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Spring 1 2026, Vol. 30 No. 2



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18 **Gaylord, Michigan**
Easy to Get to, Easy to Love

22 **Kentucky Trifecta**
Golf, Bourbon, and Horses

28 **Wisconsin's Lac La Belle**
A Terrific Short Course is Soon to be Unveiled



Cover and above: Lac La Belle

- 5 Opening Shot**
- 6 The Good Stuff**
You Know You Want It
- 8 Instruction**
Drill, Baby, Drill
- 10 Chicago Proud**
A Life Lived on the Front Lines
- 12 Equipment**
A Revolution in Golf Training
- 14 Sweet Home Chicago**
News from In and Around Chicagoland
- 26 Destinations**
Troon Lodge
- 32 Destinations**
Harborside, a South Side Gem
- 34 Apparel**
This is The Way
- 37 GOLFChicago**
Map and Directory
- 46 Final Putt**
Find Your Super Power

There is electricity that fills the air in Chicago this time of year. It's not just the receding snow or the cautious first blooms; it's the arrival of Masters week. For those of us in the Midwest, the sight of the pristine greens at Augusta National serves as the official starting gun for our own season. It's the moment we trade the hitting bays for the first tee, shaking off the winter rust and embracing the perennial optimism that this year, the game will feel just a little bit easier.

On top of that, the national golf scene has been anything but quiet. Most notably the ongoing drama with Tiger Woods and, on a happier note, Gary Woodland's victory at the Houston Open. Woodland, whose last Tour victory came in 2019, is two years post recovery from brain surgery. His battles with PTSD are widely known, thanks to his openness of his own personal struggles, and Houston really was a win for the ages.

Local Heroes and National Stages

This spring, that optimism is fueled by some incredible local talent. We are keeping a close eye on our area Drive, Chip and Putt winners as they head to Georgia. Watching these young sticks compete on a national stage at Augusta is a testament to the strength of the junior programs right here in our backyard. You can read more about them later in this issue in our Sweet Home Chicago Department.

Our community is also defined by the remarkable individuals who walk our fairways. This month, we're honored to share a human-interest story on Brian Baker. A U.S. Veteran and 30-year Skokie Police officer who is now in charge of keeping Chicagoans of the Jewish faith safe, Brian's journey highlights the restorative power of the game and the discipline it shares with a life of service.

Refining the Motion

On the technical side, we are diving into a move that many amateurs overlook: the hip sway in the downswing, courtesy of GOLFTEC Orland Park teaching professional Ariel Jagmin. While "sway" is often treated as a four-letter word in golf, a controlled lateral shift is essential for proper pressure transfer and power. Ariel breaks down how to time this move to ensure you're hitting down on the ball with conviction and offers some fun drills to keep yourself moving towards the target.

Beyond the Windy City: Spring Travel

If you're looking to get a head start on the season with a road trip, we've scouted some premier destinations, including our cover story on The Club at Lac La Belle. Established in 1896, it carries the prestige of being one of Wisconsin's oldest golf cathedrals, once serving as a summer playground for the elite "yachting and equestrian set" of Chicago and Milwaukee. Its storied fairways have hosted early U.S. Open champions and legends of the hickory-shaft era.

As the resort looks toward its 130th anniversary, the 2026 opening of "Uncle Henry's Backyard"—a creative 9-hole short course—further solidifies its evolution into a premiere golf destination that balances its turn-of-the-century heritage with innovative, world-class playability.

Additional travel adventures this month will take us to the land of bourbon and birdies as we explore the perfect pairing of Kentucky's finest distilleries and its undulating bluegrass fairways. Finally, we make a return visit to Gaylord, Michigan and see why this northern hub remains one of the most incredible "golf clusters" in the country.

The wait is over, Chicago. Grab your sticks—it's time to play..

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Green with Envy

Puma always brings the goods in April, and the 30904 Collection for 2026 is phenomenal. 30904 being the zip code in Augusta, of course. We love this rope hat, complete with its peach logo and "Georgia on my Mind," stitching. This old school snap back is for any age. **\$38** www.pumagolf.com



Peach Fuzz

Bridgestone Golf once again delivers for the first major of the year with its limited "Peach Reserve" lineup. This collection includes its TOUR B RX golf balls with a commemorative logo for 2026 and some distinctive, yet unmistakably green, packaging. **\$59.99** www.bridgestonegolf.com



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Under Armour continues to innovate in the golf shoe category, and the new UA Tour Halo Spikeless is the latest and greatest. This light yet stable spikeless shoe has a waterproof lower and is breathable even in the warmest climates. Available in four color ways. **\$150** www.underarmour.com



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Using Your Hips to Unlock Your Swing

In golf, low point refers to the absolute lowest spot in the arc of the golf swing. It is the exact moment the clubhead reaches its maximum depth before starting its upward ascent.

While most golfers focus on the point of impact (where the club hits the ball), the low point is a separate measurement that determines the quality of your ball striking.

Why is your low point so crucial? Because it's the difference between that perfectly crisp shot and a fat or thinned shot.

Here are four of the drills that I use to help people improve their golf swing.

Hip Sway Drill

By focusing on increasing proper hip sway, golfers can develop better control throughout the motion, and hit the ground in front of the ball.

One key area I work on is how the trail leg finishes, encouraging players to use it to help push their body forward toward the target. This movement promotes a more efficient weight shift and helps direct the sway toward the target instead of drifting away from it. Many golfers struggle with keeping their lower body active, so this drill reinforces how important the trail side is in generating forward motion and balance.

For players who struggle with their body angles, particularly at P8 (just after impact and the shaft is pointing towards the target), I like to introduce

a drill where they hold the clubface pointing up toward the ceiling during half swings. This encourages better control of the clubface and helps prevent excessive breakdown in the wrists and posture. It also gives players a better awareness of where the club is throughout the swing, which is something many golfers lack.

One of the most common issues I see in students is a lack of control, especially when it comes to swing length and tempo. Many players simply do not realize how far they are taking the club back or through.

To address this, I use cameras to provide immediate visual feedback. I have my students perform waist-high to waist-high swings only, focusing on staying compact and controlled. After each swing, I ask them where they think they stopped the club. Most are surprised to see that they have gone well beyond their intended positions, often swinging over their head or dropping too low past their waist. This drill is extremely effective in helping students understand and value control, particularly with their wrists and shoulder bends (bending shoulders backwards, as if their chest is pointing towards the sky rather than to the ground).

Door Frame Drill

This is done without a club and helps players feel how their shoulders should rotate while maintaining proper weight

distribution toward the lead side, or target side. By holding on to a door frame and practicing the motion, golfers can build awareness of how their upper body and lower body should work together.

Step Into It Drill

This helps transition from the top of the swing and creates that lateral "re-centering" move toward the target. It is another one of the most effective ways to feel the proper sequence.

This drill helps convert a "sway" into more of a "shift" (a lateral move toward the target) that leads the downswing. It also uses momentum to force your lower body to lead the way.

The Setup: Take your normal stance with a mid-iron, but bring your lead foot (the left foot for a right-hander) back so it is touching your trail foot.

The Backswing: Start your backswing normally. As the club reaches the top of the swing, you should feel your weight centered over your trail leg.

The Move: Before the club begins its descent, take a small step (about four to six inches) with your lead foot toward the target.

The Trigger: Plant that lead foot firmly. That "plant" is the signal for your hips to begin moving laterally toward the target.

The Finish: Swing through to a full finish, ensuring your chest is facing the target and almost all your weight is on your lead side.



Wall Bump Drill

If you aren't at the range, stand with your lead hip about two to three inches away from a wall.

Take a slow backswing. Now, the first move of your downswing should be your lead hip "bumping" the wall before your hands even move even an inch downward. This teaches you that the downswing starts from the ground up, not with the shoulders.

Overall, these drills are simple but highly effective in helping golfers develop better control, balance, and consistency in their swing.

Ariel Jagmin is a PGA Associate and Certified Professional Coach teaching at GOLFTec in Orland Park. Born and raised Chicago, Ariel has over 15 years of experience teaching, club fitting, and coaching golfers of all skill levels. Ariel went to the University of St. Francis where she played collegiate golf for all four years. After college, Ariel moved to Naples, Florida, and studied under PGA Master Professionals, and then moved into the Professional Golfers' Management Program. Ariel has earned several Outstanding Achievement Awards in golf instruction and has taught more than 10,000 lessons.

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A Life in Service, A Game for Joy: How One Man Found His Peace on the Course

Most golfers teeing it up on the first tee at Bittersweet Golf Club in Gurnee worry about wind, swing thoughts, or the out-of-bounds stakes down the left side.

Brian Baker, on the other hand, has spent the past three decades worrying about much higher stakes: extremist rallies turning violent, manhunts for armed suspects, threats against synagogues, intelligence work in Afghanistan, and the safety of Chicago's Jewish community.

Stepping onto the tee, Baker doesn't look like the kind of golfer who scares easily. He has spent 23 years in the Army Reserve, three decades with the Skokie Police Department—including three years as Chief of Police—and now serves as Director of Security Operations for the Jewish United Fund (JUF) in Chicago.

For him, golf is less a test of nerve and more a physical and mental puzzle. Consider it a reward for surviving a life lived on the front lines of history.

From Cornfields to Clearances

Brian grew up far from suburban Chicago fairways in the small farming town of Aledo, near the Illinois-Iowa border. It was a community where diversity meant corn and soybeans. His grandfather farmed the land, and his father worked both the family farm and a local grain elevator. Life followed the rhythms of the soil.

"I loved being outside," Brian recalls. "Hunting, sports—anything outdoors." Military service wasn't a childhood dream so much as an opportunity that appeared at the right time. At Iowa State University, where he majored in agricultural business, a fraternity brother in ROTC suggested he sit in on a class. He liked it and never looked back.

He eventually commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence. Simultaneously, his academic interests led him toward the financial side of agriculture; he earned his Series 3 license and landed a job at the Mercantile Exchange in Chicago. On paper, his path was set: an ag-business major trading futures at the Merc.

But it took just six months for Brian to realize it wasn't for him ... rising at

4:30 a.m. to work as a runner on the trading floor, surrounded by people waiting years for a promotion just to answer phones. When his Top Secret clearance finally came through, he walked away from the Merc, headed to military intelligence training in Arizona, and closed that chapter of his life.

Family, Northbrook, and Law Enforcement

While in college Brian was introduced to a whole new world vastly different from Aledo. "That opened my eyes and led me to focus on the futures exchange and move to Chicago. I didn't meet anyone Jewish until college," he says. "Where I grew up, there were very few people who weren't white and rural."

After military training, Brian moved back to the Chicago area and worked in the insurance business. He continued serving in the Army Reserve with the 12th Special Forces Group in Arlington Heights. There, he met several police officers who encouraged him to test for the force. In 1994, he was hired by the Skokie Police Department.

In 2000, six years into his policing career, the Ku Klux Klan held a rally in Skokie, echoing the earlier legal battles and planned Nazi marches that had made the village famous in the 1970s. For Brian, it was a first close-up look at organized hate in America.

"I'd never seen hate like that in person," he says.

9/11 and the Call-Up

By September 11, 2001, Brian was a Sergeant in the Investigations Division. He watched the towers fall and called Jen—the schoolteacher he was dating, now his wife—to warn her about the coming days. When she asked if he'd have to go, he told her there was "no way."

Thirty days later, his Army Reserve unit was mobilized.

He was sent to Fort Bragg, home to Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), and eventually deployed to Masirah, Oman, and Bagram, Afghanistan. He spent months performing intelligence work in a war that the U.S. military still expected to be short. When his mobi-

lization ended, the Army asked him to stay. Brian looked at his children—then four and six—and chose to go home. "That was the right decision," he says.

SWAT and the Fox Lake Manhunt

Back in Skokie, Brian joined the village SWAT team and became part of NIPAS (Northern Illinois Police Alarm System), a massive mutual-aid network. As a team commander, he responded to high-risk warrants and major incidents across the region.

One of the most high-profile cases was the 2015 death of Fox Lake officer Joe Gliniewicz. Brian ran the search operation for three suspects in a massive manhunt. However, something felt off.

It eventually came to light that Gliniewicz had staged the scene to cover up misconduct and died by suicide. "It infuriated me," Brian says. "We put people at risk. If they had shared their doubts earlier, we could have made different decisions."

A New Mission: Protecting the Community

After 30 years in Skokie, Brian reached retirement eligibility. He could have walked away, played more golf, and focused on his pension. Instead, a meeting with the Jewish United Fund (JUF) changed his trajectory. He was moved by JUF's social services and community support.

Today, as Director of Security Operations for JUF, Brian oversees security for 20 properties, including Jewish community centers and senior living facilities, and provides consultations for synagogues across Chicago. He started in January 2024, just months after the October 7 attacks on Israel.

"What I saw was an entire community on edge," he says. "Jews here were asking, 'Are we safe going to synagogue? Are our kids safe at Jewish schools?'"

Shortly after joining, Brian traveled to Israel with a security delegation. He was struck by the resilience of the people living near the Gaza border and the sophisticated technology used by Israeli police. "They live under constant threat, and still they're trying to live normal lives," he says.

Golf: The Quiet Counterbalance

Despite the intensity of his career, golf has remained a steady thread in Brian's life. He didn't grow up with the game; he was a multi-sport athlete who picked up clubs later in life. What draws him to the course are the same things that drew him to the fields of Aledo: being outdoors and the pursuit of a challenge.

"I think the hardest thing in sports is hitting a good golf shot," he laughs. "I'd love to get to a point where I play at a level where I feel satisfied—then

I can just enjoy everything else about the game."

Family is also central to his time on the links. His oldest son, Matthew, is a scratch golfer and the Director of Hockey for the RecPlex in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. His youngest son, Jack, is currently playing junior hockey for the Long Beach Sharks in New York, and his daughter Jessica is a pediatric nurse in Michigan who previously worked in the trauma-heavy PICU at the University of Chicago.

When he isn't on the fairway, Brian is often on his fishing boat on the Chain O'Lakes. "Fishing is incredibly relaxing," he says. "It's a lot like golf—you're focused, and the rest of the world gets a little quieter."

The Unbroken Thread

Now in his early 60s, Brian looks ahead to a retirement filled with more fishing and, hopefully, convincing his wife to join him on the golf course. When he reflects on his journey—from the farm to Afghanistan, from the Skokie Police

Department, SWAT command, to JUF—he sees a single theme.

"It's been a life of service," he says. "The military, the police, and now protecting the Jewish community—it's all about doing something bigger than yourself. I get a lot of satisfaction out of that."

That sense of perspective is why Brian remains calm on the tee at Bittersweet. After a career spent managing life-and-death crises, a tough lie or a missed putt isn't real pressure. On his worst day on the course, no one is calling SWAT—and that makes every round a victory.

Editor's Note: In addition to showing up each week for instruction at GOLFTEC in Vernon Hills, Brian participated last summer in Pine Meadow Golf Club's golf outing for veterans. The course also runs a six-week PGA HOPE program that provides complimentary instruction to our nation's veterans. Pine Meadow, along with numerous area courses, will participate in the program once again this season. Vets can register via www.ipga.com or by calling the Illinois PGA.



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Cog Hill Events

April 24th: Toptracer Night (Harbour Town). Two-person scramble, \$70 per player. This spring event includes Toptracer golf, drink ticket, appetizers, and prize entry.

May 4th and 5th: 36-hole Senior Championship. Played on courses 1 and 3. Cost is \$139 per golfer.

For more information go to www.coghilgolf.com.

Cantigny Golf

Cinco de Mayo Scramble on May 3rd. Two-person scramble includes tacos and cerveza at the turn and a mexi-can-themed buffet after your round. Cost is \$325 per team.

PAR-TEE on the Par 3 Friday series begins on Friday May 8th. Played on the Cantigny Youth Links, this block party offers an open bar and consists of two-person teams. Scramble format using three clubs. Register at www.cantignygolf.com. \$180 per team.

Balmoral Woods

Will County Amateur Championship on May 2nd and 3rd. \$175 fee includes your round, lunch, and range balls on both days. A free practice round may be booked in advance. A cart may be reserved on the day of play at an extra cost. More information at www.balmoralwoods.com.

Chicago Sends Four to Augusta for Drive, Chip & Putt Finals

Four area youths passed through three separate stages of qualifiers to punch their tickets to the 2026 Drive, Chip & Putt competition at Augusta National in April. The Illinois PGA administered nine local qualifiers in the Chicagoland area with participation of over 1,000 youngsters.

Patricia Kittivat will represent the Girls 7 to 9 category. Carter Bird will represent Boys 14 to 15. Vihaan Patel will represent Boys 10 to 11. And Lucy Wietel will represent Girls 10 to 11.

The National Finals will be played on Sunday, April 5th. The event, to be broadcast live on the Golf Channel, is scheduled one week before the expected final round of the Masters Tournament.

"I'm really excited to be heading to Augusta National and competing against the best qualifiers from across the country," said Bird.

Wietel, who represented Chicagoland at Augusta National last year, gave some sound advice to her colleagues, "Introduce yourself to the people who wear green jackets" she laughed. Those green-jacketed attendees to the event are Augusta National members, many of whom are past winners, titans of industry, politicians, or celebrities.

The Drive, Chip & Putt competition will feature 80 participants (40 boys and 40 girls) who qualified for the event. Each will show off his/her ability in three core golf skills. Local qualifying for next year's event will begin in May.

For more information, visit www.drivechipandputt.com.



A Vital Fundraiser for Evans Scholars

The Evans Scholars Invitational, a premier Korn Ferry Tour event, returns to The Glen Club in Glenview from July 23-26, 2026. This tournament serves as a vital fundraiser for the Evans Scholars Foundation, which awards full tuition and housing scholarships to hardworking young caddies.

Registration is now open for over 400 positions. For a \$65 fee (a \$300 value), volunteers receive a Peter Millar polo, a tournament hat, a clear branded bag, and weekly grounds access.

Fans can join the Priority Ticket Program to secure spots early. Step up your experience with an Inside the Ropes Experience. Complimentary admission offered to youth (15 and under with a ticket-holding adult), and military personnel. Pro-Am and Sponsorship opportunities are available as well. Businesses can engage through the SWAG Pro-Am, with a dedicated foursome. Sponsorship opportunities offer high-visibility branding and exclusive "Inside the Ropes" experiences.

Surf over to www.esinvitational.com for more info.

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Three Turns: Chicago Golfers Make Easy Trek to The Gaylord Golf Mecca

You'll barely even need a map to make the 360-mile trip from Chicago to your ultimate golf getaway. It only takes a few turns from Chicago to find the Gaylord Golf Mecca's collection of destination golf in the heart of northern Michigan. An easy route taking I-94, U.S. 131 and finally M-32 rolls you right into America's Summer Golf Mecca.

"I think the Chicago-area golfer realizes they can make it here in part of a day, and then they find a numerous quality golf courses and great lodging options at prices more affordable than other destinations," says Paul Beachnau, executive director of the unique cooperative marketing group of 16 courses and 21 lodging partners. "If they time it right, they can squeeze in a round on the same day they arrive, too."

"Chicago is one of our top markets and seems to keep growing for us," Beachnau says. "Our website is visited by golfers from the Chicago area on a regular basis. They know us, visit often, and recognize a great value when they see it."

Located in the Eastern Time Zone, the Mecca offers long getaway summer days with play until 9 p.m. or later, and comfortable average temperatures in the mid-70s across a great green expanse. They have been doing it for 39 years with cooperation, vision, investment, and hard work. The goal: to be the premier U.S. summer golf destination with all price points and levels of luxury requested or required.

"The reason the Mecca works and continues to grow is a really great group of owners, managers, and golf professionals who have vision and believe in working together in destination marketing," says Beachnau, the Mecca leader since its inception in 1987.

"We keep getting better, too. You continue to see Mecca members improve their golf courses and properties with renovations, and investment in additions and facilities. Chicago golfers know quality in golf, they find a great deal of it here, and are sometimes surprised at the affordability."

J.T. Aude is the head golf professional at Gaylord Golf Club, one of the

original Mecca members that recently celebrated 100 years as a club and over 50 years at its current site. He says his course, just one of the offerings of the Mecca, promises a country club experience for the day, including greens that compare with top private courses in the Midwest.

"Just come check us out," he says. "It's the thing we are known for. Golfers from everywhere, including Chicago, tell us we have the best greens in northern Michigan."

Aude says the Mecca, which includes three flagship resorts in Treetops Resort, Otsego Resort and

Garland Lodge & Golf Resort, and nine properties total, is unique because it's a wide variety of partners who share the same goal of getting golfers to the Gaylord area.

"Together we all strive to offer quality and quantity. Together, we have unmatched price points, getaway golf, classic golf, resort golf, great country club style golf, and some of the best-conditioned courses in the country. While we are competitors, we know what's best for all of us is to work together to be the best summer golf destination we can be," he says.

The Mecca's attractions include: **Black Bear Golf Course** - a new member in 2025, with new owners that have revitalized this scenic property.

Black Lake Golf Club - an award-winning Rees Jones-designed course and regular recipient of golf accolades.

Gaylord Golf Club - with its classic pristine greens and private club conditions, this course has charmed golfers for decades.

Garland Lodge & Golf Resort - home to four 18-hole golf courses and



Black Lake Golf Club



Indian River Golf Club



Gaylord Golf Club



Garland The Sawyer



Treetops Hole #7



Treetops Resort - Masterpiece



Michaywe Pines Course



Otsego Resort - The Tribute

the newly debuted in 2025 short course, The Sawyer. 2026 marks 75 years as a golf destination.

Indian River Golf Club - a 100-year classic which bills itself accurately as the friendliest golf course in the north.

Lakes of the North Golf Course - known as a get-away-from-it-all spot with an affordable hidden-gem golf course.

Michaywe Pines Course - home to classic and competitive golf for 53 years, Michaywe has hosted the Michigan Amateur Championship and remains a favorite for GAM events.

Otsego Resort - just minutes from downtown Gaylord and credited with creating the community's "Alpine" theme, this resort features two courses, including the highly acclaimed Tribute Golf Course.

Treetops Resort - with its unrivaled five championship golf courses including the only Tom Fazio design in Michigan and the famous Rick Smith-designed Threetops Par 3 course.

Golfers from the Chicago area who prefer not to drive have options, too. The Mecca partners with the Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City, which has opened new national markets and has multiple direct flights to and from Chicago.

"It's a quick flight from Chicago to Traverse City, then a scenic drive of about an hour," Beachnau says.

Gaylord, fondly known as the Alpine Village, started its journey to being a U.S. golf destination in 1987. Harry Melling, an auto industry supplier and NASCAR team owner who had earlier purchased a ski resort on the edge of town, unveiled the Masterpiece, the last major golf course designed by the legendary architect, Robert Trent Jones Sr.

The award-winning work by Jones attracted golfers to Treetops Resort, but also quickly put Gaylord in the national golf conversation as a must-stop in the Midwest.

When golfers stop, they find uncommon variety in golf fashioned by not only Jones, but multiple highly regarded architects, including Tom Fazio, whose only Michigan design, the Premier, is at Treetops.

Rick Smith, best known for working on the swings of Phil Mickelson and several other top pros, picked the brains of Jones and Fazio when he was the director of golf at Treetops and then designed Signature, Tradition, and Threetops.

Wilfred Reid, a Michigan Golf Hall of Fame member who designed over 20 courses in the state as well as the Olympic Club in San Francisco, did original design work that remains a part of the classic Indian River Golf Club, since redesigned by Warner Bowen.

Rees Jones, one of Robert Trent Jones' sons, created one of his personal favorites and an award-winning course at Black Lake Golf Club.

Rick Robbins and PGA Tour player and NBC golf analyst Gary Koch built The Tribute at Otsego Resort, a tribute to northern Michigan golf and vistas.

The list goes on and the golf they created is just three turns from Chicago in a peaceful, tranquil setting.

"It's an easy trip for Chicago drivers, and they like what they find," Beachnau says.

Check out gaylordgolfmecca.com or call 800-345-8621 to start your get-away plans. Find flights at tvairport.com. Or drive ... it's only a few turns.



Treetops Signature

KENTUCKY TRIFECTA Golf, Bourbon, and Horses

By Danny and Alice Scott



Kentucky has long been known for horses and bourbon. Add great golf and you have the ultimate travel trifecta. A short five-to-six-hour road trip from Chicago, just east of Louisville, the neighboring destinations of Georgetown and Shelby County delight with surprising authenticity. It's like driving in a Hallmark movie with miles of horse farms and bluegrass blooming in the spring. Equestrian estates sit beside challenging fairways, distilleries pour liquid heritage, and every meal comes with a side of storytelling. Pack your clubs, bring a healthy appreciation for bourbon, and prepare to horse around.

Georgetown: Where Bourbon was Born

Georgetown fancies itself the birthplace of bourbon. When we received an invitation to their "Genesis Experience," we weren't entirely sure what that meant until we arrived at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott and discovered a welcome bag that was equal parts clever and curious. Along with hats, snacks, fans, and bourbon miniatures was a Baptist hymnal. We looked at each other and said in unison, "Whaaat?" We flipped it open to find after a few legitimate songs, the pages had been hollowed out to reveal flasks of Elijah Craig bourbon.

The joke carried a bit of historical reverence as Elijah Craig, a Baptist minister in the late 1700s, is often credited with discovering the magic of charred oak barrels, an innovation that helped define present day bourbon.

The minister-to-bourbon pipeline still exists. Jeremy Atwood spent twenty years as a Baptist minister before becoming what he cheerfully calls a "bourbon geek." Today he serves as Director of Education for Heaven Hill Distillery, which manages more than 60 spirit brands. While dining at Local Feed, on bourbon

wagyu meatloaf, no less, Jeremy walked us through the history and flavor profiles before the evening's main event.

The Genesis Experience turned out to be the release of a private bourbon barrel selected from Heaven Hill and bottled exclusively for Georgetown. Locals lined up along Main Street before filing through em + me Boutique and into the adjacent Maime's Fine Wine and Gifts for a sip poured by Jeremy himself. The bottles sold out faster than a Sunday sermon.

Righteous Golf

Bourbon may fuel the evenings, but golf fills the days. Cherry Blossom Golf and Country Club features beautifully conditioned fairways, mature landscaping, and a memorable signature hole: the par-3 12th, where a peninsula green guarded by water and a fountain demands attention for its beauty and precise positioning. Before or after your round, the clubhouse burger topped with Kentucky beer cheese is practically mandatory.

For a relaxed walk on bluegrass, head over to Canewood Golf Course. Designed by Danny McQueen, the layout winds through the Canewood community where homes act as informal galleries and the pace feels pleasantly unhurried. Fairways are tree lined with ponds and glimpses of Elkhorn Creek adding to the serenity. A charming colonial brick home serves as the clubhouse where PGA Director Joe Davis welcomes golfers with a small-town warmth.

Small Town, Big Flavor

Georgetown's culinary scene satisfies the foodie within, starting at Fava's Restaurant, a Main Street diner dating back to 1910. The atmosphere is nostalgic, and the homemade pies are dangerously good.

Beer lovers appreciate Country Boy Brewing near the Toyota plant, where brews like Cougar's Bait and Shotgun Wedding pair nicely with pub fare. Downtown, Chickapin Brewing serves rotating craft beers and wood-fired pizza amid games and sports screens.

For a more refined evening, Chef Rodney at Rodney's on Broadway slips out of his kitchen to greet diners who rave about the lobster bisque and lamb chops so divine they earned a nod from *Southern Living*. His secret, "You have to reinvent yourself every day."



University of Louisville Golf Club Photo: B-Quiet Media



And when the night is still young, head to Slainte Public House where the bar often fills with Irish horsemen and local musicians serenade the garden crowd.

Horses and Heart

In Georgetown, horses are everywhere – along the roads, across the pastures, and embedded in the culture. Kentucky Horse Park is like a Sea World for horses, with live breeds, shows, and a museum honoring horse history. Former Director John Nicholson now serves as President and CEO of Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Home, a serene haven for racing’s legends, founded by Michael Blowen, once the film critic for the *Boston Globe*. He and his wife, Diane White, also a renowned *Boston Globe* columnist and former *Golf Digest* editor, live among the noble athletes, including 32-year-old Silver Charm. Horses graze and romp in wide paddocks, showered with love and carrots from devoted staff and visitors. John notes, “The love and reverence for the eternal bond that we as humans have with this splendid creature brings us together and allows us to dwell more on our common humanity than those other things that attempt to divide us.” Amen.

Shelby County: The Saddlehorse Capital

In the heart of Kentucky, just a short drive away, Shelby County stakes its claim as the Saddlehorse Capital of the World, where tradition rides alongside progress. Base camp for exploring can be the new Candlewood Suites Shelbyville. Ask for a room overlooking the Weissinger Hills Golf Course and you’ll be viewing one of the area’s most whimsical landmarks: a tall water tower painted with galloping horses like a carousel in the sky. It’s impossible not to smile.

Great Golf

Weissinger Hills Golf Course is named for the landowner who built Kentucky’s largest barn, first for mules, then dairy cows. Today it’s the cart barn, clubhouse, and pro shop where Bryan Sloan, for his 23rd season, takes pride in the course’s renovations and loyal patronage.

The tower carousel is visible from most holes in a pastoral setting with rustling trees and birds singing to match the cadence of cicadas. Number ten’s drive must cross a pond which skirts to the green for a pretty target hole, while another fairway borders a field of hay, no doubt for horses. With our “Butthead” upside down horse headcover riding along, we embraced its tag line: Kick up your heels and have nothing “butt” fun.

Clear Creek Golf is part of Shelby County Parks and Rec with a fun nine-hole track on a first-come first-serve basis, plus a full practice facility, simulator, and lessons.

The University of Louisville Golf Club in Simpsonville is an exclusive experience either by invitation or by investing in one of the few remaining memberships. Conditions are immaculate on the top-tier layout where many Championships have been held through the years. The fierce Cardinal logo is everywhere, even inside the cups, while real life cardinals are whistling Dixie.

Bourbon: Ground to Glass

Nearby Jephtha Creed is a family-run operation born from a fifth-generation farming dad’s vision with a chemist mom at the helm and their daughter Autumn’s marketing flair. From ground to glass, everything’s grown on-site. It’s all in the family for patrons as well with lawn games and concerts, like the Bacon Brothers, delayed due to Kevin’s new film role.

Stay tuned for two more distilleries in Shelby’s secret development.

Dining Kentucky Style

Even international visitors link Kentucky to fried chicken thanks to global KFCs and Shelbyville is proud of Claudia Sanders Dinner House, named for the Colonel’s wife and founded by the pair. Though fires and corporate changes have altered parts of the landmark, its Southern hospitality and classic recipes remain firmly intact. And yes, the chicken still earns the phrase “finger licking good.”

New eateries are also popping up during an economic renaissance. The Paddock Coffee, Eats, and Gatherings is owned by Awake Ministries, with portraits of recent graduates from their rehab program framed on the wall. At Weathered Oak Farm in Simpsonville, soft Christian music serenades service with a smile and small tables are draped in cloth with a fresh bouquet of peonies. And at McKinley’s Café on Main Street, you can’t resist adding a pastry from the case to carry out. Supper up at the brand-new Parlay Sports Bar on Main Street with several sports screens. Split the buffalo pasta with side salads and you’re set.

Or dine at Bell House, an old Kentucky home, circa 1902, near the Shelby Community Theater and more downtown exploration. Saunter through the museum, antique shops, and duck into the Polka Dotted Pineapple boutique to try on a fancy Derby hat.

Horses that Heal

Beyond racing and recreation, horses also serve a powerful therapeutic role in Shelby County. At Horse Sensing, recovering addicts and veterans with PTSD rebuild confidence by learning horse grooming and care. Trainers, therapists and volunteers guide participants through programs that reconnect people with purpose.

Continue horsing around with a tour of Léttleiki Icelandics, home to 90 horses, affectionately called “Fabios” for their flowing manes. After glimpsing them in Iceland, a close encounter was a must. This sturdy, gentle breed is known for their kind temperament and smooth “tölt” gait.



An unusual gift with a surprise inside!



Weissinger Hills Golf Course Photo: Chris Nicholson Jr



Weissinger Hills Golf Course Photo: Luke Douglas

The Midwest's Premier Luxury Resort is the Lodge of Four Seasons

Lake Ozark, Missouri, is often celebrated as a summer playground for boating, fishing, and high-energy lake life. Yet beyond the water, the region has quietly evolved into one of the Midwest's premier golf destinations, where dramatic terrain meets thoughtfully designed courses.

Since 1964, the Lodge of Four Seasons has anchored the famed Horseshoe Bend area as Missouri's only full-service golf resort. For a true stay-and-play experience—where accommodations, dining, and amenities match the quality of the golf—The Lodge, with its two standout courses, The Cove and The Ridge, stands apart.

The Ozark Setting

Golf in the Lake of the Ozarks is defined by rolling hills, limestone bluffs, and dense hardwood forests. The creation of the lake introduced sweeping water vistas into this rugged terrain, producing layouts that are scenic, secluded, and strategically demanding.

The Cove: Precision and Drama

The Cove Golf Course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr., is the resort's flagship and a pure expression of Ozark golf. A shot-maker's course, it favors precision over power, weaving through tight fairways with constant interaction with the lake.

Though modest in length at roughly 6,550 yards, The Cove plays tougher than expected due to 72 bunkers, frequent water hazards, and significant elevation changes. Signature holes include the par-3 13th, requiring a precise iron shot over a deep cove—equal parts beauty and intimidation.

The experience is immersive, challenging, and meticulously maintained, keeping golfers engaged from first tee to final green.

The Ridge: Elevation and Playability

In contrast, The Ridge Golf Course offers a more forgiving yet equally dramatic experience. Designed by Ken Killian, it features wider fairways and empha-

sizes playability, but its defining trait is elevation.

Towering downhill drives and demanding uphill approaches create constant visual drama. Holes like the opening par 4 immediately showcase steep vertical drops, while elevated tee boxes reveal sweeping views of the lake and surrounding hills.

The Ridge is exhilarating and slightly less penal, making it ideal for a second round or mixed-skill groups.

Stay-and-Play Excellence

What elevates The Lodge is the seamless integration of golf with resort luxury. Packages coordinate lodging and tee times, elimi-

nating logistical headaches. The property is accessible by car (about 6.5 hours from Chicago) or via nearby regional airports.

Amenities are extensive. Spa Kyoto, one of the Midwest's top-rated spas, offers restorative treatments tailored for golfers. Dining ranges from the upscale HK's Restaurant & Bar—with premium steaks and lake views—to casual outdoor spaces like the Fire & Ice Patio.

Beyond golf, the resort features pools, a full-service marina, and activities from boating to hiking at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. For groups and events, the Lodge offers 354 rooms and over 65,000 square feet of event space, including scenic wedding venues.

The Verdict

By pairing two distinct championship courses—the precision-driven Cove and the elevation-rich Ridge—with full-service amenities and a stunning lakeside setting, the Lodge of Four Seasons has firmly established itself as a Midwest golf destination.

For your next buddy trip, couples getaway, or corporate retreat, Lake Ozark delivers a compelling alternative to coastal resorts—combining memorable golf with equally memorable hospitality.

For more information, visit 4seasonsresort.com.



The Cove



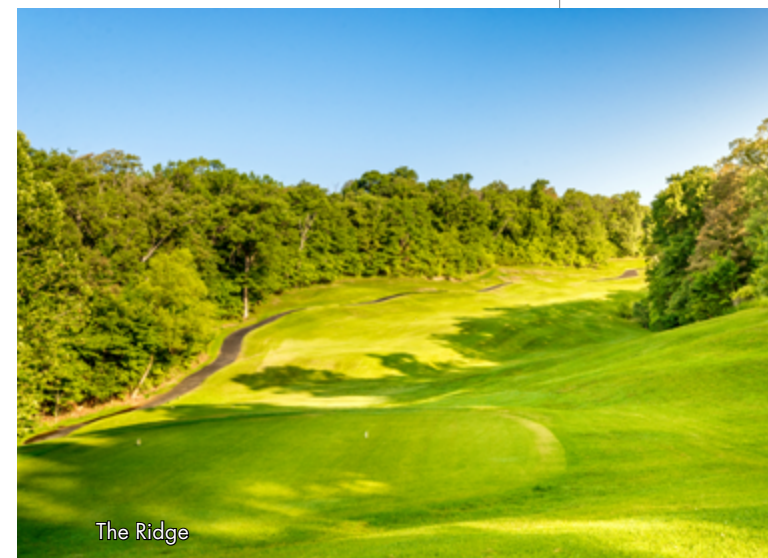
The Cove



The Cove



The Ridge



The Ridge



Some way, somehow, The Club at Lac La Belle finds a way to make old things new again. Only six years ago, this turn-of-the 20th century club in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, was reimagined to become one of the Midwest's premier public golf courses. This May, that legacy will be expanded when a terrific par-3 short course named Uncle Henry's Backyard is unveiled to the public. Sure, it's a made-from-scratch brand-spankin' new nine-hole layout. But designer Craig Haltom spent over two years building a course that pays homage to both its classic big brother course, but also to the time-honored courses of Golden Age designers, including Donald Ross and Alister MacKenzie. Indeed, the new course's name recognizes the property's roots as "Uncle Henry" references one of

Uncle Henry's Backyard Adds More Luster to The Club at Lac La Belle *by Neal Kotlarek*

the club's original founding members, Henry Shufeldt. More on his background later in the story.

Given a relatively flat piece of property adjacent to the championship course, Haltom (who designed and built the championship course) worked with the club's superintendent, Jimmy Cavezza, to construct a course with sloping, elevated greens, grassy mounds, and a few swirling bunkers. Another facet of Uncle Henry's Backyard is that there are no tee markers, to thus allow holes to play as short as 35 yards and as long as 200 yards. This open tee concept not only ensures a challenge for low handicappers, it also welcomes junior golfers, group outings, leagues, and family foursomes to play the nine holes at lengths that fit their skill sets.

"Junior golfers are an important aspect of Uncle Henry's Backyard," said Owner (Family-Owned) & General Manager Tyler Morse. "While we expect many of our guests to play the course before or after their rounds on our championship course, we will strongly encourage young players and members of the community to come out and experience our property. In fact, green fees for juniors are set at a heavily discounted rate to ensure affordability."

Given the challenge to build a fun, pretty and interesting nine holes featuring "wow holes," Haltom created a plan and then used a three-dimensional "computer game" generated by Cavezza to place contours across the property. While at one time the course was laid out as 12 holes, the transition to nine allowed for better tee and green placement. It took two workers and six weeks of earth-moving to set the course's template. Perfect weather throughout last summer allowed construction to move ahead quickly, with grass planted and in full growth mode throughout October. The end-result: a course that will be spectacular and remarkably mature by mid-spring.

"We are really excited to open the course up and get feedback from our members and guests," said Morse. "This addition to the Club at Lac La Belle gives the property a broader scope and will introduce our amenities to a broader audience. In this spirit of fun—and to support the 'backyard concept' of the course—we are looking to add outdoor games to play around the new clubhouse built at the top of the hill overlooking Uncle Henry's Backyard. Bocci, croquet,



maybe even a badminton court. We will figure all that out in the coming weeks and months.”

Morse said that the course’s unusual name comes from a fascinating backstory that intertwines Henry Shufeldt’s two nephews with his work to fund and build Lac La Belle Country Club in Oconomowoc on land adjacent to his property. Motivated by Henry’s vision and a makeshift course in his backyard, nephews Chandler and Walter Egan founded the nearby Oconomowoc Country Club. Only a few years later, the two became wildly successful competitive golfers. Chandler won two U.S. Amateur championships in 1904 and 1905. He also won the 1906 Oconomowoc Open. Shufeldt’s work with another successful businessman named Montgomery Ward led to the design and construction of Lac La Belle Country Club. The course was an immediate success and even drew interest from across the pond. Two of the club’s first golf professionals, Alex Smith and Willie Anderson, combined to win six U.S. Open championships in the early 1900s.

While Lac La Belle Country Club proceeded to maintain a long and storied history as a classic layout, the course was laid out over a wetlands area that inevitably became waterlogged following heavy rains. In 2018, the club was purchased by the Morse family who brought in Oliphant Golf Management to oversee a complete re-imagining and, most importantly, re-engineering of the 18 holes. Fairways were elevated two to three feet using 150,000 cubic yards of dirt and capped with 15 inches of sand. A new irrigation system was installed. Nuisance trees were removed. Finally, adjacent land was purchased so that four new holes (Nos. 1 through 4) could be routed away from areas that were chronically wet.

The end result of all that work combined with the creative genius of the aforementioned Craig Haltom and his team at Oliphant Golf Construction is a brilliant new course characterized by challenging dogleg par 4s and par 5s, scenic par 3s and magnificently rolling, multi-tiered green complexes. “The course combines the best of parkland golf with Scottish links influences,” said Owner (Family-Owned) & General Manager Tyler Morse. “This is not a vanilla course,” he continued. “We think The Club at Lac La Belle offers a unique golfing experience that includes a whole bunch of ‘wow factor’ holes.” Morse cited the 192-yard 4th hole as an example. The hole calls for a tee shot soaring over wetlands and between eight sprawling bunkers to a 50-yard-long green featuring a huge false front. Hit short of the green here and expect your shot to roll back into the fringe. When the flagstick is on the back right, a punchbowl backside of the green will literally funnel your tee shots back toward the hole. Make a hole-in-one here and be rewarded with a chance at an 1896 British one-penny.

Head PGA Professional Clint Higgins points out that the large, undulating greens are a game within a game.



“At a lot of courses, you are pretty much assured of par once you get on the putting surfaces in regulation,” he said. “This course calls for precise placement of the approach shot to give yourself a decent chance at a birdie. Land on the wrong tier or in an awkward spot away from the flagstick and you’ve got to make a bunch of mental calculations to hit your putt.”

My favorite hole on the course is the 500-yard No. 16. This tricky dogleg-left par 5 calls for a drive either over gigantic bunkers protecting the landing area or the much safer bailout zone to the right. From there, the second shot is either a straight-forward layup or a heroic 3-wood toward an airstrip landing-sized green. Reach the front side and be rewarded with a 40-foot kick forward toward the flagstick by the severely angled green.

The 9th hole, called North Pole, is a tribute to the course’s origins. The only remaining hole from the original design, this par 4 was the northerly most hole on the course. It features a green perched on a knoll with a dramatic back-to-front slope. Leave your approach too far past the hole and face a daunting putt that could very well end up off the green and perhaps back down the fairway.

No visit to Lac La Belle is complete without a visit to the clubhouse’s mini-museum honoring the club’s historic roots. Enjoy photos, artifacts, trophies and news clippings of America’s introduction to golf. As it turns out, golf professionals at the time hopped from state to state and course to course in seeking purses. Oconomowoc was a second home to Milwaukee beer barons and Chicago business magnates who were intrigued by this new game and its trappings. They hired Smith, on his way to becoming one of the finest players in America, to give them lessons in 1900. While Smith and Anderson played against one another for the national championship, the museum prominently displays a classic photo of the two taken on the Lac La Belle grounds in front of a tree that some historians conjecture still grows near the clubhouse.

To further commemorate the competition between these two legends, the clubhouse is home to the Rivalry Pub, a bar and restaurant serving up sumptuous food and cold beverages. On Fridays, the club hosts a spectacular fish fry that also features a putting competition on an amazing practice green. “Our assistant pro oversees a 15-hole putting challenge that includes prizes for the winner,” said Morse.

Located 40 miles west of Milwaukee, the Club at Lac La Belle can be played as a day trip by Chicagoans. Ample accommodations are also available nearby in the city of Oconomowoc for those looking to play the course twice. Morse said that plans are in-place to expand the offerings at the club, which include facilities to host parties, banquets, and weddings. “While the club enjoys an amazing past, we have a vision for the future that will make it even grander and more special,” added Morse.

For tee times and more information on The Club at Lac La Belle, visit www.clubatlaquelle.com.

Customer Experience Helps Harborside International Achieve Celebrity Status

Bear down, Brian Urlacher and Richard Dent. The par-317th hole on Harborside International's Starboard Course, which requires a middle iron to carry Lake Calumet, will bring even the meanest Chicago Bear to his knees.

Ask Wrigley Field tenant and Gold Glove center fielder Pete Crow-Armstrong, who's an expert at navigating winds off the Lakefront at his home park, about steering a white ball when a gust kicks up on either the Starboard or Port course.

Brett Hull, Jeremy Roenick, and Denis Savard know about shooting and scoring. When the Hockey Hall of Famers tee up shots at Harborside, however, their marksmanship is challenged. Carding a 5 can be as satisfying as scoring a goal five-hole.

Bob Greer started working at Harborside as a starter in 2002 and still commutes there from his home on Chicago's South Side at the age of 90. He remembers meeting Jim McMahon.

"He played there with no shoes on," Greer said with a laugh of the Bears' only Super Bowl-winning quarterback.

The list of who's—who who've had a hoot at Harborside is long. From dozens of former and current sports celebrities to dignitaries (aldermen Peter Chico and Anthony Beale, Illinois Secretaries of State past, Jesse White, and present, Alexi Giannoulas) to LPGA Hall of

Fame member Amy Alcott, the two Dick Nugent-designed courses offer a premier golf experience.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Starboard Course, which opened in 1996, a year after the Port course debuted. KemperSports, which is the second-largest golf management company in the U.S., has managed the property since 2013.

Located on Chicago's South Side, minutes from the Loop, Harborside's two public courses are links-style (no trees) and offer breathtaking views, including the Chicago skyline.

"There's not a day that I don't look forward to going there," said Dave Abrams, director of golf business development/client experience, who's in his sixth season at Harborside. "The topography is beautiful."

The Harborside experience is about more than just golf. Abrams said, in addition to TrueService (a core service culture and philosophy utilized by KemperSports) and hospitality, Harborside focuses on three essential elements: community, golf industry initiatives, and philanthropy.

Harborside boasts strong relationships with its two local aldermen, as well as more than a dozen high schools and colleges that call Harborside their home course. The list includes DePaul Prep, Walter Payton, Brother Rice, Chicago Latin, Chicago Lab, Jones Prep, and Francis Parker. Harborside

also has hosted the UIC women's team, Chicago State, DePaul and Roosevelt.

"We believe that is one of the most imperative sustainability pieces for the property," Abrams said. "By providing these young people with great experiences while they're there, whether it's practicing or playing, or even eating in our dining room, they will come back and become lifetime customers for us."

Harborside hosts more than 100 golf outings a year. About 40%, Abrams said, are private 501(c) non-profit organizations.

Of Harborside's three essential elements, it's philanthropy that Abrams calls "nearest and dearest to my heart." He has 30 years of experience serving on boards and helping organize golf outings for events that provide research funds for osteogenesis imperfecta (OI or brittle bone disease), cystic fibrosis, and others.

"When I started with Harborside and continued to grow the number of organizations that we could help, I felt as though I was in a place where I really belonged, because now we could help 40 organizations instead of just one, two, or three," Abrams said. "Having that fall into the business plan for Harborside has been a true pleasure for me and a labor of love."

He has more stories about Harborside and its successes of helping people than Urlacher and Dent have combined sacks.

There's the story of two brothers who created a golf outing after losing their brother to cystic fibrosis. In its first year, with Abrams guiding the brothers every step of the way, the outing sold out.

There's the story of a family that wanted to organize a golf outing after losing a loved one to a drug overdose. Abrams, per usual, sat on the committee, helping the family through the process.

A local Hospital raised more than \$250,000 in year one and the next year, the outing raised \$650,000.

Golf moves people. It humbles. Harborside may boast sculpted fairways, manicured greens and challenging pin placements, but its true beauty of bringing people together is what makes it more than just a spectacular place to play golf.

Harborside also hosts clinics, men's and women's leagues, wedding receptions, celebrations of life, proms and class reunions.

"Collectively, over this 30-year period, we have created a family of different elements that we can share and be proud of," Abrams said.

When Abrams serves as MC of an outing, he likes to share a mantra of his. "Golf," he tells those assembled in their golf carts, ready to be dispatched to their holes, "brings people together for the right reasons and the right causes."

In 2025, Abrams said Harborside assisted organizations in raising more than \$2 million in critical funds. "We're proud of that," he said. "We feel that those three elements [community, golf industry initiatives and philanthropy] along with TrueService and first-class hospitality are very essential for us and our success with our clients and our customers to thrive."

"We've got 30 [years] now, and we're looking forward to another 30."

Greer, who celebrated his 90th birthday in December, is one of the many employees who allow Abrams and Harborside to provide the best experience possible for people, whether famous or not. Abrams says Greer is at the course with him three hours in advance, at 5:30 a.m., on days when Harborside hosts an outing. "We're only as good as the people on our great team who invest [in] and help us," Abrams said.

Greer says working at Harborside has extended his life. Call it another example of golf bringing people together for the right reasons.

"I'm retired," Greer said. "And when you retire, you got to find something to do. You cannot sit on the porch and die. The main thing is to find something that you like. And you will get to 90."

Harborside is one-third of the way there.



Achieve Proper Alignment & Manage Pain for a Better Golf Game

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What We Do	How We Help Golfers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chiropractic Adjustments ✓ Spinal Decompression ✓ Massage Therapy ✓ Shockwave & Laser Therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reduce Pain ✓ Improve Mobility ✓ Decrease Inflammation ✓ Fix the Root Cause

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 Taylor Rehab & Disc Injury Center
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www.DRTAYLORREHAB.com

Not Stuffy. Not Flashy. Just Right: This is the Swannies Way

Every brand starts with a “this isn’t it” moment. For us, that moment happened on the course.

For a long time, golf style felt stuck. You either had the stuffy, “country club” look, stiff, overpriced, and a bit full of itself, or the new wave of loud, neon “look at me” gear that felt more like a costume than a sport. Neither felt like us. We just wanted clothes that felt natural.

Swannies started with a simple Midwest mindset: work hard, keep it simple, and don’t take yourself too seriously. We didn’t set out to reinvent the game overnight; we just wanted to make a polo you actually liked wearing, whether you were teeing off at 7 AM, grabbing a mid-round dog at the turn (our personal favorite part), or heading straight to a backyard BBQ.

We realized pretty quickly that we weren’t the only ones looking for something different. People wanted apparel

that respected the traditions of the game without being trapped by them. Because let’s be honest: modern life doesn’t happen in neat little categories. Your day is a mix of work, family, errands, and hopefully a quick nine holes. Your outfit should be able to keep up with all of it.

At Swannies, we believe your gear should move with your life, not interrupt it. We obsess over versatile fabrics and relaxed fits so you can look effortless without trying too hard. We’re made for the golfer who loves the game but doesn’t make it their entire personality, the ones who show up, play hard, and remember that golf is actually supposed to be fun.

As we look toward 2026, our mission hasn’t changed. We’re staying right in that sweet spot between the two extremes. Not stuffy, not over-the-top, just easy-going apparel that fits how you actually live. Because the best part of the round usually happens after the 18th green.



The Pat Crewneck from our Champions Bloom collection is the kind of layer you’ll reach for long after the final putt drops. Clean, classic, and built for easygoing comfort, it’s the perfect piece for cool spring mornings, late afternoon rounds, or post-round hangs. With a timeless fit and effortless style, the Pat Crewneck keeps things simple while letting the tradition of the season do the talking.



The Sunday Polo from our Champions Bloom Collection is built for the kind of rounds that turn into stories. Lightweight, breathable, and effortlessly polished, it brings a fresh take on classic golf style with a subtle floral edge that feels right at home from first tee to post-round drinks. It’s the piece you reach for when the stakes are low, the vibes are high, and looking dialed in without trying too hard is the only goal.



The Pimento Hat from our Champions Bloom collection serves up a little Southern flavor with a whole lot of style. Featuring a crisp two-tone design with a vintage rope detail and our playful pimento sandwich character front and center, it’s the perfect nod to golf’s most iconic spring traditions. Lightweight, comfortable, and made for long days on the course, this lid brings just the right mix of nostalgia and style to your game.



The Emblem Victory Hat from our Champions Bloom Collection is a nod to timeless tradition with a fresh springtime twist. Designed with a clean, classic fit and finished with a subtle embroidered emblem, it captures that feeling of walking up the 18th with everything on the line. Lightweight, easy to wear, and built for long days under the sun, it’s the kind of hat that looks just as good celebrating a win as it does chasing one.



CENTRAL MISSOURI'S LAKE OF THE OZARKS GOLF TRAIL

Where one great course leads to another!

This is no ordinary golf getaway.
This is an amazing golf experience...
This is The Lake of the Ozarks Golf Trail.
Book your Golf Trail getaway today!



LAKE OF THE OZARKS



THE BLUFFS CHANNAHON, IL EST. 1993

Located right off of Interstate 55 in Channahon, IL, Heritage Bluffs Golf Club, known as The Bluffs, offers both a challenge and composure across its rolling 166 acres.

Premiering in 2026, fully reimagined bunkers featuring Better Billy Bunker technology! This includes new bunkers, removed bunkers, and updated bunkers all for a better quality of play.

In addition to an award-winning course, The Bluffs also features a large all-grass practice range, putting green, new expanded chipping green and bunker, and a modern clubhouse.

The clubhouse is open 7 days a week and features a full dining room and bar as well as indoor golf simulators for year round fun!

Kentucky

continued from page 25

Foals are born in June and raised within the herd, untouched by humans for three years to foster natural development, all with registered Icelandic names like Petra and Ija. Visitors can observe, pet, trail ride, or train at Léttleiki.

More Courses, of Course

There is no shortage of golf in the Louisville region. On Chapel Road, The Quail Chase Golf Club has 27 holes designed by David Pfaff. Rolling through the woods over creeks and Kentucky blue grass, this is pure country golf, with no homes on the West course, except for the wildlife, deer, fox, and turkey. The East course has a few estates tucked in but out of play. It is the toughest of the three nines with blind narrow fairways carved out of the native forests, in contrast to the wide-open South course. The clubhouse is down home, understated with a friendly staff and members. It could be your new Kentucky home.

Heritage Hill Golf Club is a popular choice in Shepardsville, designed by Doug Beach, a former design associate of Jack Nicklaus. Its signature 18 delivers a powerful finish with a panoramic view from the hilltop tee box. The slim fairway ends with a pond protecting the front and left side of the green in an amphitheater setting with golfers staring for patrons on the clubhouse patio.

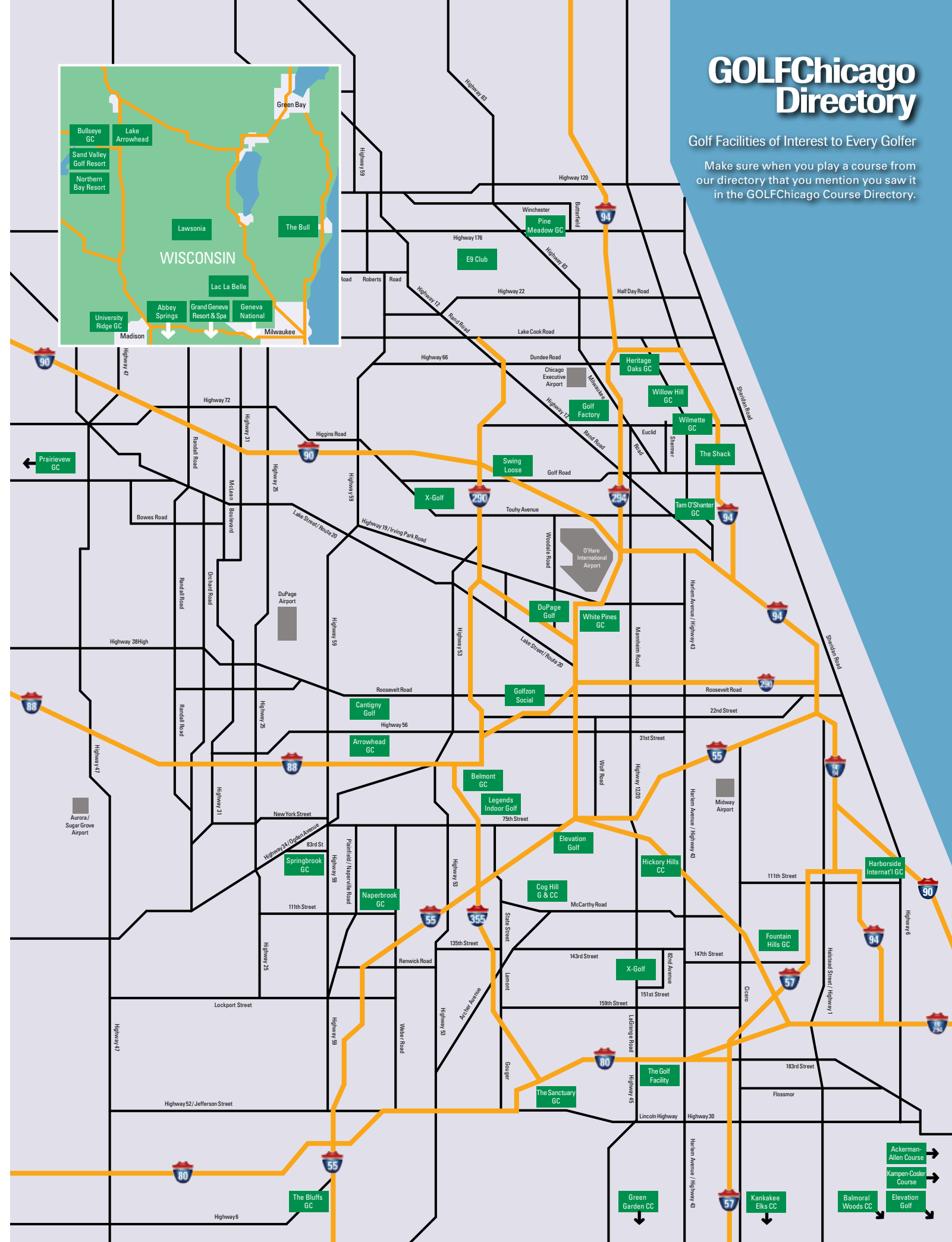
A little further south in Bardstown is My Old Kentucky Home State Park Golf Course, which opened in 1933. It's another nice walk in the woods with notoriously undulating greens, and just miles from Heaven Hill and Makers Mark where you can dip your personalized bottle in the red wax. Bourbon and birdies, girls, and boys.

A Kentucky Kind of Welcome

Between rounds of golf, glasses of bourbon and encounters with remarkable horses, Kentucky's hospitality is genuine. Everyone we met felt like someone we'd love to have as neighbors or friends. It's easy to see why so many are relocating there.

From Georgetown's bourbon-soaked storytelling to Shelby County's pastoral charm, it's a relaxing golf vacation. While flying in and out of Louisville International Airport is easy, gas prices are friendly and so are the green fees. Memories, as the saying goes, are priceless. So, head to Kentucky to horse around, tee it up and raise a glass, y'all.

www.georgetownky.com
www.visitshelbyky.com



GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

Make sure when you play a course from our directory that you mention you saw it in the GOLFChicago Course Directory.



Abbey Springs

262-275-6113
One Country Club Dr.
Fontana, WI 53125
abbeysprings.org
Abbey Springs has been rated 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest*. With spectacular views of Geneva Lake, Abbey Springs underwent a major green renovation in 2021, featuring state of the art 007 bent grass on all greens. Make your reservation at the web site above.



Arrowhead Golf Club

630-653-5800
26W151 Butterfield Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
arrowheadgolfclub.org
Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere.
Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par-72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



Avoda Golf

info@avodagolf.com
avodagolf.com
We're actively looking for coaches and fitters in the Chicago area to join the Avoda network.
Our Precision Fit System gives professionals access to a mobile, player-led fitting experience—designed to deliver game-changing results by tailoring clubs to each golfer's unique swing. It's built for coaches who want to elevate their client offering with a system that puts the player first.
Think you or your facility could be a great fit? Get in touch—Avoda is expanding in Chicago.



Balmoral Woods Golf Club

708-672-7448
26732 S. Balmoral Woods Dr.
Crete, IL 60417
balmoralwoods.com
Balmoral Woods offers a demanding, superbly conditioned, magnificent round of golf.
Laid out over 280 acres of wooded, rolling hills, the course will test the skill of golfers with its 6700-yard, 72.6 rated, 133-slope layout. It is a public 18-hole golf course, has hosted many local and state events and tournaments, and is the annual home of the Will County Amateur Championship. Check out our website for new rates, reservations, and more information. Follow us on Instagram for the latest updates and events.



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27W270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com
Part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Cantigny Golf opened in 1989 and is managed by KemperSports began a renovation of Cantigny's highly rated 27 holes in June 2024 with the Hillside nine, followed by the Woodside and Lakeside nines. Eighteen holes will remain open for play throughout the three-year project.
Cantigny Golf Academy offers TrackMan Range technology, installed in 2023, plus club fitting and repair services, junior clinics, private lessons, and climate-controlled hitting bays. Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole, par-3 course for families.



Chicago Park District Golf

Seven Amazing Golf Oases in the City
cpdgolf.com
Seven urban golf retreats, from "front row" stunners on Lake Michigan, to tucked-away gems in historic neighborhoods. Six golf courses – one 18-hole and six 9-hole tracks – and three full-service driving ranges. From the northside courses of Robert A. Black (9 holes), Sydney R. Marovitz (9) and Diversey Driving Range, to the westside's Columbus Park (9), and to three southside gems in Jackson Park (18), Marquette Park (9) and South Shore (9, and perhaps the best skyline shot of them all), you're never far away from golf paradise!



Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

866-264-4455
12294 Archer Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60439
coghillgolf.com
Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, a Jemsek Golf Facility, is a historic 72-hole public golf facility located 30 miles southwest of Chicago. The year-round facility includes a driving range equipped with lights and heated Toptracer stalls, two golf shops, patio dining, and a pavilion for events, along with a 280-seat banquet hall.
• Rated in "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" by *Golf Digest*
• 2020 GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation



Destination Geneva National

262-245-7000
1221 Geneva National Ave. S.
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
destinationgn.com
Experience Lake Geneva's ultimate golf getaway at Destination Geneva National. Play 54 championship holes by Palmer, Player, and Trevino, then unwind lakeside with cocktails, bocce, paddle boarding, and six unique dining spots. Stay in deluxe rooms, suites, or cottages, with every detail tailored—perfect for golf, camaraderie, and unforgettable memories.



Belmont Golf Club

630-963-1306
2420 Haddow Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
belmontgolfclub.org
The historic Belmont Golf Club is a scenic 9-hole par-36 course featuring mature trees, natural areas, elevation, and water hazards. A driving range with 24 hitting stations, a practice putting green, sand trap, and chipping area includes a 10-station covered shelter.



The Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888
24355 W. Bluff Rd.
Channahon, IL 60410
heritagebluffs.com
18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5,035 - 7,171
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing.
Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range, along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.



The Bull at Pinehurst Farms

262-467-1500
One Long Drive
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
golfthebull.com
The Bull is Wisconsin's only Jack Nicklaus Signature Design. With excellent conditions and Top 100 ratings, it's one of the best values in the Midwest. The layout features risk/reward holes that meander through broad meadows and tight woodlands, with rolling hills, deep ravines, large ponds, and elevation changes. Located less than an hour north of Milwaukee, it's only minutes from the Kohler courses at Whistling Straits and Blackwolf Run.



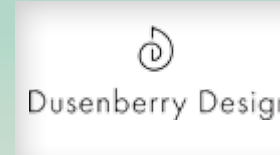
Bullseye Golf Club

715-423-2225
2800 Ridgewood Trail
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
bullseyegolfclub.com
Designed by Larry Packard featuring towering pines giving a feel of the Carolinas right in Central Wisconsin. The Wisconsin River provides a picturesque view for the finishing holes across our rolling terrain. Warm up before your round on our new 30,000 sq. ft. bent grass practice tee!



The Preserve at Oak Meadows

630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Addison, IL 60101
dupagegolf.com
After extensive renovations, The Preserve is a new 288-acre world-class 18-hole course, practice facility, and environmental haven—designed by Greg Martin.
• *Golf Digest* Green Star Award
• *Golf Inc.* Renovation of the Year
• *Golf Digest* Best Courses You Can Play
• ASGCA Design Excellence Award
The Preserve's location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.
Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com



Dusenberry Golf Course Design

Matthew Dusenberry,
Principal
dusenberrydesign.com
Dusenberry Design is a multi-disciplinary golf course design firm founded by award-winning designer Matthew Dusenberry in 2013. Our team specializes in land planning, golf course design, and construction supervision services for private clubs, real estate developers, resorts, and the public sector.



E9 Club

847-306-4423
25681 Hillview Ct.
Mundelein, IL 60060
e9clubs.com
E9 Club is the premier indoor golf and social club that revolutionized the trend in 24/7 indoor golf memberships. It's a club where the traditions of golf meet today's technology. Our members are attracted to the camaraderie and culture of belonging to a group of like-minded golf lovers, who share in the very nature of golf: it's competitive spirit, challenge for self improvement, and community of life-long friendships.



Elevation Golf

630-590-5105
810 Village Center Dr.
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
elevationus.com/collections/chicago
• Open to the Public
• Practice or Play
• Foresight and Trackman Simulators
• Over 50 Golf Courses Available
• Monthly Memberships Available
• Contact Us to Reserve Your Permanent Time
• Golf Leagues Available
You now have your choice of simulator rental. Make sure to make all selections before you book your simulator. In this order, please select location, resource, group size, reservation length, date, and time.





Elevation Golf

317-816-3111
Prairie View Golf Club
7000 Longest Drive
Carmel, IN 46033
elevationus.com/pages/indianapolis-1

- Open to the Public Year Round
- Indoor/Outdoor Academy at Prairie View GC
- Four Indoor/Outdoor Hitting Bays with Heaters for Offseason Use
- Three Indoor Simulators
- Trackman, Foresight, Uneekor, and About Golf Simulators
- Memberships Available

You now have your choice of hitting bay or simulator rental. Make sure to make all selections before you reserve. In this order, please select location, resource, group size, reservation length, date, and time.



Forest Preserve Golf

11 Fantastic Locations in Cook County, Illinois
forestpreservegolf.com

Boasting 11 (that's right, 11!) facilities in Chicago and surrounds, Cook County Forest Preserve Golf has terrific courses and driving ranges close to home. We pride ourselves on offering beautiful and challenging golf experiences at a reasonable price. From our championship Highland Woods (Hoffman Estates), to our famous golf test at George W. Dunne National (Oak Forest) – and all points between – we offer a mix of 18- and 9-hole golf for all skill levels, not far off the beaten path but with unbeatable seclusion, nature and value!



Fountain Hills Golf Club

708-388-4653
12601 S. Kedzie Ave.
Alsip, IL 60803
alsiparks.org

Fountain Hills Golf Club is a par-36 9-hole layout measuring 3,233 yards. It has a nice collection of golf holes, unique in character and strategy, making this course playable for the beginning golfer, with plenty of interest and challenge for the experienced player.

Additional amenities include a 30-station lighted driving range, practice putting green, sand trap, and chipping area, along with a 100-seat banquet hall. After your round unwind at our BackNine restaurant and bar.



Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswego Park District's fun and challenging public course, boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. This 6,925-yard par-72 course tests skills of all levels with well-positioned bunkers and water in play on 11 holes. Fox Bend has hosted three Illinois Opens, USGA Qualifiers, Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers, and is home to the annual Fox Bend Amateur.

Visit foxbendgolfcourse.com for more information or to book your next tee time. Visit Christina's Pub & Grill before or after your round to enjoy spacious outdoor seating with great course views and American fare done right!



Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

262-248-8811
7036 Grand Geneva Way
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
grandgeneva.com

Tee off on two award-winning 18-hole courses that make Grand Geneva Resort & Spa one of the Midwest's favorite golf destinations. Enjoy individual tee times offering dynamic pricing, private instruction led by certified PGA staff and fully customized group outings.



Green Garden Country Club

815-469-3350
9511 Manhattan-Monee Rd.
Frankfort, IL 60423
greengardencc.com

Green Garden Country Club features two 18-hole courses and one 9-hole course. Each course offers its own unique style of golf as well as a variety of scenery and challenges that makes the golf experience enjoyable for players of all levels.



Green Pro Golf Simulators

Serving all of the United States
info@greenprogolfsimulators.com
greenprogolfsimulators.com

Play on courses throughout the world, day or night, in any weather. Whether you're wanting to improve your game or just have fun with friends, we bring your golf sim concepts to life. No matter your space, purpose, or location, our experts can guide you to the golf sim bay of your dreams.

- Residential or Commercial
- Resorts
- Schools
- Golf courses
- Vacation homes
- Restaurants / Bars



Harborside International Golf Club

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East
Chicago, IL 60628
harborsidegolf.com

Harborside International Golf Center, home to the Port & Starboard Courses, is Chicago's home for golf. Located minutes from Chicago's Loop, Harborside offers a premier golf experience in the Chicagoland area. Harborside is the only facility with two of *Golfweek's* "Best Courses You Can Play in Illinois" and is home to an expansive practice facility. Harborside is owned by the Illinois International Port District and managed by KemperSports.



RightSize Adjustable Kids Putter

717-745-8524
goforitgolf.com

The RightSize Adjustable Putter is the ultimate all-in-one club for kids and families. With its patented extendable shaft, it grows with your child, eliminating the need for multiple putters. Perfect for mini golf, the basement, or the course. It's fun, durable, and easy to use!



The Golf Facility

708-694-4014
19031 Old LaGrange Rd.
Suite 200
Mokena, IL. 60448
thegolffacility.com

Golf Facility is an indoor golf club located in Mokena, Illinois, that hosts eight golf simulator bays powered by Foresight Sport's GC Hawk and FSX Play sim courses, a 750 square foot putting green powered by Puttview, a golf instruction room powered by V1 Sports high speed cameras, and V1 Sports teaching software. Finally, we host a state-of-the-art putting fitting studio powered by Quinetic who offers the #1 launch monitor for putting in the world. We have it all to grow your golf game of any level!



Golf Factory

224-248-8163
63 Randhurst Village Dr.
Mt Prospect, IL 60056
golfactory.golf

The Golf Factory is a 9000-square-foot indoor golf haven created by golfers for golfers. Our vibrant space boasts top-tier indoor golf technology, including 10 state-of-the-art Trackman golf simulators. With over 350 golf courses, games, video, and practice modes, our facility caters to everyone from beginners to seasoned players. Apart from personal enjoyment, Golf Factory is an ideal venue for parties and corporate events.



Golfzon Social

630-303-9454
3041 Butterfield Rd.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
golfzonsocial.com

With state-of-the-art simulator technology and hundreds of the most famous courses in the world (fancy a round at St. Andrews, Pebble Beach or beyond?), it's never too cold or hot outside to hit the links. Competitive? Connect with worldwide simulator tournaments, or join a local league. Recently renovated and with a delicious new menu and a fully-stocked bar, Golfzon Social is a great place for friendly round, a bite to eat and a tasty beverage.

Non-golfers are welcome too, as we have a wide array of fun games for every level of golf skill – especially newcomers.



Heritage Oaks Golf Club

847-291-2351
3535 Dundee Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60623
heritageoaksgc.com

Conveniently located between the Edens Expressway and Interstate 294, 30 minutes north of Chicago. Featuring 27 holes of tree-lined golf, a practice range equipped with TrackMan® technology, our golf academy, and indoor golf simulators, Heritage Oaks offers something for everyone. With the elevated Acorn Grill + Terrace overlooking courses certified by the National Audubon Society, Heritage Oaks Golf Club welcomes you for golf, for a meal, or for a timeless experience.



Hickory Hills Country Club

708-598-5900
8201 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
hhcountryclub.com

Located at the edge of Chicago and nestled within a lush oasis since 1917, Hickory Hills Country Club extends an invitation to a world-class retreat. Remarkably different in character, it has distinguished itself as a premier golf course from all the others in the area.

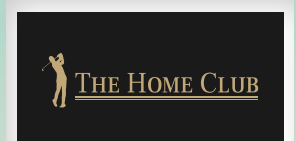
Massive glaciers once covered most of the Continental United States, and when they stopped advancing the accumulation of glacial debris created beautiful hilly areas called moraines, which have become the signature of our rippling fairways.



The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123
highlandsofelgin.com

The Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve-acre quarry lake. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole. The prairie-style clubhouse features an expanded golf shop, locker rooms, event rooms, and a full-scale food and beverage operation.



The Home Club

224-688-7887
john@thehomeclubsports.com
thehomeclubsports.com

The Home Club designs and installs custom golf simulators and premium putting greens for Chicagoland homes. As a locally-founded and independent company, we transform basements, garages, and backyards into high-performance golf spaces built for year-round practice and entertainment.





Kankakee Elks Country Club

815-937-9547
2283 Bittersweet Dr.
Saint Anne, IL 60964
elks golf627.com

The Kankakee Elks Country Club is an 18-hole par-72 course. It is one of Illinois' premier Langford @ Moreau design courses, featuring some of the best green complexes in Illinois, 40 miles south of Chicago along the beautiful Kankakee River with very affordable rates.

Chose from one of our four tees to accommodate all levels of play.

Driving range, chipping area, and putting green with newly remodeled bar and snack shop.



The Club at Lac La Belle

262-567-7833
info@clubatlaclabelle.com
clubatlaclabelle.com

The historic 1896 Club at Lac La Belle was recently named *Golf Digest's* 6th Most Fun Course to Play. Featuring an 18-hole championship course, 15-hole Flatstick putting course, and—new in 2026—Uncle Henry's Backyard, a 9-hole par-3 course!



Lake Arrowhead

715-325-2929
1195 Apache Ln.
Nekoosa, WI 54457
lakearrowheadgolf.com

Located in the heart of Central Wisconsin, Lake Arrowhead boasts two of the Midwest's elite 18-hole golf courses. Here you have the rare opportunity to enjoy not just one, but two 4½ star championship golf courses in one incredible experience.



Lawsonia

920-294-3320
W2615 S. Valley View Dr.
Green Lake, WI 54941
lawsonvia.com

Lawsonia offers two distinctly different 18-hole layouts of magnificent design, astounding panoramas, and timeless charm. Experience Langford and Moreau's nationally ranked Links course and the renovated Woodlands course for the ultimate Wisconsin golf trip at a great value. Stay and Play packages with on-site lodging are available along with the full-service bar and restaurant, Langford's Pub.



PrairieView Golf Club

815-234-4653
6734 N. German Church Rd.
Byron, IL 61010
prairieviewgolf.com

Recognized by many suburban golfers as a hidden gem, PrairieView Golf Club boasts beautiful views of restored dolomite prairie land that is well worth a short drive west out to Bryon, Ill. (south of Rockford). With challenging greens, dramatic bunkering, and supreme conditioning, the course will test the skills and nerves of every golfer. PrairieView is also home to PrairieFire Golf & Grill, a year-round Toptracer Range® with heated bays, lounge seating, and great food and drink selections.



Purdue's Ackerman-Allen Course

765-494-3139
West Lafayette, IN
purduegolf.com

The Ackerman-Allen Course, a Pete Dye design, is an 18-hole, parkland-style, par-72 championship golf course featuring large bent-grass greens, fairways and tees. The layout presents a challenge for golfers of all abilities with rolling hills, tree-lined fairways, white sand bunkers, and minimal water hazards. Ackerman-Allen offers five sets of tees with the championship tees playing over 7,500 yards and the forward tees playing at 5,300 yards.



Purdue's Kampen-Cosler Course

765-494-3139
West Lafayette, IN
purduegolf.com

The Kampen-Cosler Course, a Pete Dye design, is an 18-hole, links-style, par-72 championship course features large bent-grass greens, fairways, and tees. The layout is a challenge for golfers of all abilities with vast sand bunkers, native grasslands, ponds, and a natural celery bog. There are five sets of tees with the championship tees playing over 7,400 yards and the forward tees at 5,300 yards.

Kampen-Cosler, one of the top collegiate courses in the nation, has been awarded 4.5 stars on *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play." It receives high marks as one of the most difficult golf courses in Indiana.



The Sanctuary Golf Course

815-462-4653 (462-GOLF)
485 North Marley Rd.
New Lenox, IL 60451
golf sanctuary.com

Explore The Sanctuary Golf Course. Spanning 6,900 yards it offers a challenging experience. Also available is the Toptracer practice facility with 20 heated bays, along with a 30-station grass area and state-of-the-art short game and putting green. Unwind after your round at our Bunker Bar and Grill.



Legends Indoor Golf

2091 63rd St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
legendsindoorgolf.com

Welcome to Legends Indoor Golf, where you can keep your swing sharp and play some of the world's most beautiful golf courses during the cold Midwest off-season. We offer an immersive golfing experience that caters to players of all abilities.

Play like a Legend whether you choose a bucket list course, play fun sporty courses, enjoy endless practice/skill challenges, fire up a scramble "best ball," jump into a league, or play short courses/par 3s. Master your swing or just eat, drink, and relax ... we have what golfers want and need.

Season runs from November 1 to April 13 (dates vary based on spring weather).

OPEN FOR THE SEASON! Book Your Bay Today!



Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. 111th St.
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills and wide fairways. Challenges in the way of ponds, a double green, and hidden bunkers await golfers of all levels. Additional amenities include a recently updated and expanded practice area featuring a one-acre turf range tee, large practice green, and practice bunker. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio. Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.



Northern Bay Resort and Marina

608-339-2090 ext. 2
1844 20th Ave.
Arkdale, WI 54613
northernbayresort.com

Play where the pros play.

Experience our unique replica golf course inspired by the most celebrated holes in the game and situated on the shores of Castle Rock Lake.

Northern Bay offers all the amenities of a Wisconsin Dells resort without all the hustle and bustle. Bring your golf buddies to play our one-of-a-kind replica course, or relax around the lake with your family. However you choose to stay, we look forward to greeting you at Northern Bay. Get started and book your tee time.



Pine Meadow Golf Club

847-566-4653
1 Pine Meadow Ln.
Mundelein, IL 60060
pinemeadowgc.com

Pine Meadow Golf Club is known for our beautiful 220 acres of fairways, greens, pine trees, and meadow areas.

Golfers of all abilities and ages enjoy the serene setting and fun playable design of the "Pine."

The Pine, due to its challenging design, has been host to all types of competitive events ranging from PGA Jr. League, to Men's and Women's State Ams, to Illinois PGA Championships.

This is truly a golf facility for everyone.



Sand Valley

888-398-8671
1697 Leopold Way
Nekoosa, WI 54457
sandvalley.com

Sand Valley is a year-round destination settled upon 12,000 acres of prehistoric dunes in the Central Sands of Wisconsin. At Sand Valley, residents and guests alike will find six world-class golf courses designed by Coore & Crenshaw, Tom Doak, David McLay Kidd, C.B. Macdonald, and Jim Craig, friendly and welcoming staff, and a community of golf and outdoor enthusiasts drawn to the raw beauty and serenity of the vast Wisconsin Wilderness.



The Shack Indoor Golf

847-904-2905
1717 Chestnut Ave.
Glenview, IL 60025
theshackgolfclub.com

The Shack Indoor Golf Club features TrackMan® simulator technology for an immersive golf experience. Enjoy delicious food and drinks from our full bar while practicing your swing. Perfect for socializing or improving your game, come and tee off at our state-of-the-art facility.



Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd St.
Naperville, IL 60564
golfnaperville.org

Springbrook GC commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. This 18-hole parkland-style championship course was renovated in 2022, and is expected to reopen in mid-year of 2023 with exciting updates including new tees and bunkers. Work on your swing at the one-acre turf practice tee, or fine tune your short game at the large practice putting green or two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



Swannies Golf

Devyn Olds, PGA
Swannies Territory
Sales Representative for
Illinois, Wisconsin, Western
Iowa, and St. Louis
413-329-0200
Devyn@swannies.co
swannies.co

Swannies Golf brings laid-back confidence to the course with bold prints, premium comfort, and a touch of irreverence. Headquartered in Minnesota, the brand is now found in nearly 3,000 golf courses worldwide—blending performance and personality for golfers who believe fun should always be in play.





Swing Loose Indoor Golf

847-886-2770
Erick Aguilar, erick.aguilar@gmail.com
info.bwc@swingloosegolf.com
2000 Center Drive
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
swingloosegolf.com

Swing Loose Indoor Golf in Hoffman Estates delivers premier TrackMan simulator experiences in a vibrant, social setting. Perfect for leagues, lessons, parties, and corporate events, our spacious bays, multi-sport games, and welcoming atmosphere make visits unforgettable. Swing Loose, Swing Often!



Tam O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344
6700 W. Howard St.
Niles, IL 60714
golftam.com

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament.

Today, a public 9-hole par-33 course remains, maintained with the goal of providing playing conditions reminiscent of those Hogan, Palmer, and Nicklaus enjoyed years ago. Swing out for a scenic round and walk in the footsteps of legends at Tam O'Shanter!

Year-round instruction available!



University Ridge Golf Course

608-845-7700
9002 County Rd. PD
Madison, WI 53593
universityridge.com

Designed by Robert Trent Jones II, University Ridge Golf Course is the home golf course of the Wisconsin Badgers and yours to play without a costly membership. University Ridge has hosted marquee events from the PGA Tour Champions, NCAA, Big Ten, and is the annual host of the WIAA boy's and girl's high school state championships.

Play where the Badgers play! University Ridge!



White Pines Golf Club

630-766-0304
500 W. Jefferson St.
Bensenville, IL 60106
whitepinesgolf.com

The White Pines Golf Club's two 18-hole championship courses, situated on more than 260 acres, have been a favorite among Chicago-area golfers since 1928. The public course, owned and operated by the Bensenville Park District, is an excellent choice for players of all skill levels. Whether it's an evening at the lighted driving range, a casual round with friends, an outing or special event, White Pines Golf Club offers the perfect setting to get "away from it all." Enjoy food and drink at 37 Bar & Grill. Take advantage of Monday-Thursday tee time specials and book online.



Willow Hill Golf Course

847-480-7888
1350 Willow Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60062
willowhillgolfcourse.com

Willow Hill Golf Course is a Scottish links-style par-35 9-hole course with amazing views of Chicago's skyline and breathtaking sunsets. The course and clubhouse have recently undergone major renovations. New tee boxes and renovated bunkers have been added throughout. A brand new 35-station all grass driving range opened in late spring of 2026. Expansive new patios surround the clubhouse, and a new kitchen ensures that after your round, you can enjoy a top-shelf drink and delicious food from our new restaurant, Landmark on the Hill!



Wilmette Golf Club

847-256-9777
3900 Fairway Dr.
Wilmette, IL 60091
golfwilmette.com

Wilmette Golf Club is the closest 18-hole facility north of Chicago. This par-70 course will test all skill levels with the purest greens on the North Shore. A 30-station driving range and large putting green are available for working on your game. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the patio overlooking the 18th green at The Lawn. Contact us directly to book your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials by booking online at www.golfwilmette.com.



X-Golf Orland Park

708-966-0486
15876 S. LaGrange Rd.
Orland Park, IL 60462
xgolforlandpark.com

We offer eight state-of-the-art simulators which are designed for golfers at all stages of their game. Whether you want to sharpen your game to gain that competitive edge or are just starting out and want to learn new skills without battling the outdoors, this is the place for you. The simulators can give you data about your swing and ball striking to improve your game and along with that, we can help you take your game to the next level by having a PGA-qualified Professional on our team.



X-Golf Schaumburg

847-380-1848
1100 American Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
xgolf-schaumburg.com

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility. Whether a tee time or PGA Professional lesson, X-Golf has it all: a full bar with beer and cocktails, shareable appetizers, and courses designed for all ages and levels from amateurs to professionals.



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Swing Fault or Superpower?

I have a swing problem. When I make contact with my driver I tend to stand up on my toes. I've done this for years. If you watch my swing in slow motion, it's the one thing that will stand out to the untrained eye. I've worked on this with the help of PGA professionals, hall of fame coaches, as well as on my own. Some days it bothers me more than others. I know what a "good" swing looks like from a technical standpoint, and I know there are variations to what works. But still, I, like many other coaches and golfers, have fallen into the line of thinking that says, "For me to reach my golfing potential, I need to fix my swing." "Fix my swing," as if my swing is a car with a flat tire. Bring it into the shop, give it some time, and all will be well. It's a tough starting point - thinking that you are in need of fixing, and it hasn't really led to the best results in my game.

This year I met a new student and friend, award-winning comic book artist Daniel Warren Johnson, who has recently become obsessed with

golf. As part of this obsession, in his free time, when he isn't playing golf he has started drawing golf swings. One day I sent him a slow motion video of my swing and he created an incredible drawing. He didn't draw my backswing position, in which the club stops just short of parallel, or my on-plane downswing, or balanced finish with full rotation. No, he drew an impact position—with me on my toes.

Seeing my swing this way was different. With his style and skill, my impact position makes me look more like a Transformer in one of his comic books than a glaring swing flaw. The drawing makes me appreciate the uniqueness of my swing. All of a sudden I am not in a rush to change anything about my swing, I actually would prefer to keep it. It's as if this part of my swing is a part of my identity, and to change it would be to change who I am.

In March, Britain's #1 tennis player, Emma Radacanu, fired her coach and claimed that her natural style had been coached out of her and she is hoping to find it again. PGA Tour player Max Homa struggled for over a year after changing coaches, and now he is back with his longtime coach hoping to recapture something. Scottie Sheffler has had the same coach since he was a kid. Tiger Woods has won majors with three different swings. If you can win with three different swings, finding the perfect swing might not be as important as once was thought. Also, there are dangers to change, as you might lose something that makes you who you are. This perspective seems to be lost in the golf instruction world today, and I think it's because we all have decided to start thinking we are broken and in need of fixing.

Johnson's drawings have given me a new perspective, and a new place to start from when I think about the next steps to improving my golf game. If I can simply consider the question, "What if this isn't a swing fault, but a superpower?" the game, and the path to improvement, feel so much more alive. There's less pressure. It's not life or death. I am more excited to be myself, and to play good golf my way, not with someone else's swing or style.

Andy Hayes is Director of Instruction at The Golf Practice Lisle



There are dangers to change, as you might lose something that makes you who you are. We all have decided to start thinking we are broken and in need of fixing.

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