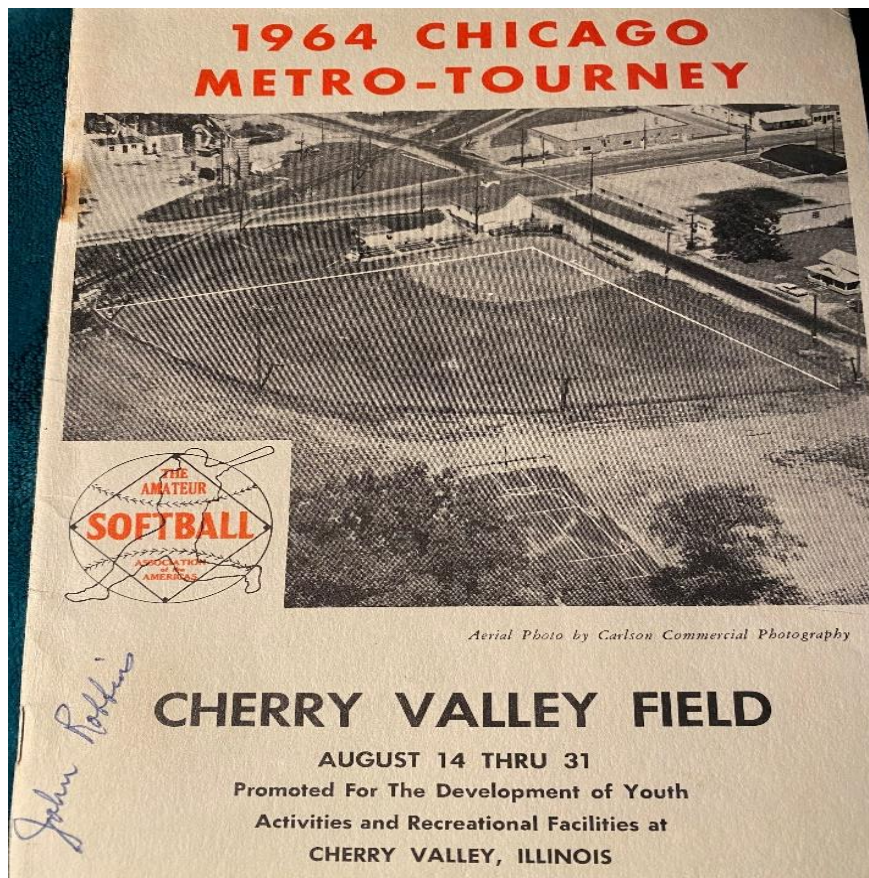
Doris Tye Dec 14, 1949 – Jan 2, 2024 (74 y/o)

Bonnie L Takamoto July 23, 1939 – JN 4, 2024 (84 Y/O)

Francesco “Frank” Salamone Feb 4, 1929 – Jan 2, 2024 (94 y/o)

Patricia Ann Thompson Mar 1, 1959 – Dec 13, 2023 (64 y/o)

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Our baseball diamond has been around a long time and has seen many changes. One of the exciting past field activities was the **1964 Chicago Metro-Tourney** that brought a lot of interest to our town. Also the 1931 CV Wildcats practiced and played on this field. Stop by the CV Historical Society to see the 1931 Wildcats Photograph. Members of this team included: Wilson Lee, Warren Lasseur, Cliff Gallo, Ambrose Plather, Vinny Popham, Alby Bloomster, George Shirley, Wayne Mason, Lynn Buck and Larry Cassidy

## CHERRY VALLEY PARK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Cherry Valley, Illinois

Once again we have been fortunate enough to have our bid for the "Chicago Metropolitan Tournament" accepted by Metropolitan Commissioner, Charles F. Jensen.

The proceeds from this tournament, after expenses, will all be used to improve the facilities at the ball park and the rest of the park area behind the ball park, along with providing youth activities through the summer months.

All our labor in bringing this tournament to you, as well as the rest of the softball program throughout the summer has been donated and the support of all these willing workers has been greatly appreciated.

Without the unwavering loyalty of our many fans, and the support of many fine business and manufacturing companies we would not be able to maintain this program, we realize this, and we are grateful.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all the visiting teams and their fans and we hope our efforts will make this a "trip to remember".

Sincerely,  
Cherry Valley

Park Improvement Committee

## 1964 Chicago Metropolitan A.S.A. Tournament

CHARLES F. JENSON, Chicago Metropolitan Commissioner,  
Amateur Softball Association of America.

"SI" BEISHIR, Commissioner, District No. 7, Chicago Metropolitan Area.  
In Co-operation With

### PARK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Clarence Grandholm, President	Red Stacy
Vern Park	Bob Wilson
Elmer Johnson	Jim Voorhies
Bud Gustafson	Bob Murphy

### VILLAGE OFFICERS

George Heidel, President	Gaylord Brennen
Edna Manson, Clerk	Lyle Wilt
Clarence Grandholm	Louis Dolan

### CHERRY VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUSTEES

Harry Anderson, President	Clarence Zimmerman, V. President
Roy Curtis Cleveland, Secretary	

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

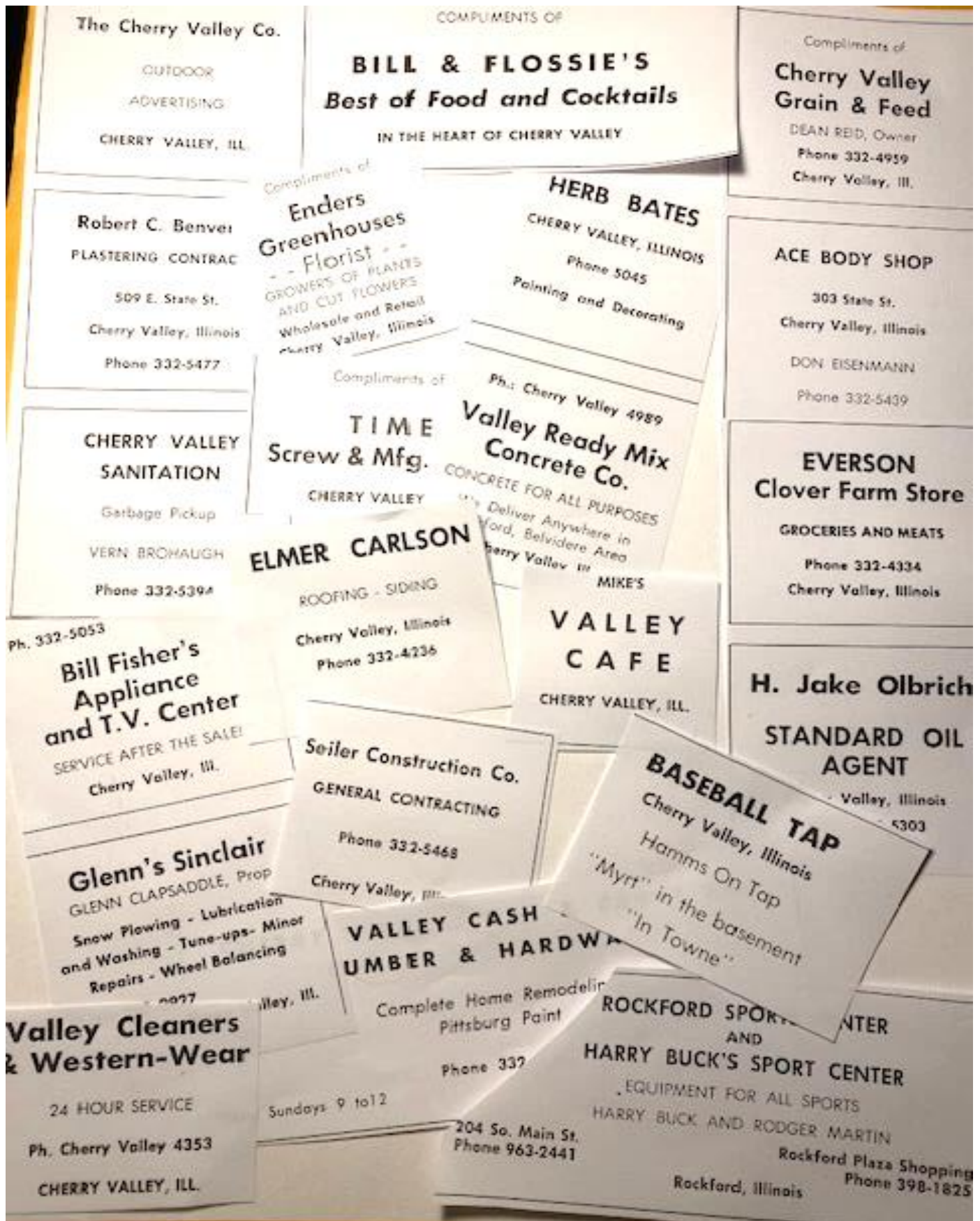
Elmer Johnson, Chief	Walt Nash, Assistant Chief
Henry Robbins, Captain	Donald Cooper, Lieutenant
John McElroy, Lieutenant	

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Claude Campbell, Chief	Sam Knighton, Assistant Chief
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# A FEW OF THE ADVERTISORS IN THE 1964 PROGRAM:



## From Sue's Geneology files:

William (**Gulielmus**) Matthew Corcoran from Kildare, Ireland was a former Rockford resident and is also the great-great grandfather of Jan Carlson Simone, a Cherry Valley resident. She shared the details surrounding the untimely death of her great-great grandfather outside a Rockford beer garden in 1871.

The incident occurred on an early August Sunday afternoon in 1871 at Kaufmann's Beer Garden located at the corner of West State St and Church St just south of the then Rockford city limits. Three young gentlemen stopped in and consumed a large amount of alcohol in about an hour. It wasn't mentioned how long William Corcoran had been sitting at a table just outside or how much he had to drink. Accounts of the story say that Corcoran, who may have been "overserved" shouted something at the boys. Two of them, CH Stevens and Charles Brown, ignored him but Dennis Hayes, decided that he was being specifically targeted and responded. One thing led to another and a fight ensued. In the end, Corcoran was badly beaten and removed to his home where doctors agreed nothing could be done. William passed away early on Monday morning, leaving a pregnant wife and four small children. The baby was named William Michael Cororan.

As for killer, he took off but did not resist arrest when the sheriff found him. The sad part about this story is that Dennis, who most of his life was spent in different jails, never had to go to jail for killing Corcoran. Dennis Hayes died in 1896. Notice in Mrs. Corcoran's obituary, Dennis Hayes, is mentioned one more time. Below you can read Cororan's obituary, Dennis Hayes is mentioned one final time in this record.

**CATHERINE CORCORAN DEAD.**  
Widow of the Victim of Dennis Hayes  
Passes Away.

Mrs. **Catherine Corcoran** passed away at her home, 411 South Horsman street, at 3 o'clock this morning, after suffering from a cancerous tumor of the stomach since last June.

Mrs. **Corcoran** was born April 18, 1837, in Castle Dermot, County Kildare, Ireland, her maiden name being **Catherine Doyle**. She received her education in Kildare abbey, and in 1862 she was married to Wm. **Corcoran**, who was murdered in South Rockford in 1871 by the late Dennis Hayes. In 1867 Mr. and Mrs. **Corcoran** came to this country, settling in Rutland, Vt. In 1869 they moved to Rockford, and

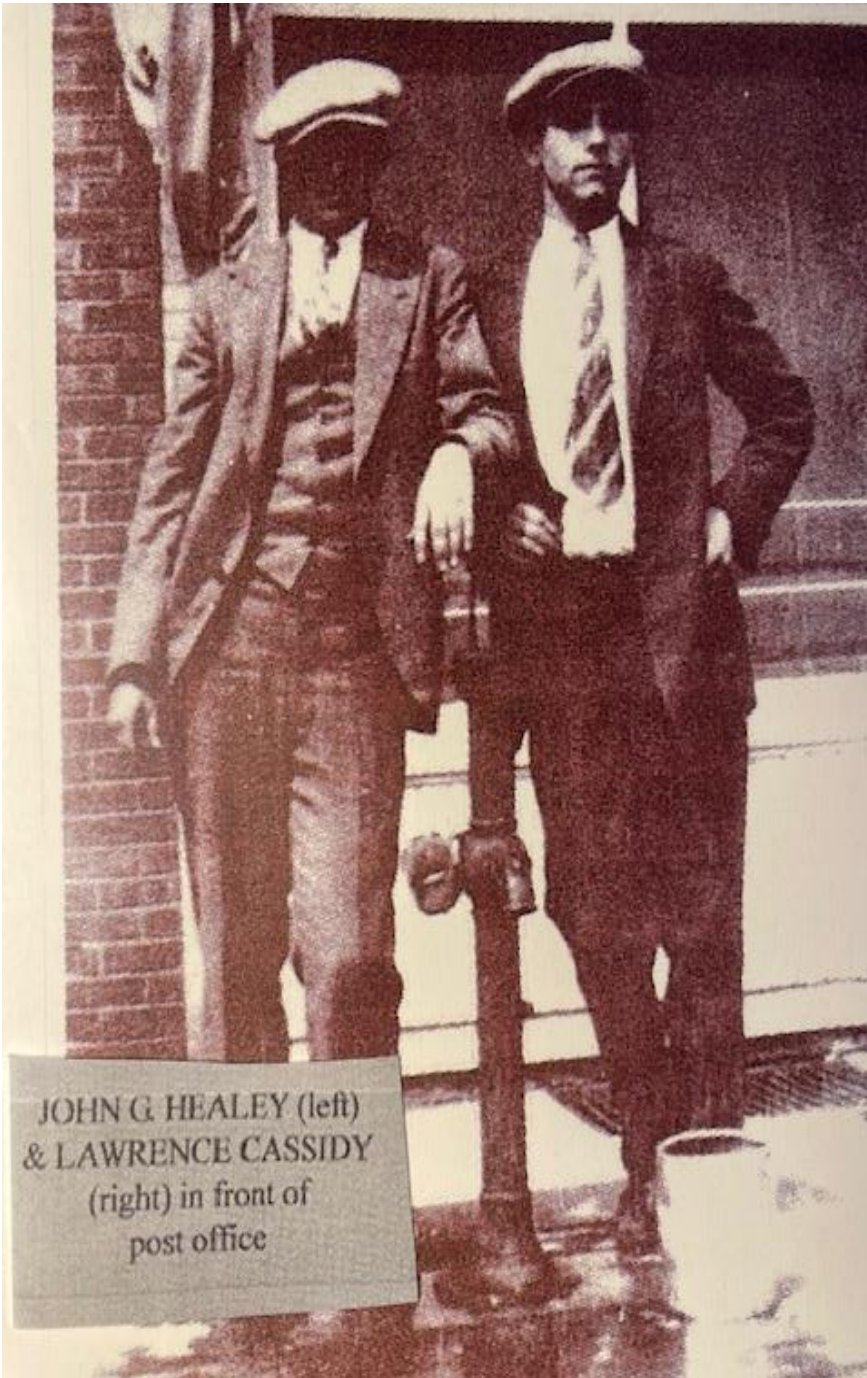
Mrs. Corcoran devoted herself to the bringing up of her five children.

In 1847 Mrs. **Corcoran**, when a young girl, received the pledge of total abstinence from Rev. Father Matthew, the famous temperance advocate, and she retained that pledge to the last, being one of the foremost temperance workers in the city. She was a consistent member of St. Mary's Catholic church and belonged to the Altar and Rosary society.

The children are Mrs. Mary Long of Kansas City, Christopher **Corcoran** of Oregon, Ill., and Michael, William and Miss Bride **Corcoran** of this city.

The funeral services will be held Wednesday morning from St. Mary's church.





### YE OLDE TOWN PUMP

How old the Olde Town Pump is - nobody knows. Even the oldest resident can't remember a time when it wasn't there. Nor does anyone know how many weary sojourners and their livestock have been refreshed at this oasis.

The water tank that stood beside it was removed soon after the auto replaced the horse. Several times the handle of the pump had been welded after the mail truck and other vehicles have backed into it. Blessings on Ye Olde Town Pump. Perhaps it's the oldest thing in our village.

The photo and write up was taken (from [An Illustrated History of Cherry Valley, Illinois](#) by Esther Marie Knudson (1949, "50).

Does anyone know any information on John G Healey and/or Lawrence Cassidy. Lawrence Cassidy may have lived on East Street. We found grave stones in the Cherry Valley Cemetery and would be interested in learning any history on these gentlemen. Pat Stegemann 815 332 4412

## Members of the Cherry Valley Historical Society:

This is a reminder to check to see if your membership is up to date. We hope that you will remain a part of this organization with your paid membership. Without you, we could not continue to work to preserve the history of Cherry Valley.

### Membership Options:

Individual / Annual membership (\$10.00 per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family / Annual membership (\$20.00 per family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Individual LIFETIME Membership (\$100.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE A DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) may be used as a donation to the Historical Society.

Please return your membership dues to:

CV Historical Society

101 East State Street PO box 266

Cherry Valley, IL. 61016

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank you if you are already a Lifetime member or have already updated your membership.

We thank you for maintaining your membership. Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement here. We appreciate their patronage!

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### CV Public Library iSpy Spring Scavenger Hunt

Happening now until April 13. I spy with my little eye...some book characters hiding in Cherry Valley ! Get outside and explore our community during our third annual scavenger hunt. Pick up a clue sheet at the library or check on their website for a printable copy. Solve the riddles and find the answers that will be posted on signs at public places and businesses throughout the village. Complete and return to the library to be entered into a raffle.

**HINT: one of the clues is posted at the Cherry Valley Historical Society building!!**

## **Cherry Valley “DID YOU KNOW” news:**

**Cherry Valley Historical Society** has an Open House the first Sunday of each month from 1 – 3 PM with a society meeting from 3 – 4 PM. Everyone is welcome.

We have had “presentations” during our Open House hours. Previous presentations have been long time citizens discussing past areas of interest in the village.

Last months presentation was “Antique Aprons through the Years” by Nancy Stacey.

Watch for our upcoming presentation of “**GENEOLOGY**” by Sue Simonson. She will be explaining geneology and help with questions about family history and home history.

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**IDOT construction** on route 20 between the mall and east towards Belvidere will begin soon. This construction will include some changes in front of the CV cemetery.

\*There will now possibly be only two entry/exits to and from the cemetery.

\*IDOT will be putting a frontage road in front of the cemetery which will lead to two loops into and around the sides and back of the cemetery. The cemetery will still be responsible for the internal roads.

\*Due to the cemetery being at near compacity, the cemetery board has started a “**Scatter Garden**” which will be located at the northeast back area of the cemetery.

The CV cemetery is in need of donations for road improvements, completion of the scatter garden and maintenance in general. **Lawn Care by Walter has been a friend of the cemetery with their help on the scatter garden construction.**

If you have RMDs or questions on any RMD (Required Minimum Distributions) funds please consider a donation to assist the cemetery with their projects. For questions on the cemetery projects, contact David White at 815 980 7051

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Always looking for new members to help lead and/or participate in projects. We appreciate comments and ideas. Feel free to drop a line, add some content, share stories to the Historical Society’s e-mail at [CVHS1899@gmail.com](mailto:CVHS1899@gmail.com) or mail to CV Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Editor Pat Huizenga Stegemann 815 332 4412      Journalist Sue Simonson 815 978 1061

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Cherry Valley  
  
 Methodist Women

**SOSNOWSKI  
SZETO LLP**



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**Cherry Valley Mens Club**  
 Serving the Cherry Valley Area

Cherry Valley Men's Club is a 501 C3 non-profit organization Fed Tax # 90-0674903