

## *Jim Ellis*



**J**im Ellis is a highly respected sports official, both on and off the field. On the field, Jim has umpired baseball and softball games at both the high school and college level for 25 years, as well as football for 22 years. Off the field, he is involved as an executive in sports organizations spanning officiating, coaching, and administration.

After graduating from Norwalk High School, Jim divided his time between his two loves — sports and firefighting. He played football with the Cranbury Panthers and Aces before moving up to the Spring Hill Tigers. He is still closely identified with Spring Hill as a treasurer of the executive committee and a member of the Anthony "Tony" Reda Memorial Athletic Award committee.

Retiring from active sports, he coached and umpired in the Cranbury and Brien McMahon Babe Ruth Leagues, before embarking on a serious career of officiating in baseball, football, and softball.

Jim is a retired captain of the Norwalk Fire Department, after 33 years, but he is anything but retired as an official, working high school and college games in baseball and football as well as girls' softball. He is the first president and co-founder of the Norwalk Umpire's Association, a member and past district representative of District #4, Fairfield County Football Officials Association, and a member of the Connecticut Collegiate Softball Umpires Association.

Jim has served as umpire in chief for many state, regional, and national softball tournaments, and numbers most of the nearby colleges among those for whom he has officiated. Some of these include Yale, Army, University of Bridgeport, Fairfield University, American International College, and Sacred Heart.

An active member of the Norwalk Old Timers executive committee for many years, he has served two terms as president.

Jim and his wife Mary live at 17 Winnipauk Drive in Norwalk. They have three children and two grandchildren.