

**Forest Lakes Club  
Board of Governors Election  
September 14, 2020**

All Forest Lakes Members (including basic members) in good standing, will be able to vote in this year's Board of Governors election.

There are 6 candidates running for 3 open spots on the Board.

Please review the attached bios of this year's candidates.

You will soon receive an *Online Link* to use in order to vote.

For questions, contact Dorothy Gorman at 973-786-5111.

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(ATTACHMENT)

The Following is a List of Members Running for the three open seats on the Board of Governors

**Thomas Arms** – My name is Tom Arms, or Texas Tom, as many in the neighborhood have bestowed on me for a nickname. My family of 4 has lived in Forest Lakes for the last 2 years since making a move from Texas. Living in this lake community has been a great experience, and I am fortunate that my family has been able to build so many friendships within the community.

During the summer months you will often see me around the lake on my blue kayak, towing kids and families around on floats, attempting to win in a game of cornhole, grilling, listening to music, or talking someone's ear off at Main Beach.

I believe that being active in the community you live is important. It sets a good example for our children to carry over as they grow and become successful adults. Since moving here, I have made an effort to make myself available to help out when needed. I have been involved in setting up the swim team lanes at the beginning of the season, setting up for swim meeting, cleaning up after 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and other events, and helping with the clean-up of the racist graffiti on Snake/Turtle Island.

I'm running for a position on the board because I feel like this lake community is ready for a change from some of the current representing board members. I feel we need board members who are actively involved and receptive to members' questions, concerns, and are approachable to create an open line of communications. I understand that many people are busy with work and raising children, and that making a board meeting may not always be a realistic option. That's why it is important to have board members that will represent your ideas during board member meetings. I would like for members to be able to pay membership dues electronically through an app such as Venmo, etc., instead of waiting for a check to get deposited and clear the bank. In addition, I would like FLC to hold corn-hole tournaments, BBQ competitions, and other community suggested events that help raise funds for improvements around the lake as new docks, and other updates/improvements that may currently be on the back burner. I believe from talking to many members that this would be a great way to not only promote a fun community environment, however will also help get some needed improvements closer to becoming a reality. I appreciate everyone taking the time to vote, and for considering myself for a spot on the FLC Board.

**Bernie Bukowski** – I am Bernie Bukowski, a 34-year resident of Forest Lakes, and past member of the Board from 1987 to 1991. Our family was active with swim team and other community activities.

I have a Master's Degree in Public Administration and am an IRS Enrolled agent.

Having recently retired from tax accounting, I now have the time to again participate in the governance of our community.

I have over 25 years of not-for-profit health care administration and financial management experience. For the past 5 years I have been a tax accountant and IRS Enrolled Agent responsible for financial oversight and reporting for over 12 not-for-profit organizations.

For the future, I think a review of the club expenses and how they are allocated to recreational expenses and assessment/basic membership needs to be done and published. A policy of what the Basic Membership entitles these members to other than voting rights needs to be developed and published. I also believe a more robust community communications system must be developed. If the News Bole isn't resurrected, a defined schedule for reporting Board minutes and other pertinent community occurrence should be developed and maintained. The Forest Lakes website needs to be kept current.

I feel, as do many other community members, that I am well qualified to again assist in leading our community association.

I look forward to working with the other Board members to ensure that Forest Lakes remains the Prestigious Lake community it has always been.

### **Debbie Devenny**

I am Debbie Devenny and have lived in Forest Lakes now for 15 years. I am married and have one grown daughter. I am a jeweler and work from home.

I grew up on Lake Mohawk, Sparta and have a vacation house in the Adirondacks also on the water so I have lived on lakes my whole life. I love the serenity of water and love to follow the seasons as well as our local flora and fauna.

I have been on the Board of Forest Lakes for the past 8 years and love being involved with our awesome community. Working from home, I can be on call for Dorothy to be able to help at any time. I walk daily around the lake and am always on the lookout for things that might need attention. I work well with all the other members of the board and feel I can offer a different perspective at times being the only female. I have overseen our "Annual Tree Planting" the last six years.

Previous Positions:

I was President of Rolling Hills Condo Association for 4 years.

I have been a Moderator for the Board of Deacons for the Presbyterian Churches in Sparta, Newton and Andover.

I started my own charity organization where I send kids to school in Katmandu, Nepal.

I was the Director of the Andover Varsity show for 9 year.

I was the Director for Vacation Bible School for the Sparta Presbyterian Church for over 100 children.

## **Joseph Mathews**

Hello, I have lived in the Forest Lakes Community for the past 5 years; my wife Cyndy and I have chosen to raise our three children (Kaylee, Benson and Nora) in this community for many reasons. Some of those reasons I have detailed below:

1. Beautiful landscape and Club property.
2. Well-kept grounds.
3. The Club events for children.
4. The overall Community feeling.

If elected to serve on the board, I would be committed to planning for and providing the means for necessary maintenance and upgrades throughout the community and would always lend an open ear to requested or suggested improvements at any of the club's properties/beaches. I am open to tradition and change alike to make this community reverberate the desires of the members both new and long standing. If given the opportunity to serve on the board, I promise to further the goals of maintaining and improving the most beautiful and serene secret in New Jersey.... Forest Lakes.

## **Greg Smith**

My name is Greg Smith and I have lived in Forest Lakes for 7 years with my wife, Amy (who grew up in Forest Lakes), and my daughter Lucy (age 4), who will be attending Forest Lakes Nursery School for her 2<sup>nd</sup> year. I have served on the Forest Lakes Board of Governors for 1 year.

My goal when joining the Forest Lakes Board of Governors was to encourage participation and foster open communication among all of our members. I have and will continue to make it my priority to listen and act on your thoughts, ideas and concerns. This past year has also brought with it many unprecedented challenges for everyone both individually and as a community. Working with the other members of the Forest Lakes Board has offered the unique experience of learning to overcome these challenges and keep our community such a special place to live. I look forward to my reelection so that I can continue to be part of planning for our future.

## **Jeff Vincent**

I have been a Forest Lakes resident for over 30 years and have served as Chairman of the Board for the last 6 years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to work alongside of other dedicated board members on numerous important projects, such as: researching and dissemination of timely and accurate local and state guideline information regarding Covid-19... thus helping to keep our community informed and safe; the redesign and organization of the Forest Lakes website and development of an email blast system... these important digital tools were designed to provide our members with ACCURATE breaking news and information about our community. I've also worked on budget planning, capital improvements projects, e.g. our million dollar plus Forest Lakes Dam Restoration project, oversight of numerous maintenance projects, annual clean up days and much more.

What I enjoy most about being on the Board is the interaction with other Forest Lakes members and volunteers who, over the years, have presented many great ideas, thoughts and suggestions to the Board for improving the community. This same kind of "team cooperation/action" has led to many positive results and community improvements.

For me, being a member of the Board is a privilege and a pleasure... and, I would appreciate your support for the opportunity to serve on the "team" for another term in order to help build on Forest Lakes' tradition and excellence... and continue to develop goals that will reinforce the long-term well-being and future of Forest Lakes.