

## *Vinny Grillo*



The name **Vinny Grillo** is synonymous with the game of golf in Norwalk. For the past 31 years, since 1965, Grillo has been the head golf professional at Oak Hills, Norwalk's public golf course.

During that time, Grillo has instructed numerous golfers in town as well as many well-known pros. In fact, he says his greatest thrill in sports was working under the tutelage of Ernest Jones, who Grillo calls one of the greatest golf teachers of all time, and mastering his method, which he passed on to his own students.

The 64-year-old Grillo has been involved with golf almost his entire life. A native of New Rochelle, NY, Grillo was a member of the New Rochelle High School golf team from 1948-'52, ending his standout scholastic career with being named captain of the team. He later attended nearby Iona College.

Then after returning from Korea in 1954, Grillo, appropriately enough, was assigned to the Fort Dix Golf Course for his last six months of service and was in charge of all facilities there.

That brief training apparently prepared him for what was ahead as he would work as a golf pro for the next 48 years. He was at the Wykagyl Country Club from 1948-'57, followed by three years at Fenway Country Club from 1958-'60, and then at both Birchwood Country Club in Westport as well as the City Athletic Club in Manhattan during the winters from 1960-'65, before arriving at Oak Hills.

But Grillo's influence in golf goes way beyond his job at the local links. He was the founder of the popular Junior Golf Program at Oak Hills, a city-wide program in schools in which he enlisted 19 pros to teach the sport to youngsters. He also coached golf at Central Catholic High School in Norwalk in the late 1970s.

Grillo, a father of four and grandfather of three, is also a member of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.