



**James C. Harden, Jr.**

James has been a longtime resident of the Schertz community and joined the GVSUD Board in November of 2019.

James has a lifelong immersion in the nursery business and daily operations, which began during his youth. He attended Texas A&M University and received a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture. He began working at Mortellaro's Nursery in 1982 and became an owner of Mortellaro's in 2012. James served as an officer of that wholesale nursery grower until he sold his interest in the business in August of 2020.

In October 2020, James started a new business venture, a grower of Herbs, vegetable starter plants, succulents, fruiting trees, fruiting shrubs, and Citrus, along with fresh farm and garden produce.

With a vast knowledge of water resources from his years in the nursery business and a deep-seated belief in giving back to the community, running to be a Board Director of GVSUD was an easy and natural next step. For more than 20 years, James has taken an active and lead role in working with the Legislative Committees in Austin concerning pumping rights and conservation of the Edwards Aquifer.

James has been active in various organizations over the years, including serving as both a member of and a speaker for the International Plant Propagators Society and the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association. He has given his time and skills to support school-related activities for his children, remained active in his church, and served on numerous committees for the City of Schertz and the City of Universal City. Also, he has volunteered in a variety of ways with the San Antonio Livestock Exposition.

A graduate of Samuel Clemens High School, James lived in Schertz from 1987 to 2013, then lived in Universal City for five years.