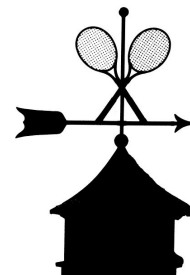

THE BASELINE

Field Club News

August 2016



A Message from the President

He started in February 1987. He retired on June 30, 2016. Twenty-nine years and four months. No retirement plan, no health insurance, no vehicle allowance, long hours and a new boss every year. I am talking, of course, about **James (Jim) Girotti**, the now legendary general manager of the Field Club of Longmeadow.

Jim announced his intention to retire in November of 2015. Over the next several months, I heard from no less than fifty (50) people who claimed responsibility for hiring Jim! I have no doubt there were a number of people who supported Jim's candidacy for the job, but the argument was settled at his retirement party on June 25th. Jim let us all know that we can thank Bob Leonard for encouraging Jim to apply for the part-time position back in 1987. Jim clearly made many friends during his tenure.

At Jim's retirement party, Marcia Snyder compared Jim to the definition of "ubiquitous," always present and seemingly everywhere all at the same time. I was so relieved when she spelled out the word and didn't turn her talk into a spelling bee. But Marcia made a good point. When the toilet was overflowing in the men's tennis hut bathroom, when the lights were left on at the paddle courts, when a pump in the pool maintenance room was leaking, when uninvited guests were found on the property late at night (a Jim Shea story), Jim was called in to resolve the issue no matter what time of day or night. And Jim did respond and solve the problems. When we have had unexpected expenditures, Jim always found a way to find money to repair a roof,

a yogurt machine, fencing for the gardens, an increase in wages for our lifeguards and tennis staff, etc. With Jim's frugal ways and experience with managing our budget, he has left our club on a solid financial footing.

When I think of all the work Jim has done for our club and the legacy he leaves behind, I can't help but feel a twinge of sadness for our new members who will not have the privilege to meet Jim and get to know him. He brought with him leadership qualities that are not often seen today – moral strength, integrity, trust, and commitment to his job. Jim managed with a sense of fairness and a quiet but firm directness in his interactions with club members and staff. I think we can all agree that without Jim's careful management of the staff, budget and facilities, the Field Club would not be the place it is today or enjoy the reputation it now holds in our community.

I also want to thank Jim's wife, Linda, for all the long hours and late night calls she endured over the past 29 years. I can only imagine the concern for Jim's safety on some of those late night trips to the Field Club. Thank you, Linda, for all your understanding and support.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the members and staff of the Field Club, we wish you long straight drives, good health and quality time with Linda and your family. You have provided us all with a safe place to bring our families in an environment that builds long-lasting relationships. Thank you for all you have done for the Field Club community. You will be missed.

—Tom O'Brien





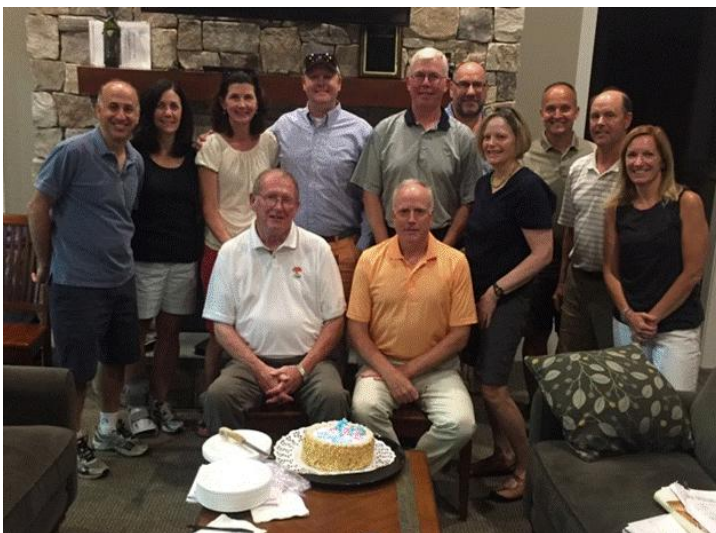
Farewell to General Manager Jim Girotti

After 29 years as our general manager, Jim Girotti has officially retired from The Field Club, leaving behind some big shoes to fill!

Jim began his tenure at the Field Club in 1987. He has been responsible for overseeing the growth of the Club, including the addition of tennis courts, extension of the tennis hut, the construction of a paddle hut and the management of the entire facility. Over those 29 years, Jim has been able to offer employment to hundreds of local students as either lifeguards or tennis instructors. He will leave behind a legacy of integrity, trust and dedication to all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

In honor of Jim's legacy, the decision has been made to name our pool facility the "Girotti Pool House." On behalf of the Board of Governors and members of the Field Club (past and present), we thank Jim for providing such a safe, friendly environment for our families and friends to enjoy.

— Tom O'Brien



Seated left to right: Jim Girotti and President Tom O'Brien. Standing left to right: Mike Freedman, Connie Pierson, Jamie Dunbar, Mike Doyle, Rick Plaut, Moira Murphy, Jeff Dubiel, Ken Vicunas, Meralee Kravotil



Jim and Linda Girotti arrive at the Field Club for the retirement party honoring Jim.



Jim's last day at the office. Shown with Tom O'Brien (left) and Dave Appleman (right).



Many members of the Field Club family gathered for a retirement party to honor Jim and celebrate his 29 years of service. More candid photos from the event are featured on page 3.

Jim's Retirement Party: Celebrating Field Club Style!

Many Field Club members turned out to bid Jim fond farewell at a poolside retirement party held on June 25. The event featured dinner, music and dancing and was a wonderful celebration of Jim's years of commitment to the Field Club. Below are a few candid photos from the event:





A Dazzling Fourth of July Celebration

Hats off to a fantastic Fourth of July tailgate! Over 50 Field Club families participated in this festive annual event. What a nice way to celebrate the Fourth with family and friends. Food, music and spirits were flowing. The beautiful fireworks at Twin Hills did not disappoint and were much enjoyed by all. It was a magical night! Thank you to everyone who participated and made the event a success. Our best for a fantastic summer!
— Victoria Wright & Molly Orr

Membership Report

Please welcome the following new members to the club:

- Amy & Randy Davis
- Karen & Greg Desrosiers
- Christine & Timothy Garstka
- Bob & Kim King
- Maggie Raker
- MaryKate & Stephen Walsh
- Mark & Christine Weyer
- Jennifer L. Willson

... *And now, membership is full!!*

See where your candidate stands as of July 15, 2016:

Regular Wait List

1. Christine Sanford (Meth)
2. Paul & Marja Barr (Weiner)
3. Nathan Duval & Jennifer Skelly (Stewart)
4. Brian & Wendy Breed (Griffiths)

Now is a great time to get your candidate on the wait list. If you would like to sponsor someone for membership, please contact the membership chair,



Connie Pierson, at
bobconniep@comcast.net
for the necessary
paperwork and
instructions.
— Connie Pierson

Welcome Jeff Dubiel!



Our new general manager, Jeff Dubiel (shown here with President Tom O'Brien), is now hard at work at The Field Club. Be sure to welcome him aboard!

For Your Dining Pleasure...

The Board of Governors is pleased to announce a new and exciting dining arrangement with **The Colony Club of Springfield**. The Colony Club, located in Tower Square, has been a downtown fixture for over 100 years.

Our members will not be asked to join the Colony Club, nor will the Colony Club members become members of the Field Club. We will benefit from a unique relationship with the Colony Club in order to enjoy the culinary excellence the Club is known for.

Lunch or dinner can be enjoyed starting on July 8th, with reservations. No minimum number of guests is required; however, there will be a \$10 per person surcharge for four (4) or less dinner guests. If you choose to dine at the Colony Club more than once per month, the surcharge will not apply. Payment will be made with a credit card only. Jackets for dinner are optional.

We hope all of our members take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy one of Springfield's finest dining experiences.

For more information, contact Mona Swanson, Moira Murphy or Tom O'Brien via email. Reservations for dinner or lunch can be made by calling the Colony Club at 413-732-4101.

We hope you find this opportunity to experience fine dining locally an added benefit of your Field Club membership. — Tom O'Brien



Paddle Co-Chair “Passes the Baton”

The Paddle Committee would very much like to thank **Jenna Goodman** for her contributions as co-chair of the Paddle Committee these past few years. Jenna’s tireless enthusiasm and commitment to help organize various paddle events was admirable. That said, Jenna has decided to step down and pass the baton to **Sally Gallucci** as co-chair for the upcoming 2016-2017 paddle season. We are thrilled to have access to Sally’s organizational skills and love for the game of paddle. I look forward to working closely with Sally in the future.

— *Tom Kietzman*



Garden Party

The gardeners enjoyed a perfect summer evening on June 29, during our “early summer” Garden Party. A happy group of a dozen gardeners gathered at the plots to share delicious snacks and hopes for veggie success this year. Most plots are planted and growing now; the bunny population is also growing, so time will tell who comes out ahead! But, as always, the biggest benefit is in the process of growing some of our own food, teaching our children, and spending time with the earth. We look forward to another chance to “greet and eat” and at an “end-of-summer” Garden Party in late August. Till then, happy tending!

— *Darcy Durfee and Deirdre Mailloux*



2016 Davis Cup a Success

*The Field Club of Longmeadow held its annual Davis Cup Tournament on Saturday, June 18th. Sixty-two participants were divided between four teams: USA, France, Great Britain and Ireland. Team Great Britain, captained by **Denise Collins**, won the tournament. A very competitive team France, captained by **Gary Weiner**, placed second. It was a great day of tennis with perfect weather, competitive tennis and impressive sportsmanship shown by all. — Moira Murphy*



**Team
France**



**Team
Ireland**



**Team
Great
Britain**



**Team
USA**





Safety Reminder

Please remember to always lock your car doors and report any suspicious activity or person while at the Field Club. — *Jeff Dubiel*

Next Deadline September 19th

The next edition of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early October. This will be the last edition for the 2016 calendar year. Please be sure to submit your news items and photographs to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague by Monday, September 19. She can be reached via email at lsprague7@cox.net.

Clem Easton Returns

The 33rd Annual Clem Easton Super Senior Tennis Tournament returned to the Field Club of Longmeadow for its June 23-26, 2016 event. A total of 63 players participated, including a record 12 entrants in the 80 & over men's singles division. All of the players were very thankful to The Field Club for hosting this important senior tennis event. The courts were beautiful, amenities were terrific and the weather couldn't have been better! The level of competition throughout the four-day event was stunning, with one-third of matches going to a deciding third set. Two of our members, **Tom Rowland** and **Dietmar Kuhr**, could be seen participating in matches, while **Angelo Teixeira** acted as our liaison for the event. — *Moirra Murphy*



Shown above at the Clem Easton Tournament are (left to right) Mike Meyers, Angelo Teixeira and Karen Fawthrop.



Lane Lines

Have you been to our awesome Field Club pool this year? Did you notice the addition of upright pool chairs? We are excited to announce the addition of six upright pool deck chairs that have been dispersed amongst the pool deck. They are sturdy and match the pool chairs. Many of you have asked for this option, and we are happy to announce that they are now at the pool. We hope this provides a more comfortable option for our members to come and enjoy the pool.

Due to inclement weather, the June 23rd "Summer Kick Off Pool Party" was cancelled and rescheduled as an "End of the Year Party" on August 23rd from 1 to 3 p.m. Join us, along with **DJ Brian Nicks**, for a fun year-end pool party!

On Thursday, July 7th, **May Oh and Franca Conway** hosted a "Family Relay Carnival" at the pool. Thirty adorable Field Club kids joined in for an afternoon of pool relays and lawn games. Our awesome lifeguard staff helped organize and execute fun pool relays for the kids. The relays included a tube swim, beach ball push, noodle race and a t-shirt swim and swap. Lawn games included a sack relay, water balloon catch and Fris-Zing. A fun time was had by all, including all participants and spectators. The Carnival concluded with make your own sundaes at the Snuggery and, of course, a refreshing rain shower!

Remaining Pool Party Dates:

July 21	Junior Poolside Party (Age 8-10), 5:30-7:30pm
July 26	FC Triathlon , Time TBD
August 16	Member Guest Party , 1 to 3 p.m.

Please RSVP/sign-up at the pool for all parties! — *Rosaria Peffer*