

## **A Brief History of Valleybrook – Windbrook**

One of the great examples of the suburban life that characterized Chattanooga in the mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> century was the Valleybrook Golf and Country Club and the subdivision of Valleybrook.

As young post-war couples married and began raising baby boomer children, many looked for comfortable residences in the suburbs away from any factories, mills or noise.

And many found that ideal lifestyle at Valleybrook, which was one of only a few developments in the country at the time to feature the new concept of a golf course running through planned home sites.

The course opened in 1962, the first homes began being built about the same time, and for decades Valleybrook remained a popular place to live and play golf. By the late 1960's, most of the homes in the initial Valleybrook residential layout had been built.

The streets were originally to have such names as Colonial Circle and Burning Tree Road after golf courses but were later changed to even more familiar golf-related names such as Masters Road and Baltusrol Road.

In the late 1970's, the 37 acre sub-division of Windbrook was purchased by builder-developer Rathmell Plumlee and partner Bob Treadway. In January of 1980, Rathmell Plumlee brought back from the National Association of Home Builders convention in Las Vegas several new up to date ideas in home design.

As a builder-developer, homes built and designed by Rathmell Plumlee were of fine quality, and unique design for that time. His wife, Willie Mae Plumlee, a current resident here in Valleybrook, handled the decorating in her husband's homes keeping a flow of color throughout the house.

By July of 1980, 10 of the 49 lots had been sold with many more to be built by Rathmell Plumlee and his son, Jeff.

Sources of information:

Valleybrook The Chattanooga.com, August 9, 2013, "Valleybrook's Past and Future"

Windbrook The Chattanooga News-Free Press, July 20, 1980, Section G news article "Windbrook Showcases New Ideas".