

# Mountain View Country Club

P.O. Box 97

Greensboro, Vermont 05841

Spring 2016

Dear MVCC members,

Caspian Lake is ice-free and spring has finally come to Greensboro! Our courts and course are open for play and we have planned a full range of tennis, golf and social programs. I'm confident that all of you are eagerly looking forward to enjoying Mountain View, so I'm writing to welcome you back and to provide a brief update on the Club's operations.

## **Personnel**

I'm very pleased to announce that we have hired a new golf pro, Jim Dayton, who also will be running our Pro Shop operation. Jim is a Life Member PGA Class A Professional with over 25 years of experience, including the last 17 years as Director of Golf Operations at the Ralph Myhre course at Middlebury College. He will be offering lessons and clinics from mid-May through the end of September and playing a leading role in organizing our golf tournaments and other golf programming. He and his wife Lynn Dee will be moving to Arizona for the winters but will be returning to Vermont each summer. Jim had hoped to find a way to keep his hand in golf, albeit at a more relaxed level, and both he and we believe that Mountain View will be an ideal fit.

Jim will be assisted in the Pro Shop by Gordie Wilkinson, Dan Hudson and Alex Bennett (an outstanding tennis player!) each of whom have assisted behind the desk in previous years. In addition, Laura Laramie will be offering tennis lessons and clinics, as well as providing coverage in the Pro Shop as needed. We are very grateful to fellow member John Elwell, who stepped in on short notice to head the Pro Shop team last year.

We also are very pleased to announce that we have appointed Steve Parker as Course Superintendent for the 2016 season. Steve has been a member of our greens keeping staff for several years and replaces Chris Saylor, who notified us earlier this year that he was returning to Neshobe Golf Club in Brandon Vermont, where he had previously lived and worked. We thank Chris for his two years of dedicated service and wish him well on his return to his "home" course.

Steve and his greenskeeping team have been hard at work, removing debris brought down by winter storms and ensuring the greens fully recover from ice damage and the effects of intermittent spring thaws. Although this past winter was significantly warmer than in previous years, including many days above freezing, milder, fluctuating

temperatures actually can cause greater damage to turf and other plantings than would be the case with five months of unremitting cold. We ask that you bear with our team as they repair the damage, rope off certain areas, and continue our program of selective tree removal to improve growth conditions on selected greens and tee boxes. Special thanks to fellow member Brian Niemi for his diligent volunteer efforts as head of the Greens Committee.

As in 2015, we have contracted with Rick Yoerg to open the tennis courts, and three courts already are open for play. Thanks to Day Patterson for arranging this. Steve Parker and his team will manage ongoing court maintenance during the season.

### **Introductory Seasonal and "Shoulder Season" Tennis Permits**

Your board has determined that expanding tennis play is one of the Club's strategic priorities, both to make better use of our outstanding clay courts and as a vehicle to attract new members. To that end, we are instituting an introductory tennis-only permit priced at \$450 that will entitle the holder to full tennis and social privileges for the season. We hope the permit will enable the holder to develop playing and social relationships with our members and recognize the benefits of full membership.

We are also initiating several non-member tennis-only options similar to ones we have offered for many years covering both golf and tennis. Priced at reduced rates to our standard offerings, we hope these will increase the amount of tennis play during off-peak periods, providing more and better competition for our current members. Details of these offerings can be found on our web site. Special thanks to Day Patterson and the members of the Tennis Committee for developing these proposals, as well as to board member Jennifer Ranz and members Dan Cohen and Leah Raras for their input into that process.

### **Membership and Limits on Visitor and Guest Play**

Increasing membership continues to be our major priority: Mountain View's continued operation and vitality as a non-profit recreational and social club have always depended on the participation of members of our community who value the Club's existence and see membership not just as a terrific social and recreational outlet, but also as an effective form of stewardship. We continue to implement creative membership promotions aimed at expanding our membership but heavily rely on you, our members, to introduce your family, friends and neighbors to the Club.

This year we will continue to generally limit the total number of times a non-member can play golf or tennis to four times per season, unless that person holds a seasonal playing permit or is participating in an evening league. We hope that this policy will continue to persuade our more frequent guests and visitors to join the Club and assist in its financial support. These additional members in turn allow us to spread the cost of running the Club across a wider base, holding down the level of dues for all members.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteer efforts by our members are critical to the Mountain View's cost-effectiveness and success. I want to encourage all to join the dozens of volunteers who keep MVCC going by serving on a Committee, organizing a golf, tennis, or social event, or attending one or more of the volunteer service events that we will announce from time to time in our weekly *Monday from Mountain View* emails.

## **Operations and Budget**

We will continue to maintain a very tight budget in 2016 to reflect our limited resources. Our financial results continue on a positive trend. We are very grateful to many of you for making voluntary contributions with your dues payments. These voluntary contributions help us provide services while limiting our dues increases.

**PLEASE sign in every time you play.** Some members have asked why they need to sign in if they have already paid their dues. There are two principal reasons:

- As a non-profit social and recreational club, we are required by the IRS to operate principally for the benefit of our membership, with only limited use by the general public. Maintaining sign-in records is therefore critical to maintaining our tax-exempt status and reducing taxes we may owe.
- We use the data we gain through the sign-in process to analyze our operations and work to improve the Club's operations for the benefit of you, our members. The better the quality of our data, the more likely we will be able to achieve that objective!

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With the support of committed members like you, MVCC will continue to be able to realize its vision as a friendly, family oriented country club with an economy of operation in keeping with the character of the community it serves. If you have any questions or comments, please visit our website ([www.mvccvt.com](http://www.mvccvt.com)) and, of course, don't hesitate to contact me at 501-226-5682 (email: [mikeargolf@gmail.com](mailto:mikeargolf@gmail.com)) Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing each of you this summer.

Best regards,

Mike Kreider  
President