

Mountain View Country Club  
P.O. Box 97  
Greensboro, Vermont 05841

Spring 2015

Dear MVCC members,

Happy Spring! I trust you're already eagerly looking forward to enjoying Greensboro and Mountain View Country Club this coming summer. I'm writing to welcome you back for 2015 and to provide you with a brief update on the Club's operations.

### **Personnel**

We are very pleased that Chris Saylor will be returning as Course Superintendent for the 2015 season, once again assisted by Steve Parker. Chris and Steve have been very active clearing out the debris from winter storms and are working diligently to get the course ready for action, as well as continuing our program of selective tree removal to improve growth conditions on selected greens and tee boxes. Joining them this year is Morgan Rivers, who comes to us from Neshobe Golf Club in Brandon, Vermont with 11 years of greens keeping experience. Special thanks to fellow member Brian Niemi for his diligent volunteer efforts as head of the Greens Committee.

As in 2014, we have contracted with Rick Yoerg to open the tennis courts—four courts will be open by Memorial Day. Thanks to Gordon Stoner and Day Patterson for arranging this. Thereafter, Chris Saylor and his team will manage ongoing court maintenance.

I'm also pleased to announce that the pro shop will be managed this year by John Elwell, a long-time member of the club with a strong business background and very useful retail experience. John will be assisted in the Pro Shop by Gordie Wilkinson who is returning again this year, and Joanne McCarthy, who was unable to work during 2014 due to health issues. Joanne is very excited to return to Greensboro and MVCC, albeit on a more limited basis, and I hope you'll give her a warm "welcome back" when you see her. We are very grateful to Naomi Ranz, who successfully managed the pro shop last year on an interim basis.

### **Operations and Budget**

We will continue to maintain a very tight budget in 2015 to reflect our limited resources. Golf and tennis maintenance expenses will decline slightly, reflecting efficiencies we can implement without compromising the quality of our facilities.

One area that we have identified for more significant cost savings is pro shop operating expense, which we will reduce 9% by limiting the shop's pre and post season opening times. These "shoulder season" hours will be posted on our website: [www.mvccvt.com](http://www.mvccvt.com). Outside these times we will ensure that restroom facilities and club storage remain accessible and we will place sign-in sheets and "honor" boxes for guest and visitor fees at the first tee and at the tennis courts. PLEASE sign in when you play and encourage guests and visitors to pay the appropriate fee!

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 accurate sign-in records is critical to maintaining our tax-exempt status.
- 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!

## **Capital Campaign**

I'm happy to report that, as of today's date, Mountain View Country Club's Capital Campaign has successfully raised nearly \$134,000 in contributions, roughly 116% of our original fundraising objective. These amounts have been used to repay or prefund the Club's long-term indebtedness, which has now been effectively eliminated. In addition, over \$47,000 has been added to our capital reserve fund to strengthen the Club's long-term ability to replace and re-invest in equipment and facilities as needs arise. We anticipate receiving additional contributions to the Campaign, and these amounts will be added to this reserve fund as they are received.<sup>1</sup>

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

One of our major tasks now is to increase membership, which will further strengthen the Club's financial outlook. In fact, 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 both as a terrific recreational outlet and as an effective form of stewardship. We welcome any thoughts you might care to share on how best to achieve this objective, including your nomination of family, friends and acquaintances as potential members.

We currently are implementing several membership promotions, the details of which are on our website. In addition, we believe it is time to directly address use of the Club by frequent guests and visitors who do not accept our invitation to become members. In

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<sup>1</sup> To avoid any possible misunderstanding, permit me to note that, because MVCC is classified for tax purposes as a not-for-profit recreational and social club, contributions to the Club are not deductible as charitable contributions.

the interest of fairness to our existing members (who largely bear the expense of operating and maintaining the Club), beginning this year ***we will limit the total number of times a non-member can play golf or tennis as a guest or visitor to four times per season.*** We hope that implementing this policy will help persuade many of those frequent guests and visitors to join the Club and assist in its financial support. If successful, these additional members will 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 Mountain View's cost-effectiveness and success. I want to thank all of you who provide your time and effort to make so many of our social and sporting events possible and assist in the Club's maintenance and upkeep. I look forward to your continued involvement but also want to encourage all others to join the dozens of volunteers who keep MVCC going by serving on a committee 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. In particular, we currently are looking for members with IT and retail experience to serve on our Pro Shop committee. Is this an area where you could help?

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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 Greensboro community it serves. If you have any questions or comments please 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