

History:

60 YEARS!!! WOW!! Can you believe that little old Windsor has an organization that has stood the test of time for 60 years? You do realize 60 years ago was 1963 right? So, one may ask themselves, what was the world like back in 1963? I certainly was not here to know! Honestly, our world was in a mess. The United States was heavily involved in the Vietnam War during that time period, and there was a major civil rights movement occurring in our home country. The assassination of our President, John F. Kennedy, took place on November 22nd of that year, and Lyndon B. Johnson took over the presidency. I cannot imagine the chaos that was occurring. However, here are some interesting facts about the year of 1963.

- A popular band named the “Beatles” released the song “I Want to Hold Your Hand”
- “The Birds” and “The Great Escape” were the top movies that year.
- Ed Sullivan came on TV on Sunday nights.
- Popular shows such as “Lassie” and “The Andy Griffith Show” were watched on TV
- The average price of a new car was \$3,233
- Bread was 22 cents
- A sirloin steak cost 89 cents/pound
- The average income was \$5,807
- The average new house was \$12,650
- The yellow smiley face was invented and put on everything that year to promote joy, peace, and optimism.
- In sports, Stan Musial retired from the Major Leagues and held 17 major records
- Mickey Mantle, hit potentially the longest homerun ever on May 22nd that year. It hit the top façade of Yankee Stadium, and barely missed going out of the stadium by a few inches. His homerun was estimated to have traveled 620’.
- Pete Rose was the National League Rookie of the Year.
- The Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series.
- And, Michael Jordan was born that year.

Meanwhile, in little old Windsor, NC, a group of men and women decided that the children from the area needed to have something to do during the summer. From the best information we have gathered, there were several key people that joined together to form the Windsor Little League. If we have left out anyone, please let us know. Here is the list:

- 1.) NC Highway Patrolmen – Tom Davis
- 2.) Windsor Postal Carrier – Eugene “Red” Price
- 3.) Soil & Water Conservationist – George Lewis Conner
- 4.) Service Station Owner – Hillary Hoggard
- 5.) Bank Official – Ira Cutrell
- 6.) Windsor Fire Chief – Bob Spivey
- 7.) Produce Processor CEO – Jack Goldstein
- 8.) Coulburn Lumber Company employee – Kenneth Sallenger
- 9.) Secretary of PPI – Janet Price

We will call this group the “Founding Fathers” of our organization, and they were from what some call, “The Greatest Generation”. This group of people believed strongly in ethics, God, family values, and community service. They channeled their free time in trying to provide for their community to create a fun experience for the kids in the community. Many people in the community jumped on board as the new endeavor started.

In the summer of 1963, the league started with a few 5-8 year old teams. They were named by the colors. The red team, blue team, and green team were some of the teams that played, and they played up until September that year. At the end of the 1963 season, the organization had 65 boys participate, and the organization had \$68.33 in the treasury.

According to the meeting minutes from September 4, 1963, Mr. Ira Cutrell was the original president of the league, but he resigned shortly after being elected. Due to his job, he did not feel that he had enough time to get the organization up and running. Therefore, a new president was elected, Mr. Hillary Hoggard. Mrs. Sarah Star Gillam was the secretary, and Mr. Cutrell was made the treasurer.

As the year went on, they learned about the Tar Heel Little League organization that the ballpark in Washington, NC was affiliated with. The members of this group met with the Director of the Tar Heel Little League, Mr. Tetterton and another gentleman from the Washington ballpark, Mr. Roach. After several meetings with these men, the Windsor Tarheel Little League was created. Mr. Tetterton and Mr. Roach helped our league to create and adopt the Constitution and By-Laws that our organization is based off of today. These documents were based off of the Washington league’s documents, and they are dated June 9th, 1964.

On February 25, 1964, just prior to the constitution being signed, the Windsor Fire Department leased the “Fireman’s Ball Park” to the league. The land for this ball park was originally deeded to the fire department from W.L. Powell. This ballpark was at the location of where the Martin Community College is located now, at the intersection of Granville and Blount Streets.

After the lease was formed, the official league was formed. There were original teams in the league: Powell & Stokes, Bell Brothers, Coulbourn Lumber Company, Town House, Obie White, and Spruill. The first game played after affiliation was on June 1st, 1964. The umpires “behind the plate” were paid \$5/night.

Just as the season got kicked off, an unfortunate event took place. The president of the league, Mr. Hillary Hoggard died on June 12th from a ruptured appendix. He never saw the first game played in the league he helped create. As a result, Mr. Ira Cutrell, was then made the President of the league.

As the local season ended, Powell & Stokes would win the league championship. Now, for those that are familiar with baseball statistics, listen to this. The Powell and Stokes team’s season batting average was .197. How did they ever win the championship with those stats? There must have been some good defense and pitching! The MVP of the team was Mr. Glenn Cutrell.

Also, the very first All-Star team was formed, and they played in a tournament in Washington, NC.

In 1965, while still playing at "Fireman's Ballpark", the first PA system was bought from Mr. TJ Jernigan's radio and TV store. Also, the Windsor Fire Department extended the lease for another year for \$1.

In 1967, Mr. Tom Davis brought the following information before the Executive Council. He said that there is 5 acres of land behind AE Bowen's Wholesale that belonged to Rascoe Co. and TJ Heckstall. They would be willing to lease the land to the Windsor Tar Heel Little League for \$1/year with the option to lease it for 5 more years. A motion was made by Mr. Bob Spivey to acquire this land, and it was seconded by Mr. Red Price. The motion carried and so that was the beginning of the ballpark where we are at today.

Later that year in 1967, the community had several work days to get the land fixed for the new park. The bleachers were moved to the new location. The lights were erected around the fields. Many donations were collected from parents and businesses. Mr. Ernest Byrd donated the very first light pole for the league!

Also in 1967, Mr. Ab Braddy, a teacher at the high school and Keith Braddy's dad, made a motion to have a baseball league for the younger boys. Mr. Tom Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Civic League was then formed, and all the teams were sponsored by the local civic organizations. The team sponsors were the Veteran's Club, Rotary Club, Lion's Club, and Windsor Firemen.

In the November meeting of 1967, there were some initial discussions about having a softball league for the girls of the community.

Over the next few months, a lot of work took place, and on March 5, 1968, the two new fields were deemed "ready to play". These fields being the Little League field and the Junior League field. There was a committee formed at this time to build a road to the ballpark, and the committee chairman was Mr. Tom Davis. This committee included the following people: Raleigh White, Bill Castelloe, Jerry Herald, Mark Hoggard, George Cowand, Milton Tadlock, Joe Leggett, Peter Rascoe, Collins Cooper, Wilbur Cobb, Bill White, Dalton Rose, Jim Tarkington, and David Jeanette.

During the initial season at the new park in 1968, Deans Hoggard agreed to run the concession stand for \$6/night. At the end of the 1968 season, the treasury had \$1,499.37 in it.

Also in 1968, the Senior League had their first all-star team and consisted of 16-18 year olds. The King and Queen Competition started this year also, and Gwen Ward was crowned the Queen!

In 1969, Mrs. Edith Williford was elected the VP of the Softball league. This is when the softball league started to form.

In 1970, Reva Cobb took over the Softball VP position. Edith Williford, Jack Curlings, and Reva Cobb were all on the Softball sponsor recruitment team.

In 1971, there was some brief discussion about building a new field for the softball leagues, but did not gain much traction. Also, there was some discussion about the Senior Baseball League moving to Aulander since Marsh Chevrolet was now a sponsor. However, the logistics became problematic, so it was decided that the games would continue to be played in Windsor.

In 1972, the Windsor Fire Department gave up their sponsorship in the Civic League because they could not find anyone to take over the team. The team then became Eubanks Grocery. Since this was private business and all sponsors were no longer civic organizations, the league became known as the "Farm League".

In 1972, the softball teams were Askewville Lions, Little Mint, Jaycettes, and Southeaster Timber Co.

In 1973, Tom Davis became the president of the league.

In 1974, Ann Spivey became the Softball VP. At this point in time, there were 4 teams in the Farm League, 6 teams in the Little League, 4 teams in the Junior League, 3 teams in the Senior League, and 4 teams in the Softball League.

In 1975, Tom Davis was still the President. However, on September 2nd, 1975, Mr. Tom Davis performed a routine traffic stop being that he was a highway patrolmen. Unfortunately, the routine traffic stop turned into a tragic situation, as he was shot and killed. This was a very tragic situation for our community, and Mr. Davis was a highly respected man in our community.

As for Davis Park, Mr. Red Price took over as the Interim President of the league. Mr. Price always spoke highly of Mr. Davis. He always said that "Tom could get anything that he wanted. He was the highway patrolman!" Tom had 2 sons that played through our organization, Mr. Tommy Davis and Mr. Billy Davis. Both were really good players, and Mr. Tommy Davis has been sponsoring a team in our Little League for a really long time.

In 1976, our organization had over 300 boys and girls playing in the league. Also, in April of 1976, the lease was extended for 10 more years, and was signed by JP Rascoe Jr., Nancy Rascoe, Louise Fearing, Martha & Francis Gillam, and Lewis T (Buck) & Lois Ann Rascoe. Also, Sandra Phelps reported that there was interest in starting 2 more softball teams.

In 1977, there was 331 participants in the league and 21 teams. The operating expense of the league was roughly \$10,000. The Junior League and Senior League became sanctioned by the Babe Ruth Organization.

In 1978, the league continued to grow as more than 400 boys and girls played in the league. This was also the first year that the King and Queen ceremony included the Junior League. Mrs. Tammy White Perry was crowned the Queen and Mr. Rick Dawson was crowned the King. Also, in 1978, Bill Clough Ford became a sponsor in the Farm League, replacing Mitchell Grocery.

On March 22, 1978, Mr. Gilbert Leggett made a motion to build a new ball field for the softball league. The motion was seconded and carried. That's when the construction of the small field, known as the "Farm League" field was started. "Buck" Rascoe was in charge of getting the trees pushed off the area for the field, and George Lewis Conner was responsible for laying off the tentative field. Clyde and Harold Anders were asked to get prices on new lights for the field, and Kenneth Bryant was asked to check on the poles for the field. Tommy Davis was responsible for the fencing, and it was installed for \$1,600. The lights for the new field were \$47 each. After the field was constructed, Mr. Billy Davis would serve as the softball umpire.

From this point on, the fields would serve as the foundation for our leagues to play on. Many kids have played in our organization. We also have had many good players represent our community at the All-Star competitions, and several players have gone on to compete at the college level.

As for All-Stars, our baseball and softball teams have won several district championships in all divisions. Probably, the most notable All-Star team is the 2007 14 and under Softball team. They won the District, State, Regional, and World Championship in the Babe Ruth Organization! The team won 28 games in a row!