



# Grand Valley Lakes News

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## **Grand Valley Lakes Property Owners Association Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members**

By now all of the property owners in Grand Valley Lakes should have received their annual meeting packet. Inside that packet is a ballot for the election of new board members. There are three positions available. The current serving board members whose terms of office are expiring are: Ron Scott, Barbara Parkhurst and Jim Geringer.

The candidates that are running for a position on the POA Board of Directors are: Myra Cox, Carroll Huffman, Barbara Parkhurst, Ron Scott and David West. Each candidate has a bio and a picture in this edition of the newsletter so that you can make an informed decision.

**EVERY VOTE IS IMPORTANT! BE SURE YOURS GETS COUNTED!**

## *An Open Letter to the Community*

I want everyone to know how hard it was for me to resign from the GVL Board of Directors. My situation is such that I cannot see a way to do everything on my plate today and for a while into the future. My integrity will not let me do anything in a manner that I cannot be proud of. Lack of time is the enemy here, and I need to pull back a little to do the right thing for my family and my cabin situation. As time permits, I will continue to help in all ways that I can. Examples will include: Architectural Committee as a non-board member, projects as they come up, and the Men's Club.

It has been an honor serving with all the current board members and I am proud of everything we collectively accomplished for the good of the people of Grand Valley Lakes. They will always have my respect and support.

I am not sure everyone understands just how much of the board's personal time is spent with day to day functions. We have a great staff taking care of all the normal day to day work. As we all know, it's the unknowns that take people and board member time to plan. Our nine (9) unpaid volunteer board members have varied experience and backgrounds. Some are retired, some are busy with careers, some are raising families, some live in the valley and some do not. I say all this because sometimes I got the impression that many people seem to think being a member of the board is a full time job, when it is not. The board members I served with put in more time than you can ever imagine.

This board navigated the lodge roof law suit for a time and managed to keep things running as smooth as possible with the uncertainty of budget funds. As things eased up, the lodge was updated allowing the association to market it as a source of revenue. The board encouraged the Ladies and Men's Clubs to contribute to the community with volunteers and fund raising events. Every penny they raised was put back into the community. Look around at the improvements to the GVL entrance, street signs, beach area, lodge, cleanup days and Fire Department. These are only a few of contributions that did not cost the association a dime. **Giving back to the community works.** Board time was spent updating the Covenants, Restrictions, and Bylaws. Then, guidelines were developed to help people understand what is needed when requesting approval for projects. The architectural committee has made strides helping people to follow the restrictions.

When board members had to resign, the GVL bylaws were followed to the letter. There was nothing unethical concerning the past selections. They were careful selections that made the board stronger so it could best serve to community. I, for one, know there is not an unethical person on the board today. I and all the other members value our honor and integrity above all else.

There seems to be some who do not understand what is involved when a board member has to resign. The board is then charged with replacing that resigning member with a qualified person who brings best experience to the team at that time. During my term, we replaced three (3) members. First, Roy Keys passed away shortly after the election and the board chose Nancy Burke to join the team because of her medical background, involvement in the Ladies Club, and she received the fourth highest number of votes in the recent election. Second, Bill Stone resigned and Stan Doyle was asked to volunteer his past board experience and vast background in heavy equipment and the businesses that operate them. Roads were the priority at that time. Third, Kenny Rutledge had to resign and Stuart Farmer was asked to volunteer his TVA experience to the board to assist with the extremely important dam spillway priority. When I resigned at a critical time, Lona Coffee was asked to rejoin the board to contribute her past experience with the board and the Fire Department.

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The team we have in place today is extremely capable of guiding this community through these uncertain times. All the board members are open to discussions concerning anything the board is doing except for some security issues. There are no secrets and it is disrespectful to suggest there are. Rumors and incomplete information can be very disruptive when the board has to waste time addressing them.

Please help our community, association and board of directors by suggesting and then participating in solutions for problems you identify.

I care about Grand Valley Lakes as I know all of you do. In the upcoming election, please vote your heart for the good of the community. When all is done, the elected and appointed board members will need our support.

Respectfully,

Earl Butler

## **Grand Valley Area Volunteer Fire Department**

Notice of annual dues for Fiscal Year June 2021-May-2022, news and financials for entire May 2019-June 2020 Fiscal Year and May 2020 thru March 2021 of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year was sent to all members.

We will have a visit from the State Fire Marshall's office this month (April).

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to email address [feedbackforvfd@gmail.com](mailto:feedbackforvfd@gmail.com)

Please support your Fire Department by paying yours dues. Thank you !

**Sponsored By the Law Office of**

**George R. Fusner, Jr.**

**Phone: 615-251-0005**

**GVL POA Attorney**

### Grand Valley Lakes Property Owners Association Board of Directors Meeting For March

Stan Doyle wanted to thank Tom Wein for the great job on the roads during our snow and icy weather.

Spillway update: Stan Doyle stated we have an engineering company helping us and they have called for a more in depth inspection which the Board has voted to move forward with. Earl Butler stated we have two options. One is where they can repair the gate and another option is where the entire concrete structure is replaced. Jean Harrison stated we have reached out to our state representatives for possible grants to help with the cost.

Website update from Jim Gehringer stating the minutes have been uploaded to the member's only section.

Stuart Farmer stated that he has noticed we need to clean up, spruce up and maybe paint some things around the Valley. We are going to be organizing a committee asking for volunteers that are interested in cleaning up our community. We will be cleaning up in all areas around the Valley. More information to come.

Jim Gehringer talked about getting AED's (Automated External Defibrillator) for the Lodge and security vehicle. Carla Doyle is looking into a grant for us to get them at minimal cost to us. They are simple to use and could save someone's life.

Linda Johnson spoke about lodge rentals. There are several upcoming rentals scheduled and increased interest online.

Tom Wein reported on the storm damage which centered around roads and water leaks.

Nancy Burke set up the candidate interviews. Carroll Huffman and David West were present to answer the interviewers. Barbara Parkhurst was present by ZOOM but technical difficulties prevented her from being interviewed. Myra co was not present due to illness. Ron Scott was not present due to travel or a family matter

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The Men's Club looks forward to meeting regularly in 2021. Due to COVID, our meetings became sporadic but in 2020 we cleared areas of undergrowth and old trees on Grand Valley Drive and street corners trying to improve the visibility. In regards to the lodge renovation, we helped the ladies club to recover as well as paint 120 chairs. The large mirror over the fireplace was purchased by the men's club. We split the cost of the equipment with the POA to clear land for a future trailer parking area. A few of the men's club members did the actual work.

Scheduled for 2021 will be The Annual Fish Fry and Auction Labor Day Weekend on Saturday, September 4th.

One Saturday soon, we will assist Tom patching areas of the pavement damaged by ice and snow. New street signs will be added this year to replace older signs.

Last month we had two new members to join. They are David West and Richard Burton.

The men's club have their monthly meeting the second Saturday of each month at 9 AM at the lodge. come and join us and meet your neighbors and get involved in our community.

### On The Square Gallery and Gifts

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*(a Grand Valley Lakes resident run business)*

### **Spring is in the air, Its time to clean-up everywhere!**

Our new Community Beautification Committee (CBC) is actively seeking volunteers to help improve the physical appearance of Grand Valley Lakes. Able bodied volunteers will team together to fix-up, clean-up, landscape and just improve the overall appearance of our wonderful community.

These crews will be comprised of men, women and hard-working teens that all want to see GVL shine like the hidden gem it is! No special skills required, just a desire for improvement!

**If you would like to volunteer, call Stuart Farmer at 901-494-7806**



**This issue of the Grand Valley News is sponsored in part by the Grand Valley Lakes Men's Club.**

The Men's Club is a hardworking, fun-loving bunch of men who meet every second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the POA Lodge. These members have quickly become a creative force and a work force within our community.



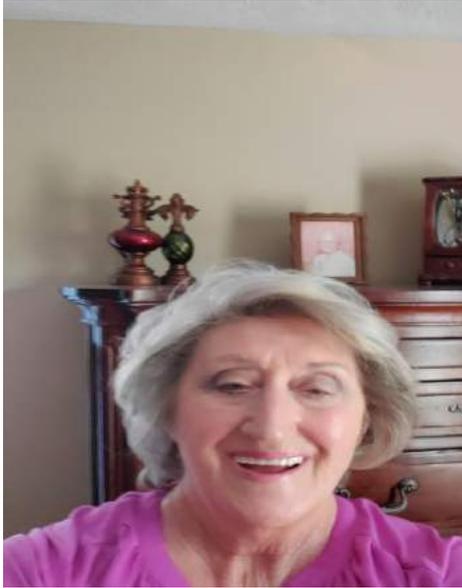
### **Obituary for Thomas L. Wood Jr.**

Thomas L. Wood, Jr., 88, of Saulsbury, passed from this life Monday, April 12, 2021 at West Tennessee Rehabilitation Hospital in Jackson.

The widower of Ann White Wood, who died in 2014 after 61 years of marriage, he was a retired Chief Master Sergeant and Flight Engineer with the US Air Force, having served 42 years. He was born Thursday, August 11, 1932 in Jackson, son of the late Thomas Leroy Wood, Sr. and Gertrude Hanson Wood, living most of his life in Memphis. He moved to Grand Valley Lakes in 1995 where he enjoyed his retirement, cheering on the University of Tennessee football team. Among his hobbies were hunting and coaching softball, but he received his greatest fulfillment from being around his family, whom he dearly loved. Mr. Wood was a member of the American Legion and a Methodist in faith.

Survivors include two daughters, Michelle Harris (Don) of Middleton and Cindy Woodruff (Denny) of Sanford, NC; a daughter in law, Sherry Wood of Tupelo, MS; a sister, Doris Sigman of Memphis; four grandchildren, Tanya Sutterfield (Terence), Brian Wood (Martha Lane), Nathan Woodruff (Nicole) and Katie Harris; and 6 great grandchildren. In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by a son, Phillip Wood in 2017. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his name may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate)) or the Wounded Warrior Project ([www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate)).

Ussery Cemetery is located inside of the Grand Valley Lakes.



### **Introducing Myra Cox**

I have a college education with two degrees one in Graphic Art and Education, I am the oldest of seven children (explains my bossiness). My latter years I worked in the printing field designing commercial literature. When the casinos opened in Tunica I applied for a dealers job worked that for several years then promoted to a pit boss worked that until retiring. I enjoyed the casino jobs because it was like being on the board every day there is a new challenge to deal with.

I want to serve on the board after being on the board for several years I have a good knowledge of the history and present operating of the board and the members it should serve.

I handle conflicts and/or disagreements by understanding the problem and trying to make sure that the both parties are satisfied with the solution. I do believe I have good people skills.

Yes I can support the board if my opinion or vote is in the minority. As the definition of a boards duty is to: Steers the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies and making sure that the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission. If those principles are upheld I will support the majority decision. In comparison the Supreme Court is a body of 9. When they issue a ruling they have yeas and nays, with each writing a summery on their stance on issue. At the end of the ruling we know who was for and who was against. That should be the goal that members know how each director feels and voted on any issue.

The most pressing issue facing the community is first of course is the spillway. Second would be working on improving the water system. Third establishing a clean neat appearance that would entice more people to buy property

If I could do one thing for Grand Valley Lakes, I would rework the by-laws to allow the POA to receive property back that is run down and a health danger. Take several of these lots clean them up and build some smaller home sites sell them, then forward that money forward to more lot renewals.

An example of my problem solving would be: When I was last on the board the little tank up by maintenance was cut off. The company that had been called in wanted \$65,000.00 to repair it. With the help of the then maintenance department head I spent many hours and trips to see what it would take to repair. The end it cost us less than \$2,000.

Of course others must be treated with respect even if their opinions or views are different from mine, That is what a board does is invites in open discourse among the Board members and the Membership.

What I am most proud of accomplishing in my previous term on the board is the above mentioned water tank, negotiating down the price of propane by a\$1.00 per gallon, stopping the potential collapse of the foundation of the lodge and providing an employee handbook to secure our employees right and privileges



### Introducing Carroll Huffman

I have been a resident of Grand Valley Lakes for 5 years. My husband, Marvin, and I moved here after we retired to be close to our children. We were attracted to this area by the nature and the beautiful landscape.

My husband was a Camp Ranger and Property Director for thirty years on four different Boy Scout Camps. These camps range from a 5,000+ acre Reservation (with over 437 flushing toilets [LOL] but who's counting) down to a 300 acre camp. I worked at these camps too, designing and running their Trading

netted over \$50,000.00 a summer) and cooking in the off season for executives that leased the camps as well as working maintenance on the camps. Since most of these camps were in remote areas I found other employment where I could from milking cows to becoming a Certified Nursing Aide for a nursing home to running Maintenance Department for a large Lutheran camp, among the many jobs that I held.

As a board member, I would like to represent ALL residents in Grand Valley Lakes. To me, the position of a member of the POA Board is an advocate for you, the residents, and to listen to your needs as you present them and not put my own needs before those of **ALL** residents.

My idea of the priorities before us are first the health and safety of all of the residents in Grand Valley Lakes. Next we need to take care of our water system, our roads and the lakes themselves.

Having been in the Boy Scouts for so many years I feel this board position would be like one of patrol leader for the residents and should do what you want done and need done, not what I personally feel is the proper agenda. As a member of the board I would be open to all your suggestions and comments and try to represent **ALL** the residents of the Valley.

Thank you so much for your support.



### **Introducing Barbara Parkhurst**

Barbara and her husband of 46 years, Jerry, are native to Memphis and have been residents of Grand Valley Lakes for 12 years. Barbara loves being here in the Valley and is devoted to improving every aspect of it. With 30-years of real estate experience behind her she understands what it takes to improve property and to make those improvements sellable to others.

Barbara has served on the board for three years. She has devoted a lot o attention to the renovation of the lodge and

marketing the venue in various rental markets. For this year alone the venue has generated over \$8,000 in new revenue for the Valley. She was also personally involved in bringing the Kitchen area in the lodge more up to date.

Barbara is a mother of four children and grandmother of five. She and her husband are members of Living Hope Church in Piperton, TN.



## **Introducing Ron Scott**

Ron attended the United States Military Academy at West Point NY graduating in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He served 24 years in the active Army and reserve force. Ron held numerous command and staff assignments, including a return to West Point where he was responsible for the moral, ethical, military and leader development of 160 future officers.

Ron holds a Master of Science in Industrial Relations from Purdue University and a Master of Business degree from Long Island University in New York.

Ron held various positions with AT&T and Acxiom Corporation and was the sales/marketing executive responsible for FedEx. Ron was self-employed for 12 years, owning and eventually selling Scotts' Antiques & Woodworking in 2016.

Ron served as the President of the West Point Society of the Mid-South and past President and current board member of Truth Seekers Fellowship in Memphis. He and his wife Nancy have been married 47 years, have two children and four grandchildren.

Ron and Nancy have been active in Grand Valley since purchasing a home in 2014. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2015 and as President of the Board for the last 4 years.

During that time improvements in the water system, maintenance capabilities, and the levee/stilling basin when upgrades were required by the State of Tennessee.

The Board also authorized and undertook a significant update to the lodge for use by residents and designed to attract potential renters providing an untapped source of revenue for GVL.

In an effort to make it easier for property owners to pay obligations, acceptance of credit card payments was implemented.



## Introducing David West

I grew up in Parkway Village in East Memphis and attended Harding Academy. After graduating high school, I went to Memphis State (yes it was Memphis State at that time) and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting in May, 1991. I passed the CPA exam in May, 1993. I then worked in public accounting doing tax returns and bookkeeping work for a few years to gain experience.

For ten years I was at Memphis Jewish Home – first as

Accounting Supervisor, and the last five as Chief Financial Officer. MJH is a 160-bed Skilled Nursing Facility located in Cordova, TN just east of Memphis. I learned a great deal and eventually was trusted to be in charge of the entire facility in the absence of the Administrator.

For the last fourteen years, I have served as the Vice-President of Finance & Administration at Southern College of Optometry. In this role, I have responsibility for financial operations, campus safety, facilities cleaning and maintenance of all buildings on campus. I'm blessed to work with an outstanding team that makes my job easier & enjoyable.

I've been married to my beautiful Susan for nearly 28 years. Susan is a Registered Nurse and has worked at West Cancer Center in Germantown for nearly 25 years. Our son Jonathan is 24 and works full-time at Flight Restaurant on Main Street in downtown Memphis. Our daughter Jordan will be 23 next week. She works full-time at Tabor Orthopedic (Ortho South) in Memphis.

Susan & I both grew up in church and have been closely involved in both Quince Road Church in Memphis as well as Grace Crossing Church in Collierville over the years. We presently worship at High Point Church in Collierville. God has blessed us tremendously over the years and we are grateful for all HE has done in our lives.

My mother Linda West bought & built our present lake house at 120 Chestnut Cove over 15 years ago. When she passed in 2013, the property was left to my sister (Danita Pate) & I. Danita and her husband, Steve, decided to sell their half to us last year. Since we have owned it outright, we've spent a fair amount of time & money in renovations to our lake home & lot. We are currently undergoing a large landscaping project that will enhance our enjoyment of the lake and surrounding area for many years to come.

We love GVL and all of the surrounding areas. We want the best for our community and hope to retire at GVL in 10 years or so.

David

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