







## **CRAIG T. JOHNSON**

GENERAL MANAGER

As I step into my second week as General Manager at Valley View, I want to express my sincere gratitude for this incredible opportunity. I'm thrilled to be here and look forward to meeting each and every member while serving this amazing community.

With the course opening just around the corner, my days have been filled with meeting the team, learning new systems, and diving into everything that makes Valley View special. My feet haven't quite hit the ground yet, but I'm eager to hit my stride soon! The support from staff and board members has been incredible, and I feel truly fortunate to be part of such an experienced and passionate team.

To me, a golf club is more than just a place to play—it's a retreat where fun and freedom take center stage. There's nothing like the scent of freshly cut grass and the feeling of stepping onto the course, fully present in the moment. Valley View holds a special place in my heart—it's where I first picked up a golf club—and its rich history in Bozeman makes it even more meaningful. As General Manager, my goal is to honor that history, foster a welcoming and fun atmosphere, and add my own chapter to this incredible club.

Thank you again for the warm welcome. I can't wait for the season ahead! Who's better than you? Nobody!





**TED BABCOCK** PGA

DIRECTOR OF GOLF

The golf course is making some progress in terms of becoming less white and turning more of the hue we all want to see. Let's hope the weather forecast is wrong and we can take this week off and not receive more snow. I saw a few of you last week at Cottonwood Hills GC, it does feel nice to walk on the grass for a change. Remember to stretch before and after these early season rounds. We don't want to start the season developing new aches and pains by over-doing it in March.

Progress has also been made regarding the VVGC 2025 Tournament Calendar. The tournament calendar is posting on our website. Most of you should have received an email from Paul Bennett earlier this week with a link to Golf Genius where all the details you may be looking for with respect to each tournament are available. We are eager for all the tournaments this season and are especially energized for the two new tournaments; The Short Grass Scramble and the Ladies Invite. Please feel

free to contact the golf shop if you desire any further details. As with last season, all group lessons and tournament registration will be done via Golf Genius.

The golf shop is slowly making some progress as well. At times with winter, it has been a bit of a struggle changing the ownership of all the accounts from me to now the Club. Some vendors are better equipped to make these changes quicker and more efficiently than others. We are now only waiting for one final vendor to finalize the ownership change. With that being said, we will receive all the pre-booked orders that were made this winter in mid to late April.







**TED BABCOCK** PGA

DIRECTOR OF GOLF

The golf operation did try in the off season to substantially increase our demo club selection. Since 2023 we have had a decent line of Callaway clubs available for you to hit, we have now secured ample demo club for Talyor Made along with Cleveland/Srixon. Customer confidence when purchasing new golf clubs regardless of skill level is always increased when you can put golf club to ball. Once mother nature cooperates, feel free to stop into the shop and we will do our best to put together the correct head and shaft combination to suit your game.

Here is the blurb Paul sent to many of you last week: To celebrate the spring, the new golf season, and the Master's we will be organizing our first annual Valley View Golf Shop Master's Pool. Pick your Master's dream-team online and compete against other member's teams for great prizes, like a Master's themed golf bag from Pins and Aces and merchandise credit. We also have a limited-edition drop of Master's-themed merch from Pins and Aces. You will all receive an email this week once the field has been finalized on how to login and register for the Master's Pool.





## GARY COLSTAD

SUPERINTENDENT

If you are concerned about being the first person to ask me about opening day...that ship has sailed already. I am beginning to think positively after these last couple of warm spells. A few weeks ago, I was blowing trails across the golf course through snow that was still three feet deep. We need warm temperatures but nothing that would push water onto the grass. So far, we have escaped flooding.

With a good portion of the snow now gone, I get to examine the golf course conditions and see what type of mess our wildlife has bestowed upon us. We have quite the deer herd that winter here. I did not have any major concerns with deer I would surely like to put diapers on them! We do have some vole damage to repair, but it is minor compared to a couple of years ago. The geese have paired up which makes me cringe at the thought of all those baby geese running around. These birds are just a nuisance and once again...diapers! I will once again try to encourage the geese to GO AWAY but those birds that are

born on Valley View tend to ignore my threats and return year after year. That is the reason I do not like to see baby geese here on the golf course.

I need to do a thorough examination of the golf course once all the snow has disappeared but overall, the course is in decent condition. The problem we have right now is that someone frequently keeps adding layers of snow. I will come right out and say it..."I am over the snow for at least 6 months". An occasional rain in July and August sounds wonderful. And there I go...sounding like a farmer again! Haha!

As usual we have tons of cleanup to do on the golf course. We need numerous dry, sunny days to rid the course of considerable "swampy-ness." I am pretty sure that is not proper vocabulary, but you get the point. Applications for summer help are scarce so far. If you know of someone who has extra time on their hands...send them my way. See you soon!







## KEN HODGSON

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

Happy Spring from the Valley View restaurant staff!!

Spring is right around the corner, and the restaurant is still open for lunches only from 11am-2pm Monday through Friday. We know you are all eagerly awaiting the golf course opening, and we are planning ahead for the upcoming season. We will have new items on the menu and exciting specials as well as fresh homemade soups (until it gets too hot to sell soup). Our restaurant hours will expand as soon as the weather allows the course to open. The snack shack will be opening in early May.

Speaking of early May, we will be hosting a Mother's Day dinner (not a brunch this year) on Sunday, May 11th. We will be posting a menu for that dinner soon and as always, the dinner will be by reservation only. To reserve a table for Mother's Day Dinner, simply email the restaurant. [vvgckitchen@gmail.com](mailto:vvgckitchen@gmail.com)

Also, Save The Date!! Thursday evening, May 1st. We will be hosting a membership appreciation party to help kick off the Spring. Come by for some refreshments and drink specials and to introduce yourselves to our new General Manager.

I would like to take a moment to thank the restaurant employees that have persevered through our off-season. They have all worked hard to continue to improve our service and our food. We could not have been able to keep year-round employees if it were not for the support we receive from our membership and dining members throughout the winter months.

Don't forget to join us for lunch on weekdays where we will be serving rotating soups and daily lunch specials, and as always; we will have New England Clam Chowder every Friday!

*Restaurant, Bar, and Snack Shack hours and notes can be found on the club calendar!*





## GOLF TRAVEL

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

**Course Name:** RTJ Trail, Alabama

**Getting There:** Fly into Atlanta, drive 90 min to 1st course. Alternatively, could fly into Birmingham or Montgomery.

**Staying There:** We rented the Old Tom Morris House from Oster Golf Houses on the Grand National Course in Opelika, AL. Four rooms with two queen beds in each, four full baths, pool table, grill, well equipped kitchen. An outstanding basecamp.

**Review of Courses:** We played courses at Grand National, Capitol Hill, and Cambrian Ridge. Each layout was unique, challenging and in fantastic condition. The three tier greens required careful approach shots. Failing to hit the green was often penal.

**Pros:** Very affordable. Great courses. Excellent customer service across the board. Having all eight of us staying in one house was much better than splitting up into 4+ separate hotel rooms each night. Communal fresh cooked breakfast every morning. Apres golf: steaks, poker, billiards, etc.

**Cons:** The basecamp house concept did increase travel time a bit.

**Go Again:** Absolutely!

**Advice to Others:** After playing any of the Capitol Hill courses (The Judge!) be sure to get dinner at Uncle Mick's Cajun Market and Café in Prattville, AL.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

### NEW FULL MEMBERS

Paul & Cynthia Lencioni  
KC Barret & Amber Stenson

### NEW DINING AFFILIATES

Denise Wiedenheft

### OUTGOING MEMBERS

Troy & Michelle Timmer  
Roger & Denna Carter

### HOLE-IN-ONE CELEBRATIONS

Soon!

*If you get a Hole-In-One report it to the Pro Shop along with your witness.  
Members receive a \$200 credit on your bill (usually used up by your bar tab).  
Also, don't be shy about taking a picture for the newsletter.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Soon!

*Our club calendar can now be found  
online! [Click here to view.](#)*





## MASTERS CALCUTTA

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

### **LIVE Masters Tournament - Player Auction Wednesday, April 9th @ 6:00pm | Riverside Country Club**

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Open to members and non-members

Complimentary appetizers available at 5:30pm for those participating.

Players in the field of the 2025 Masters will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

**8% of the proceeds from the auction will again be donated to the High School Golf Programs in the Gallatin Valley.**

The Calcutta rules will be posted prior to and during the auction.

Please RSVP to [Mandy](#) to help give us an idea on the number of attendees.



**CLUB CONTACTS**

CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

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