



**Founded 1912**

# Smoke Signals

## Final Edition 2015

**Indian Village Tennis Club • 1502 Parker • Detroit • 331-9494**

[www.indianvillagetennis.com](http://www.indianvillagetennis.com)

### Incoming President's Message

In 1979 Jean Finn invited me to IVTC. I had known her at Camp Bryn Afon as a camper and later as a counselor. One week in 1979 she asked me to go to the tennis club. I naturally assumed I would be playing tennis, but she said "Oh no, we are having WND" (I really think she wanted a ride as she didn't drive). Anyway, I was hooked on the place and joined in 1980 when I believe I was the youngest member (or it at least seemed like it). Never would I have imagined at that dinner would I one day be standing in the shoes of Jack Dillon, the president at the time! Now, after 35 years of being a member as well as being elected as the first female "A" member I am one of the oldest members (not by age) in the club. Lifelong friendships are made here and looking at our wedding guest list most of the folks were also IVTCers!

I had not planned on becoming president quite so soon, but here I am! I would like to thank Jim and Ruth for their service to the club. There was much participation in the activities this year under their leadership.

This is a special place! Judy Sarvis used to say, consider it a "home away from home" and as such a community with its own norms, traditions, and standards. We must be considerate of each individual member as well as the club as a whole. I am looking forward to the 2016 season, but before then much work needs to be done.

Have a great winter, however it is spent. We'll see you at cleanup next spring and at the opening day party. Remember if you're using the club, please clean up after yourself!

*- Sue Webb-Dickson*

### Outgoing President's Message

I am pleased to have served as your President this past year. It was a year of significant transition, and perhaps this accounts for the fact that Ruth and I have positive, and sometimes not so positive, experiences associated with this last year.

It must be remembered that this is a Club that is run by volunteer effort. And the volunteer effort has come from the work most especially of the Committees (and their chairs) and the officers. Board members have an important role as well addressing the issues that come from operating a Club with 250 members. To all, I am indebted, but special accolades go to Membership Chair Rosemary Gugino in orchestrating the overall process of assuring a record number of new members an opportunity to join our Club. Additionally, I am indebted to my wife, Ruth, for her long and distinguished career as Social Chair. The social committee took on a new responsibility with the assistance of Cheryl Huff which was the implementation of the Sunday evening Light Bite program, assuring our members that there would be a bite to eat and conversation to share at 7:00-ish on Sunday evening. Transitions abounded further as we began our Wednesday Night Dinner program this year by entrusting it to Sherry Ward and her capable assistants. Sherry has brought us to new heights of dining enjoyment at the Club, and I am appreciative of the work of the Catered Events Chair Alex Gow to help us through this transition.

Accolades to the Board for buying into the research I performed on the subject of children at the club. The Board adopted the policy I proposed (drawn from club history) on allowing children or grandchildren of members to use the courts if it did not prevent members from their legitimate expectation of use of the courts. The Board accepted the generous

## Outgoing President's Message

proposal of Cheryl Huff to purchase her property across the street from the Club, and consummation of the sale occurred in November. I am pleased also that the Board has recognized the appropriateness of a Finance Committee, ably chaired by Treasurer Tom Roberts. The Finance Committee is involved in a careful evaluation of the dues structure vis a vis the Club (and especially the Clubhouse) needs for renovation so that we have an adequate source of funding for inevitable capital expenditures. Kudos to Yolanda Lewczuk and Ken Miller as co-chairs of the Tennis Committee; they performed admirably in their first year as committee co-chairs. And, we went through a carefully staged mentorship program largely handled by Bobby Petty, our Club caretaker, to allow him to train a successor, Edmund Walden, who has taken over from Bobby in October 2015. Whew! There was a lot going on this year!

For the future, we have a seasoned member, Board member, Committee chair and past officer who has taken on the responsibilities of the presidency, Sue Webb-Dickson. My best wishes to you, Sue, in your new job. My hopes for the future: I hope the Board will recognize with greater clarity the importance of the Committee chairs in discharging the work of our club and seek the opinions of the committee chairs before taking action to correct a perceived issue falling within the jurisdiction of a committee. And, I hope that more Board members will see the value in using good and inclusive process as a means to achieving substantively the most appropriate decisions. I will remain on the Board so as to help Sue in the transition and to signal my interest in the continued success of IVTC.

*-Jim Harvey*

## Upcoming Events

Although the bar is closed and we are done with scheduled events for the year, members may use the clubhouse in the off-season. Since we do not have the services of Edmund Walden in the winter, we need to clean up after ourselves: please clear and wipe down the bar before you leave, wash any dishes or glasses you have used, and clean up any food debris, otherwise mice will be attracted. Place any trash in the outside container, and take your empties home with you. Same goes for the porch and the restrooms – please clean up after yourselves. Finally, please make sure to lock the doors and engage the alarm system when you leave.

## Recent Events

### A-Member Annual Meeting

Twenty-nine of forty A-Members were in attendance at the Annual A-Member Meeting on Sunday October 18. Committee chairs reported on the activities of our very successful 2015 season. Club finances are in the black, although a final determination for the year cannot be made until after December. A Finance Committee headed by Tom Roberts has been established to ascertain that income from member dues is in balance with club expenses, and to address priorities for spending monies held in the reserve fund. In 2015 the club gained 30 new members in addition to 4 returning members; our 180 memberships comprise 248 individual members (numbers for 2014 were 173 memberships and 246 members).

A slate of five candidates for three open positions on the Board of Directors was proposed by the Nominating Committee and from the floor. Elected were Diane Foster, Tom Roberts and Jackie McCann, who will join Sue Webb-Dickson, Jim Harvey, Marc Mathews, Norma Eschenburg, Peggy O'Neill, and Marsden Burger on the 2016 IVTC Board of Directors. Jim Harvey announced that he chose not to stand for reelection as President in 2016, but will remain on the board. John Mogk led the A-Members in applause to show appreciation for Jim's service as President. The Nominating Committee elected for 2016 comprises Joanne Petz, Yolanda Lewczuk and Elke Burger.

Following the A-Member meeting, the new board met and elected officers for the 2016 season: President – Sue Webb-Dickson; Vice-President – Marc Mathews; Treasurer – Tom Roberts; Secretary – Mary Beth Vander Schaaf.

*-Chris Foster & Mary Beth Vander Schaaf*

### THIS Mardi Gras Closing Party

Members were treated to a gourmet New Orleans style dinner on October 31, thanks to the efforts of Kathy Bruno and Yolanda Lewczuk, assisted by Mary Beth Vander Schaaf, Meria Larsen and Jackie McCann. The festive dinner table centerpieces were created by Michelle and Doug Strait. The menu featured appetizers, gumbo, fried catfish, red beans and rice with sausage, salad, and corn bread, followed by a dessert of bread pudding and ice cream with hard sauce! Needless to say, all who were there left satisfied and contented. Live music with a New Orleans twist was provided by Cheryl Huff and





Party Hosts: Yolanda Lewczuk and Kathy Bruno

Party Helpers: Mary Beth Vander Schaaf, Meria Larsen, Jackie McCann



Cheryl Huff and entertainers (below)



## Recent Events

friends. Bartender John Cummings featured Hurricanes as the cocktail of the night. And party goers augmented the festive mood with their fanciful costumes. Thanks to our hosts for providing an excellent end to the 2015 season!

*-Chris Foster*

### Fall Clean-up

Thanks to the twenty-four individuals listed below who assisted with the Fall Clean-up on November 14. It was a beautiful day, and much was accomplished both inside and out. Sincere thanks go to: Peggy O'Neill, Joanne Petz, Yolanda Lewczuk, Jackie and Richard Canny, Pat Nault and Frank Bevilacqua, Marsden and Elke Burger, Diane and Chris Foster, Norma Eschenburg, Marty Peters, Mary Cantwell, Ann Cook, Ruth and Jim Harvey, Carol Fitzgerald, Richard Klimisch, Lee Trumbauer, Al Pavle, Judy Sarvis, Meria Larsen, and Ken Miller. Conspicuously absent was anyone under forty years old! U-Fo's where were you?

*-Chris Foster*



Above: Julie Norris and Elke Burger

Below: ???????, Sue Webb-Dickson and Diane Foster







Richard and Prudence Klimisch



Marty and Joanne Petz



Above: Doug and Michelle Strait

Below: Marc Mathews, Sigrid Streit and Richard Canny



Chris and Diane Foster







Tom and Sheila Kneeshaw



Yolanda Lewczuk (right) with her mother and friend



Above: Sigrid Streit and Peggy O'Neill

Below: Yolanda, Kathy, MaryBeth and Jackie



John Cummings, our most awesome bartender







## News and Notes

### Season's End October 31

With the end of the 2015 season on October 31, beer, wine and liquor sales at the club are suspended until we reopen on May 1, 2016.

### Notice: Consumption of 'Adult Beverages'

As a reminder to club members, when the club is open for business between May 1 and October 31, beer, wine and liquor may not be purchased after 2am, and any such beverages must be consumed by 2:30am.

### Kudos

Thanks to Jim Harvey for his work as President, and to Ruth Harvey for the great job she's done chairing the Social Committee.

Thanks to Alex Gow for his six years of work as a board member, and also for managing the Wednesday Night Dinners during a time of transition.

Thanks to Cheryl Huff for her recommendations of Edmund Waldon as Bob Petty's replacement, Sherry Ward as our new Wednesday Night Dinner chef, and Jeffrey Elliot as our new dishwasher.

### Treasurer's Corner

The end of the tennis season has arrived and the clubhouse, grounds and courts have been put away for the winter. Also at the end of the season, I take a look at our members' accounts in order to get an accurate picture of the club's financial health. At present, we have 184 accounts, of which 50 have open balances. I will be sending out statements this month, and I urge those who receive them to remit payment in a timely manner. Our financial software is set to only print statements with a balance of greater than \$5.00.

Over the winter, I will be working to provide statements via email to members who wish to participate in that form of delivery next year. I wish each of you a Happy Holiday and look forward to seeing you in the spring.

*-Tom Roberts, Treasurer*

### Ice Maker Needed!

The clubhouse is in need of an ice maker. If you are renovating and have one that you would like to donate please notify Norma Eschenburg.

### Season's Greetings!

The IVTC Board of Directors, Club Officers, and your newsletter editors wish each and every club member a merry Christmas, a safe, warm and happy holiday season, and a happy new year!



### Newsletter Contributors

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2016 IVTC board members and officers at their first meeting. Diane Foster, Norma Eschenburg, Sue Webb, president, Marsden Burger, Peggy O'Neill, Tom Roberts, treasurer, Jim Harvey, and Marc Mathews, Vice-president (not pictured Mary Beth Vander Schaaf)

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