



HIGHWOOD BOCCE CLUB

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Contact Information

Highwood Bocce Courts

440 Bank Lane,

Highwood, IL 60040

(847) 926-8118

www.highwoodbocce.com

highwoodbocceclub@gmail.com



Facebook:

highwoodbocceclub

Members,

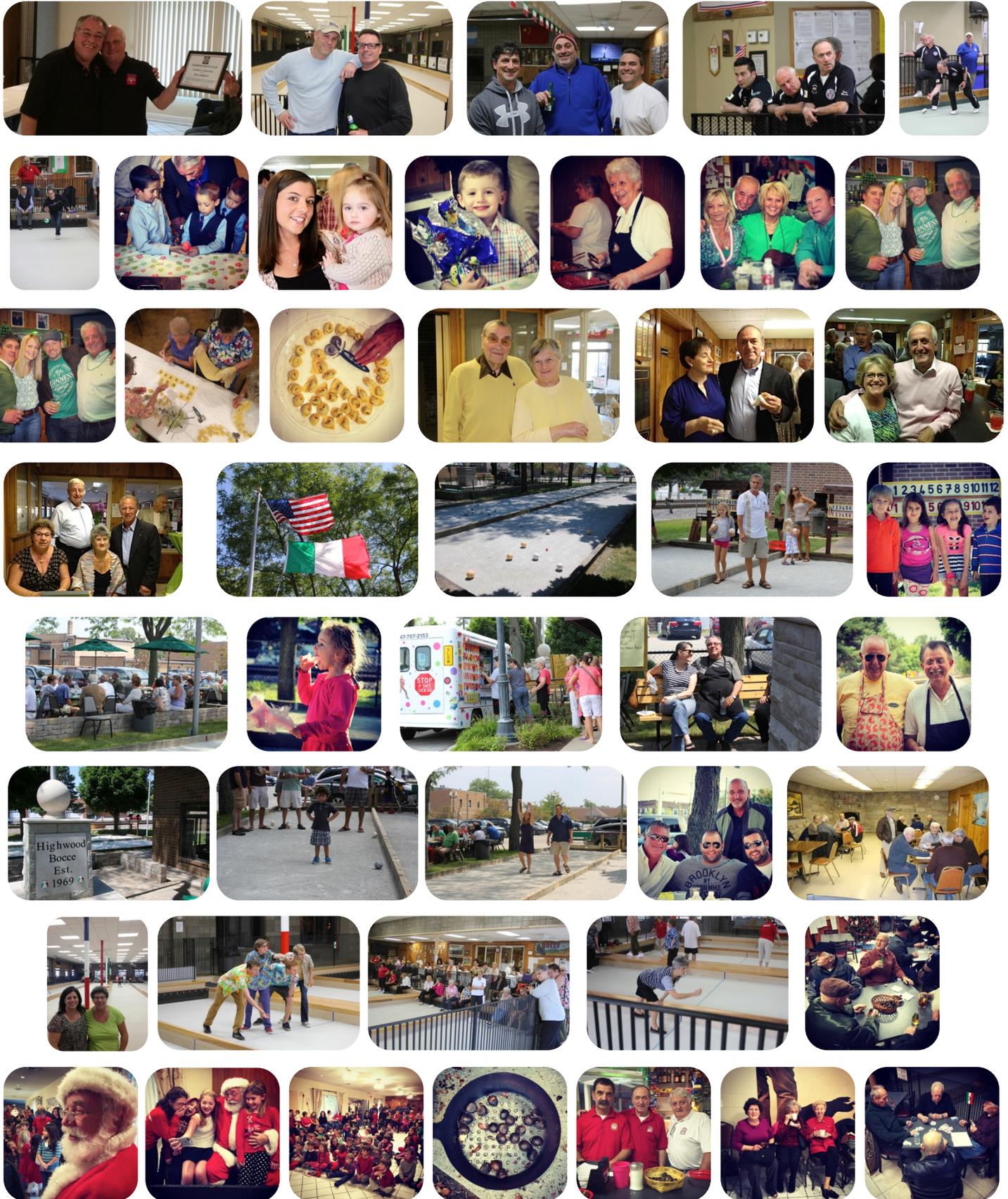
Felice Anno Nuovo! Each turn of the calendar presents an opportunity to reflect upon the year past, and 2014 was certainly one to remember. Our members turned out in large numbers for our favorite traditional events such as the St. Patrick's Day Party, Easter Coccoetto, Members Picnic, and Children's Christmas Party. New events such as the Fish Fry and Pig Roast were also very well received and great fun. Our past Presidents received some well-deserved recognition at a dinner held in their honor, as did our Club when CBS2 News came by to spotlight us and the visit of the #1 Bocce Player in the world, Gianluca Formicone. Notably, some of the best bocce players in the world are part of our own membership, proven by our HBC teams winning two major tournaments. The HBC women won the Midwest Tournament hosted at our own Club and HBC men took home first place in the 8th Annual Aldo Della Croce Tournament in St. Louis. The Club also posted record profits and membership levels in 2014, all while making key investments to maintain and improve our facility (new chairs in banquet and courts; replacement of all lighting in courts; new TV, cash register, cappuccino machine, door, and entryway in bar; and new curtains and pictures in banquet room). With the support of our membership and greatly appreciated help from our volunteers, 2014 was a very successful year for the HBC.

We are looking forward to continuing this success in 2015. Our full-year calendar is posted on page 3 and you'll find it filled with a long list of activities and tournaments hosted within our Club's walls. Outside of our walls, we also recognize a proposed redevelopment of downtown Highwood is perhaps the most important issue we have ever faced as a Club. If it proceeds, it will bring us to a major crossroads requiring great support across our membership and leadership from our Board. While we can't predict the future, we do know the Highwood Bocce Club and the culture, traditions and community it represents are deeply woven into the fabric of Highwood. And your HBC Board is committed to keep it this way for many, many years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and improve our Club. Looking forward with you to an eventful and meaningful 2015.

The HBC Board

Remembering 2014...



2015 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 11 3 Person Team Tournament
18 Singles Tournament

FEBRUARY

- 8 General Membership Meeting, 3PM
22 11th Player's Invitational (4 Person Teams)

MARCH

- 1 New Member Welcome, 3PM
7 St. Patrick's Day Party

APRIL

- 5 Easter Coccetto, 9AM – 1PM
11-12 2 Person Tournament
26 General Membership Meeting, 3PM

MAY

- 9 Member Dinner Dance
23-24 Mario Massa 4 Person Tournament

JUNE

- 7 Fish Fry
14 Tournament TBD
22 US Bocce National Championship
Tournament @ Boston

JULY

- 12 General Membership Meeting, 3 PM

AUGUST

- 2 Annual Member Picnic
29 Members Dinner Dance

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Club Pig Roast, 4 PM
TBD Women's Midwest Tournament
@ Kansas City

OCTOBER

- 11 General Membership Meeting, 3 PM

NOVEMBER

- 8 Club Elections
14 Members Dinner Dance

DECEMBER

- 13 Children's Christmas Party, 2-4 PM
31 Member's Annual New Year's Eve Party

All events will be posted at the Club and can always be found at our website.

HBC Announcements

Club Hours

Opening Times:

- Sunday 12 noon
Monday - Saturday 6:30 PM

Courts Only Opening Times

Daily at 1:30 PM

Club may be closed for large private parties on Saturdays that use the courts, bar, and banquet room areas. Club is also closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays as announced.

Member Reminders

- Membership payments were due January 31st. For existing members, a \$5 fee for each month late will be added. Membership dues are:
 - \$125 – Regular
 - \$50 - Junior (12 to 20 yrs)
 - \$200 - Couples
- For liability reasons, alcohol cannot be brought in from outside the Club. This applies to both members and non-members.

In Memoriam

In loving memory we honor the members we lost in 2014 and early 2015.

Romano Bacci
Marino Bianchi
Virgilio Facchini
Forrest Grandi
Albert Ori
Italia Santi
Lenora Santi
Michael Schmitt
Cataldo Soldano
John Vignocchi

Update on Proposed Highwood Development

What Do We Know About the City's Plans to Develop the Downtown?

- The City of Highwood has a comprehensive Land Use Development Framework/Plan that focuses on short and long-term development opportunities in the downtown district. This plan includes an objective to "open up the Metra station area and make it a more inviting place in Downtown Highwood".
- To further explore the development options for the Metra station area including the property leased by the HBC, the City entered into an agreement that gave the Gart Partners exclusive rights to the planning for development that includes this property.
- Phase 1 of the Gart Partners plan is a proposed mixed-use (combination of commercial and residential units) development. The proposed plan would fall within the following boundaries: from and including the Bocce Court on the North West corner, Teddy O'Briens on the North East, The Curry Hut in the South East and the Highwood Train Station on the South West.
- The Gart Partners have been actively negotiating with the land owners in order to secure the necessary property. After months of negotiations, two of the four landlords have agreed on price and principle but none have signed a contract. The Gart Partners have asked for a 6 month extension to their agreement with the City in order to continue the negotiations with the land owners.
- The Highwood Bocce Club has a 50 year lease agreement with the City of Highwood for the property it resides on that began in 2009.



What Are We Doing In Response?

- Formed a task force to investigate and monitor the plan proposed by the Gart Partners and maintain an active dialogue with the City of Highwood. Members of the task force are Jack Grandi, Dale Galassie, and Pal Picchietti. This task force has met with the City of Highwood and the developer and continues to stay informed and involved.
- Consulted with 3 attorneys to explore the strength of our lease with the City and understand the legal rights and leverage the lease provides to us in the event the City wants to proceed with development of the HBC leased property.
- Seeking a meeting with the mayor to confirm his and the City Council's intentions for and commitment to the HBC.

What Is Our Current Assessment of the Situation?

- We are in full compliance with the terms of our lease with the City. As such, the City has no apparent grounds to terminate our contract without our consent. Without this consent, we do not see a viable option for the development to proceed. This has been confirmed through attorney consultation.
- From informal discussions with some members of the City Council, we believe the City appreciates the importance of the HBC to the City of Highwood and maintains a strong commitment to its existence in Highwood.
- The Gart Partners development plan is still in early concept phase and has yet to secure the full support of the Highwood City Council. Even if the City Council does agree to move forward, many obstacles will still need to be overcome for it to succeed.
- Even if the Gart Partners current development plan does not move forward, development of this property is a component of the City of Highwood's long-term development plan. We need to be prepared for the likelihood the City will continue to explore options to do so.

Tournament Talk

An important part of the mission of the HBC is to preserve the Italian heritage and culture through promotion of the game of bocce. Hosting and participating in tournaments is a primary way we accomplish this goal.



Our own Highwood Bocce Club hosted the Midwest Women's Bocce Tournament on September 19-21, 2014. Competing against teams from Kansas City and St. Louis, our women claimed a resounding victory, taking first place with a total of 29 victories



The Italia-America Bocce Club of St. Louis hosted the 8th Annual Aldo Della Croce Open Tournament on November 14-16, 2014. Our own HBC team competed with 16 teams in the ADC Division and took home the first place trophy.

Also congratulations to Frank DeLuca for winning the HBC Singles Tournament on January 25th. Coming in February is the 11th Player's Invitational followed by the 2-Person Tournament in April. Check the 2015 Calendar for a full list of this year's tournaments.

WELCOME to Our New 2015 Members

We have already added 44 new members in 2015. Please make these new members feel welcome if you see them at the Club. If you are one of our new members, please let us know at highwoodbocceclub@gmail.com if you have any questions or we can help you take advantage of your new membership. Also, look for an invite soon to the New Members Welcome on March 1.

Jane Alexander
T.J. Alexander
Apolonio Arenas
Franca Barigazzi
John Beckwith
Jonathan Boek
John Cioni
Luana Cioni
Jo Ann Desmond
Terry Desmond
Luigi Farris
Anthony Ferrari

David Geake
Greg Hanrahan
Aaron Horowitz
Richmond Knapp
Dominico Lomoro
Frank Mariani
Sherri Mariani
David Massello
Jordan Mazzetta
Melissa Mazzetta
Christopher McNulty
Kerrigan McNulty

Paul Micari
Todd Mikell
Jennifer Mikell
Jack Minorini
Donna Mocogni
Steve Mocogni
Andrea Morelli
Ed Morelli
Lauren Nelson
Brian Peddle
Heidi Peddle
Darlene Ori

Ron Ori
Jeanne Scherer
Steve Scherer
John Scholz
Dominic Sciarbone
John Sieman
Diane Viti
Cynthia Witten
Scott Witten
Patricia Wood

Bocce in the USA...

Taking a road trip and want to keep up your game? The popularity of bocce is growing across the US, and the places below are just a few of the great locations that are built around our favorite past time!

Rhein Haus - Seattle, Washington



Pizzeria Bocce - Cottonwood Arizona



Bar Bocce - Sausalito California



Troy's Bocce Ball & Wine Bar - Morgan Hill, California



Palazzo Di Bocce - Lake Orion, Michigan



Union Hall - Brooklyn New York

