

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Spring 2 2023, Vol. 27 No. 3

WILMETTE GOLF CLUB

A golfer in a blue shirt and white cap is crouching on a green, preparing for a putt. A red flag with a white logo is on a pole in the center of the green. In the background, the clubhouse of the Wilmette Golf Club is visible, featuring a large, multi-gabled roof and a prominent wooden structure. The scene is set on a bright, sunny day with a clear blue sky and lush green trees.

KALAMAZOO'S GULL LAKE VIEW

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OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

My youngest daughter graduated college from the University of Illinois this spring (congrats Emma!) and the keynote speaker was Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey. *Sports Illustrated* had named Joyner-Kersey the greatest female athlete of the 21st century and among her words of wisdom to this year's graduates when they are out in the workforce was this: when you are in a tough position and unsure whether you can make the right decision, trust your training. You've prepared hard for this moment and now is the time to trust yourself.

As an instructor, I encounter golfers every day who say they want to get better. Most seem to want to hit the ball further off the tee, hitting bucket upon bucket of balls. But when asked how much work they put into shots under 100 yards, chipping and pitching, bunkers, and putting, they seem a bit bewildered.

In fact, one of my students who shoots between 78 to 82 on average said he'd rather hit the ball farther and three putt from 20 feet instead of work on his short game.

Here's the thing: If you want to get better, you need to train on those parts of the game where strokes can be really saved, especially when it comes to trying to break 90 and especially 80.

Once that hard work is done on all the tricky shots around the green, then it's time to trust your training and know you've put the hard work in. Do that and your scores will come down, and you're bound to get up and down more frequently.

Thankfully, perusing this month's issue will be much easier. Our Gifts for Gals features the best gear out there for the important ladies in our lives.

We'll introduce you to the new restaurant at Wilmette Golf Club and also tell you why a trip to Auburn Hills, Michigan, should make it on your golfing to do list this season. And no, it has nothing to do with the Detroit Pistons.

Our Sweet Home Chicago department offers news you can use from in and around the Chicago golf scene, most notably how Pine Meadow Golf Club along with other area courses are stepping up to help our nation's veterans get into the swing of things by helping provide complimentary instruction.

Senior writer Neal Kotlarek shares how Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks area continues to expand on its golf and entertainment offerings, while Arrowhead Golf Club's Andrew Ogata lays out your To Do list to get your game in tip-top shape, from equipment to your short game, and even that space between your two ears.

We continue our trip around the Midwest with features on both Abbey Springs Golf Club near Lake Geneva as well as Kalamazoo, Michigan's Gull Lake View golf course offerings. And Todd Mrowice introduces us to Geneva National's new Dance Floor putting course.

And in a world of online retailers, Golf Direct Now is a Chicago-based company which now has a storefront you can visit in the western suburbs.

So grab your favorite beverages and pony up to the latest edition of *GOLFChicago*. And tomorrow, go work on your short game.



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GOLFChicago

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Printed in the U.S.A.

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THE GOOD STUFF



Revolution Anti-Hero Head Cover

In 2023 two Chicago brands teamed up on a collaboration of some fun and exciting golf gear. The latest release is the Anti-Hero beer can driver head cover. This is a local IPA that you can be proud to display. With fine leather construction and a plush liner, it's sure to last a bit longer than that 6-er in your bag. \$49 www.snowmangolfapparel.com



Bushnell Golf Wingman

Unleash your inner DJ on the course with Wingman. This "first of its kind" product combines high quality audio with the ability to receive audible GPS distances, and conveniently mounts to your cart bar via BITE magnetic technology. A rechargeable battery lasts 10 hours and a simple push of the button on the detachable remote gives you audible front, center, and back distances from more than 36,000 golf courses all around the globe. \$150 www.bushnellgolf.com



ShotScope Pro L2

Built to perform and renowned for being one of the most affordable rangefinders in the market, the Pro Alta rangefinder is the perfect combination of size, accuracy, and advanced technology. The new and improved rapid fire detection helps log onto a target, instantly followed by sending a short pulse vibration to give you confidence that you've gotten the desired location. Making it even better is an easy on-off slope switch, strong cart magnet, and 700-yard range. \$150 www.shotscope.com



ZoomBroom

Yes, this is a real product and yes, it really works. ZoomBroom is an innovative and unique product designed to solve all cleaning needs for your outdoor living areas, including a leaf-laden putting green. While it may initially compare to a leaf blower for many, the ZoomBroom eliminates the noise, the heavy equipment, the bulky battery packs, storage problems, and much more. It features a cordless, rechargeable battery, and a powerful yet quiet turbine blower motor. It weighs under three pounds and is designed to carry light & stow in your golf bag for quick access. A must have for fall golf, you'll find yourself using this not only on the course, but to clear your back patio, too!. \$175 www.zoombrooms.com



A Cognac Fit for a King

Launched in 1997, this brandy is named after the royal decree issued in 1738 to Remy Martin by King Louis XV. While technically a VSOP cognac, some of this is aged considerably longer, up to 20 years. It is deep reddish amber. The nose offers up concentrated dark fruit, caramel, and a hint of roses. For a cognac with at least some decades-old portion in the blend, this is surprisingly fiery on the palate. There is plenty of black pepper and spice, plus hints of vanilla and brown sugar. It has a dry, medium body with a suggestion of oak and tobacco, and a long finish. \$60 www.renymartin.com

Swannies Vandyke Hoodie

The Swannies VanDyke Hoodie is a hybrid: 50% hoodie, 50% quarterzip, 100% ridiculously comfy. This hooded quarterzip is made with a durable performance fabric and full stretch, making it your new 'go to' versatility piece. Perfect for draining putts on the practice green, crushing balls on the course, and lounging on the couch. It's so comfortable, you won't want to waste your time changing into anything else. \$89 www.swannies.co



Titleist U-505 Driving/Utility Iron

The U•505 is designed to allow you to reclaim your long iron game with a sleek looking driving iron. Drawing on input from tour pros, the U•505 provides the high, explosive launch of a utility, but with a refined design that offers a more iron-like look, feel, and sound. With outstanding versatility and improved feel, it features D18 density tungsten, Max Impact technology, a multi-material body featuring an engineered muscle plate, and forged face inserts. \$250 www.titleist.com



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Get Season Ready!

The fairways and greens are turning that beautiful shade of emerald that signals the start of the 2023 golf season, and golfers everywhere are gearing up. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, the key to success on the links is preparation.

Here are some tips to help you get ready for the season ahead:

Get Your Gear in Order

Before you hit the course, it's important to make sure your equipment is in good condition. Take your clubs to a professional for a tune-up and inspection, and consider investing in new balls, gloves, and shoes if necessary. Having properly fitted clubs and equipment can make a big difference in your game.

Start Practicing Early

Don't wait until the first tee time to dust off your clubs. Start practicing early to get your swing back in shape. You can hit the driving range, work on your putting at home, or even take a lesson from a golf pro to brush up on your skills.

Work on Your Fitness

Golf may not be the most physically demanding sport, but it does require a certain level of fitness. Incorporate cardio and strength training into your workout routine to build endurance and prevent injury. Plus, being in better shape can improve your swing and overall performance.

Develop a Pre-Shot Routine

Having a pre-shot routine can help you stay focused and calm on the course. Develop a routine that works for you and practice it during your pre-season training. This could include taking a deep breath, visualizing your shot, or doing a quick stretch.

Practice Your Mental Game

Golf is as much a mental game as it is physical. To prepare for the season ahead, work on your mental toughness and focus. You can do this by practicing mindfulness, visualization, and positive self-talk. Remember to stay in the moment and not let mistakes or bad shots affect your attitude.

Set Goals

Setting goals can help you stay motivated and focused throughout the season. Whether you want to improve your handicap or simply enjoy the game more, set realistic goals and work towards achieving them. Keep

track of your progress and celebrate your accomplishments along the way.

Have Fun Above All

It's important to remember to have fun! Golf is a game meant to be enjoyed, so

don't take it too seriously. Embrace the challenges and enjoy the beauty of the course. With the right mindset and preparation, the 2023 golf season is sure to be a success.



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Todd Mrowice

Shall We Dance?

One of the newest trends among the nation's top golf resorts is putting courses. These versatile plots of shortgrass add a fun element to a resort property whether you're looking to get in some additional practice or just roll a few with your co-travelers.

This year, Geneva National Resort & Club added its own putting course called the Dance Floor and it features 27-holes of putt-putt that feels like the real deal because it is the real deal. The contours and speed of the layout are both fun and challenging and it's the perfect way to start or end your day on the property.

"We designed the Dance Floor for avid golfers, but also for people that have never picked up a golf club before," said Director of Operations, Will Couche. "The idea was to drive people to expand from mini golf, while also having an authentic experience and I think we've accomplished that."

We couldn't agree more. Once you step onto the Dance Floor you'll realize that this putting course can cater to whatever group you're traveling with. Family outing? You and the kids will have a blast rolling putts and enjoying the ambiance. Guys/Gals trip? The Dance Floor is the perfect place to grab an adult beverage and throw down a couple of bucks to see who can handle some pressure putts.

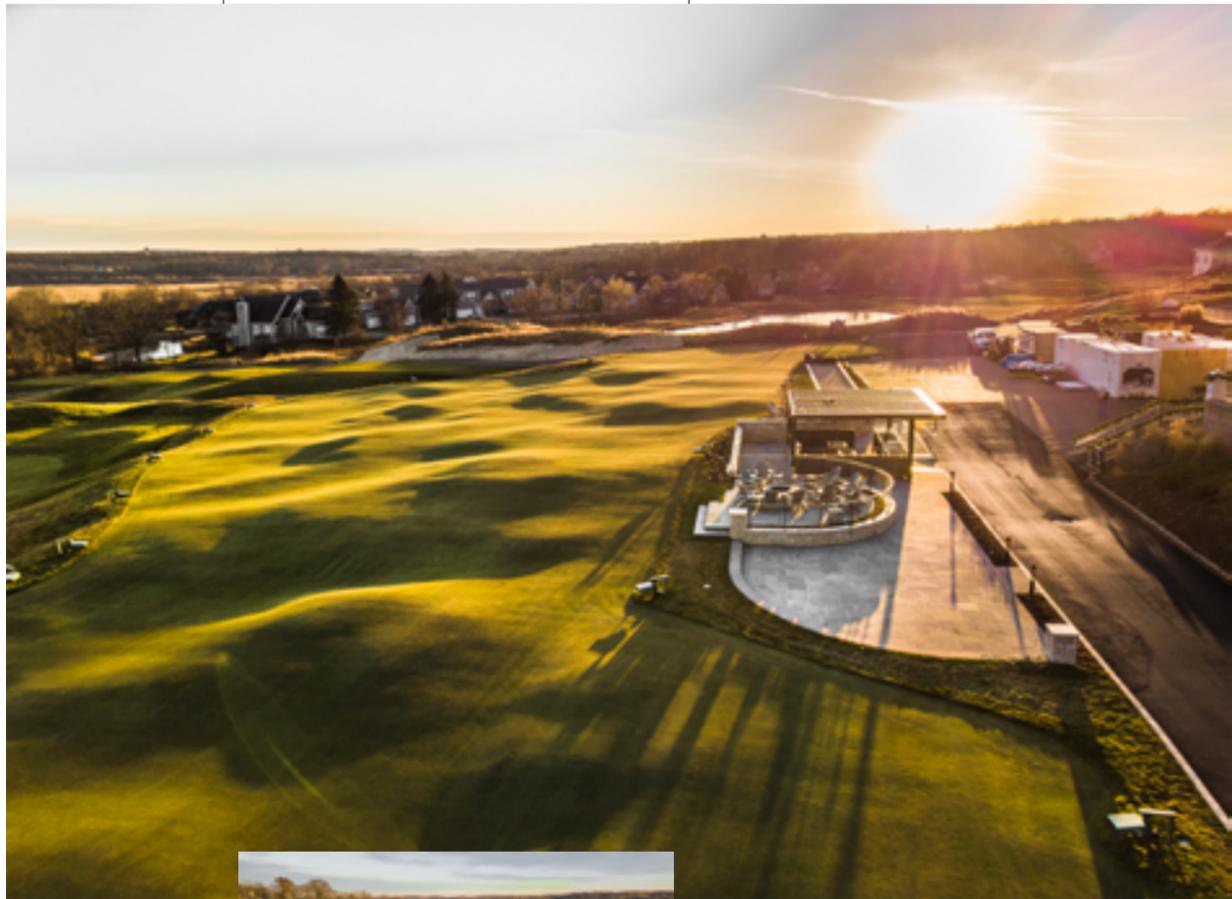
Speaking of ambiance, this putting course is complete with surround sound, a cocktail bar, bocce ball, and firepits. That's in addition to the course being fully illuminated. The Dance Floor is open from 7 a.m.

to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. If you're staying on-property at Geneva National Resort & Club, there is no cost to play the course. Otherwise, it's just \$9 for adults and \$7 for kids and includes unlimited play, putter rental, and a logo golf ball.

And if you didn't already know, the property features some of the best golf you'll find in our area with signature courses from Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, and Lee Trevino. The resort offers some of the best

During your visit, you won't go hungry with the property's award-winning dining. From turf. smokehouse [sic] to Paloma Cantina to Hunt Club Steakhouse, everything you crave is readily available.

As if you needed more excuses to visit Geneva National, the club is hosting two big events this year. First, John Daly and Paige Spiranac will play in a charity match appropriately named Beauty vs. Beast on June 5th. \$15 grounds passes include the use of the Dance Floor. Then, on July 27th,



stay-and-play rates in the business with packages that include stays at its cottages, suites, and The Ridge Hotel.

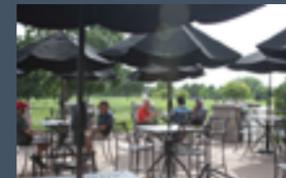
the putting course will host the Wisconsin State Golf Association's putting championship. For more information, please visit the Geneva National Resort & Club website.

Geneva National Resort & Club
1221 Geneva National Avenue South
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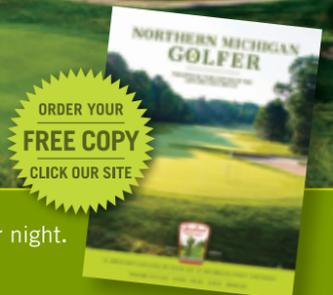
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Chippopotamus must Have

Chippopotamus is more than just a fun name, it's a local clothing company that's making some seriously awesome threads for women and men. As you check out their website you'll notice the company is based on having fun on the golf course, and the designs support that.

The women's polo is an 85% polyester, 15% spandex blend that's soft, breathable, and SPF 50+. The company's fun hippo logo is embroidered on the sleeve. It's the perfect match to the women's skirt which features front and back pockets. The incredibly soft material is quick-drying and breathable for those extra hot days on the course.

Polo shirt: \$54 Skirt: \$59
www.chippopotamus.com

Carry or Ride in Style

Titleist bags continue to evolve, which isn't easy when they already produce some of the best bags in the game. A new lineup for ladies was debuted for 2023 and we're all about the Player's 4 Stand Bag. Available in peach (pictured), teal, white/green, and black/pink, this bag is everything Mom needs to walk, push, or ride. A premium double strap makes carrying a breeze and a lined drink sleeve brings convenience when packing her beverage of choice. At only 3.7 lbs, this bag is a no-brainer gift. \$225 www.titleist.com



Truer Words Have Never Been Embroidered

Mom's golf bag needs a statement piece, and we've found it for her. This driver cover (also offered in fairway and hybrid) is from CMC Design and clearly displays, "Golf now, Wine later." The premium faux leather and plush lining is built to last and fits all 460cc driver models. To put it over the top, the custom embroidery even has 750ml and an implied alcohol content of 13%. Sign us up for a glass or two while we try to forget the last four hours. \$39.95 www.cmcdesign.com



Kicks She'll Show-off

Mom doesn't deserve to wear those clunky saddle shoes anymore. Instead, these UA Charged Breathe 2 Spikeless shoes from Under Armour will be the perfect fit. With a White/Silver/Baja Blue colorway, these shoes have a subtle feminine flair and were designed with the female player in mind. A microfiber leather upper with UA's Never-Wet treatment keeps you cool and dry no matter the weather. Traction is not sacrificed because of the UA Rotational Resistance outsole, so slippage is not an option. \$90 www.underarmour.com



A Scope For Her

Pinned Golf produces some of the best laser rangefinders around, and at a reasonable price. Where the genre was lacking, however, was fun colors for ladies. Problem solved, as the company has its Prism Rangefinder in an eye-catching pink (nine colors in total are available). This laser is charged with a USB cable and has a battery life that lasts 60 rounds. Like many options that cost much more, the Prism is magnetic, has a slope on/off toggle, and vibrates when you've locked onto the pin. As a bonus, the pink color is practically unforgettable when you're leaving the course.

\$230 www.pinnedgolf.com

Gifts for Gals

Sweet Home Chicago

Chicago Courses Introduce Area Veterans to the Game

Mundelein's Pine Meadow Golf Club and several other courses managed by KemperSports, along with the Illinois PGA Foundation, have again partnered to host PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) clinics for veterans and active-duty military for the 2023 season. The six-week, complimentary clinics will visit Pine Meadow along with five KemperSports facilities across Chicagoland from May through October.

"Supporting our veterans and service members who have given so much for our country is a shared commitment across the KemperSports family," said KemperSports CEO Steve Skinner. "PGA HOPE is an incredible program, and thanks to the support and partnership of the Illinois PGA Foundation, we're excited to be able to give back to those throughout Chicago who give so much to us."

Pine Meadow goes a step further, blocking off its tee sheet for a Veterans Play Day featuring a non-competitive, 18-hole day of fun, food, and camaraderie. This year's date is July 12, and Director of Golf Dennis Johnsen expects nearly 100 veterans to participate. All participants receive a dozen Callaway red, white, and blue golf balls and a specially-designed cap for this play day that can't be found anywhere else.

"The idea of that was so that these vets could come out in a non-competitive, fun atmosphere and start meeting other vets. These are the country's real heroes, and these clinics and 18-hole events are something my staff and I look forward to every year."

In addition to Pine Meadow, free, six-week PGA HOPE clinics will be held at Harborside International Golf Center, Winnetka Golf Club, Cantigny, Bolingbrook Golf Club, and Deerpath Golf Course in Lake Forest, Ill.

Taught by PGA Professional instructors trained in adaptive golf and military cultural competency, PGA HOPE introduces the game to veterans and active-duty military to enhance their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. PGA HOPE is the flagship military program of PGA REACH, the charitable foundation of the PGA of America, and is administered locally by the Illinois PGA Foundation working in conjunction with RevelationGolf. The program is free to veterans and will cover several aspects of the game including driving, chipping, putting,

and long iron work. The culmination of each clinic will result in an on-course session that will allow the veterans to put their skills to the test.

To learn more about PGA HOPE, visit www.pgahope.com.

U.S. Kids Tour Expands to Milwaukee Area

In addition to Chicago, U.S. Kids Golf is now offering a junior golf local tour in the Milwaukee area, and there are some great courses included on this year's schedule, including The Club at Lac La Bell and the season-ending championship at Strawberry Creek (Kenosha). U.S. Kids events provide junior players with further opportunities to play tournament golf in a fun environment while meeting new friends.

The one-day tournaments are open to all boys and girls ages 5 to 18, with age-appropriate yardage and divisions. Medals will be awarded for the top-five finishers in each division at each event. There is also a season-long points race and the opportunity to advance to regional, state, and national U.S. Kids championships.

Registration and more information is available for both Chicago and Milwaukee by visiting <https://tournaments.uskidsgolf.com/foundation>.

Dubsread and Tesoro Tequila, a Winning Combo at Cog Hill this Spring

If you like tequila and golf, then Cog Hill's 'Dubs 9-Hole Tesoro Tequila Night' may be something you'd like to check out. It's set for Thursday, May 25, and features a 9-hole, two person scramble on the legendary Dubsread course starting at 5:50 p.m. with a shotgun start. Entry is \$170 per team and features appetizers on the patio beforehand, along with closest to the pin, longest putt, and an optional \$20 per team skins game. Sign up at www.coghillgolf.com.

Cog Hill's Kevin Weeks Named 2023 PGA Teacher & Coach of the Year

The one thing that Kevin Weeks wishes every golfer would do is have fun.

"I recall when speaking with a PGA Tour winner who won the Puerto Rico Open several years back and asked how many good shots he hit that week," recalled Weeks. "He said that through the course of 72 holes he only hit three good shots. Imagine that. Yet, every day we see amateur golfers slamming their clubs on the ground and getting very upset after hitting a less than perfect shot. Golf is a hard game and one where we hit more poor shots than great ones. Amateur golfers need to understand that it's about having fun."

Operating out of Cog Hill's Learning Center for the past 20 years, Weeks has worked with many professionals during his career, but it's the mark he has made on the area's junior golf program which he is most proud of.

In January, the PGA of America announced that Weeks was given its prestigious honor as Teacher & Coach of the Year. "It's an incredible accomplishment to stand out as an honoree among nearly 28,000 PGA Professionals, as they are celebrated for furthering the business and game of golf," said PGA President John Lindert.

"Professionally, it's nice to be recognized and very humbling because there's so many great teachers out there that

don't get recognized," said Weeks. "It's a validation of all the hours and research, along with helping grow the junior league here at Cog Hill."

"Teaching juniors and developing players is what I've always enjoyed doing. And it really wasn't that hard of a decision because I love teaching the kids and watching their games grow. The travel with the pro players was tough. I mean, yes, it's very glamorous out there teaching on tour, but after 10 years the traveling just got to be too much."

As far as the most rewarding aspect of the job?

"Helping my students achieve their goals," Weeks says without blinking an eye. "Finding out what their goals are and helping to achieve their goals—whether it's making the high school team, making it to the IHSA State Finals, playing golf in college, or just helping them achieve their goals whatever they may be. The most fun: helping someone achieve their goals that they didn't think they could reach."

U.S. Adaptive Golf 10 Annual Outing June 9

The United States Adaptive Golf Alliance (USAGA) 10th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser will help them organize golf clinics to support the special needs community around Chicago. (June 9, 2023 at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont). For more info see www.usaga.org.

The USAGA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to bringing inclusion to the special needs community through the game of golf. They deliver real world, evidence based, live golf training to all people with disability, regardless of current health, physical, mental, sensory coping and well-being status. USAGA consists of 40 member organizations throughout the country helping spread adaptive golf to the 20 million disabled interested in learning. USAGA's consortium provides adaptive golf to 40,000 individuals annually of which 26% are combat-wounded veterans.

Bettinardi Marks 25 Years with Limited Edition Releases Each Month in 2023

Tinley Park-based Bettinardi Golf celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year and is celebrating by releasing one Limited Edition putter every month in 2023 that celebrates the company's heritage, innovation, and craftsmanship. Putter releases will be available in quantities of 250 pieces per month and will be available in The Hive online and at select Bettinardi specialty dealers worldwide.

Bettinardi Golf was established in 1998 by manufacturer, designer, and engineer Robert J. Bettinardi. With a detailed eye for innovation, the high-class craftsman entered the putter industry with his own namesake brand after milling putters for golf's biggest OEMs from 1991 to 1998. It was during this time that the company founder changed the way putters would be made by being the first person to mill a putter head from a solid block of steel, without using forgings, castings, or welds.

To lead off with this milestone, Bettinardi Golf brought back the BB1 MS, one of Robert's first putters ever produced. When released this past January it sold out within hours. For information on the company's 25th Anniversary putter unveilings each month, please follow @bettinardigolf on Instagram and Twitter.

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Green Star Award
– Golf Digest

Renovation of the Year
– Golf Inc.

Best Courses You Can Play
– Golfweek

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For more information contact David Bush
Chicago@amateurgolftour.net
312-483-7932



May 13, 2023
Harborside
1:00 p.m.



May 27, 2023
Memorial Day Open
Blackwolf Run
1:00 p.m.



May 28, 2023
Memorial Day Open
Whistling Straits
1:00 p.m.



May 20, 2023
Ravisloe
10:00 a.m.



June 3, 2023
Stonewall Orchard
12:30 p.m.



June 17, 2023
White Deer Run
1:00 p.m.



June 24-25, 2023
Summer Major
9:00 a.m.



July 1, 2023
Bloomingdale
8:30 a.m.



July 8, 2023
New Event
11:00 a.m.



July 10, 2023
Summer Major
PC Deere Run
11:00 a.m.



July 11, 2023
Summer Major
PC Deere Run
Noon



July 22, 2023
Chalet Hills
9:30 a.m.



July 15, 2023
Arrowhead
1:00 p.m.



August 12, 2023
Whitetail Ridge
11:00 a.m.



August 26, 2023
Shotgun
Prairie Landing
1:00 p.m.



August 19, 2023
Blackberry Oaks
9:00 a.m.



September 2, 2023
Prairie Isle
11:00 a.m.



September 16, 2023
Playoff Championship Qualifier
Blackstone
Noon



September 9, 2023
Playoff Championship Qualifier
Ravisloe
10:00 a.m.



September 30, 2023
Chicago Championship
Lake Michigan Hills
Noon



October 1, 2023
Chicago Championship
Harbor Shores
10:00 a.m.

Fieldstone G.C. Worth Trip To Motor City

When Chicagoans hear the city of Auburn Hills, Michigan, mentioned, our first thought is always of the Detroit Pistons. After all, it was the ‘Bad Boys’—Bill Laimbeer, Dennis Rodman, and Isiah Thomas—that stood in the way of our Bulls until Michael Jordan and friends finally made their historic breakthrough back in the early 1990s.

But for Chicago-area golfers, Auburn Hills should be a destination added to your Michigan bucket list, specifically Fieldstone Golf Club, recognized as one of metro Detroit’s best public golf courses. This Arthur Hills gem has hosted some impressive tournaments, including the PGA Tour’s Buick Open Qualifier, U.S.G.A Junior Amateur Qualifier, Michigan PubLinx and Senior PubLinx, and many others.

Fieldstone is expertly managed by PGA professional Chip Hierlihy, who along with course superintendent Myles Sprague, bring more than 40 years of combined experience at private facilities from Florida to Colorado and everywhere in between. That experience shines through with the incredible shape the course is always in and the customer experience which makes this public course feel a lot more like private.

And when it comes to working on your game, Fieldstone offers a tour-quality practice facility and learning center, providing an exceptionally manicured 40-station, bent grass range; four target greens; a large bunker; and a huge practice green; that offer a unique opportunity to keep your game in shape from tee to green.

Measuring nearly 7,000 yards, you’ll be tested on nearly every hole in classic Arthur Hills style. The designer who built Stonewall Orchard in northwest suburban Grayslake in 1999, Hills completed Fieldstone just a year earlier. And just like Stonewall Orchard, the par 3s are totally off the hook (in a good way).

The first is No. 3, a short par 3 that is deceptively longer than the card shows (playing 140 to 165 yards). Protected by trees from all sides, swirling winds can often knock down a high ball, leaving you below an elevated green. Go long and you’ll certainly find one of the three bunkers that surround the back, forcing



Hole #7



Hole #10



Hole #12

a delicate pitch downhill to the hole. The green has wispy native grasses, which protect the back of the green and add to the hole’s overall splendor.

“Although we are a public course, the experience is much more like a private facility not only in the way that we maintain the golf course but also the way that we treat our customers,” said Hierlihy. “You’ll be hard-pressed to find a more challenging or better manicured course than ours.”

Following back-to-back par 5s, the par-3 8th hole can play as long as 227 yards, but even between 180 to 190, this par 3 will take all that you have to get it on the putting surface. Middle of the green is always a smart choice here as the right side is protected by a large tree and deep sand on the left. A two-tiered green demands the proper club choice to avoid a ridge running through its middle. Long putts can take even the most seasoned player from birdie to bogey in the blink of an eye.

The last par 3 on the course is No. 14, playing between 145 and 190 yards. This is one of Hierlihy’s favorite holes at Fieldstone. With wetlands spanning from tee to green, you’ll need to hit a solid shot to land safely onto a very challenging green. There’s little room for error here. The green is surrounded by trees and a deep front bunker, compounded by prevailing winds not often felt from the tee. This is a deep green, so it’s important to pay close attention to the flag position.

Fieldstone finishes with a fun par 4, which happens to be the shortest one out here. You may be tempted to go for the green off the tee on this 326-yard slight dogleg left, but the hole is very well protected. Favor the right side of the fairway to leave a short wedge to the hole with ample green to work with. Drive it left, and you’ll have to carry a hazard to a shallow landing area.

Fieldstone uses dynamic pricing, so greens fees fluctuate depending on the day and time; your best bet is to call the clubhouse [(248)-370-9354] to book your tee time. For more information, visit www.fieldstonegolfclub.com.



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COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Advertorial

Stunning Vistas, Great Golf at Newly Renovated Abbey Springs

Celebrating its 53rd year, Abbey Springs has experienced an amazing renaissance complete with redesigned greens, lifted fairways, and overhauled bunkers to evolve from a hidden gem into a stunning, rolling, challenging must-play layout that now ranks among Southern Wisconsin's premier courses.

Originally designed by the esteemed team of Ken Killian and Dick Nugent, the course underwent a \$2.5 million renovation

in 2021 by Bob Lohmann and Todd Quitno, whose projects over the years have included Merit Club in Libertyville and Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo. Some of their work at Abbey Springs addressed lowland fairways that retained moisture following storms, while the project also involved expanded greens, adjusted bunker placements, and enlarged ponds to update the look, feel, and playability of the championship layout.

"Our golf course was always beautiful," said long-time Abbey Springs pro Jack Shoger. "But after 50 years of the status quo, our membership wanted the course to compare in beauty, challenge, and conditioning to the best courses across Wisconsin."

One huge advantage Abbey Springs has over most Wisconsin and Illinois courses is rugged topography that takes players up massive hills and down vast dales. While most of the front nine rolls gently from one hole to the next, the back nine dishes out extreme transitions from each tee to each fairway to each green. "The course is located on a really interesting property," said architect Lohmann. "The dramatic landscape also meant that there were areas where water has historically collected. That issue needed to be addressed. On the 9th fairway, alone, we added four feet of soil to lift it above the wetlands."

The end result of the renovation work is a course that maintained the character of the original design but has expanded tee shot landing areas as well as larger green sites and improved quality of the putting surfaces.

"Today, Abbey Springs is a shining star in Wisconsin's prolific golfers paradise in the Lake Geneva area," grinned Shoger. "Set among the rolling slopes of Geneva Lake's south shore, rich in beauty, it rises to spectacular views of the lake and its surrounding hillsides. An outstanding 18-hole course with exceptional service, carefully manicured greens, lush fairways, beautifully tended trees, and wooded hillsides, it is a course of true championship caliber."

"As the new and improved Abbey Springs reopened in Spring of 2022," added Shoger. "Golfers throughout the Midwest are finding a golf course that retained its personality and playability, but with an array of new features—rebuilt bunkers and redesigned green complexes featuring state of the art '007' bentgrass."

Membership packages include weekday, twilight, and 9-hole options.

To book a tee time or for more information on Abbey Springs, visit www.abbeysprings.org.



Hole 3



Hole 6

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Michigan's Boyne Golf Serves Up Ten Outstanding Courses

Change, remarked President John F. Kennedy in 1963, is the law of life. "And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future," he mused. This very philosophy is seemingly embraced in each and every aspect of Boyne Golf in Northern Michigan. One of the only destinations in America featuring 10 courses, the resort group has over the past two decades invested in everything from accommodations to entertainment options to course conditioning to practice facilities to dining and shopping options. All of these improvements were made with the express goal of providing unique golf experiences to both first-time guests and those who visit Boyne properties multiple times each season.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of the Boyne Golf experience is the fact that all ten of the courses, located in close proximity to one another, are distinctly different in both architecture and landscape. Two are located on the same dramatic topography used in the winter for skiing. Another is positioned alongside a long stretch of the Lake Michigan cliffside. Still another was lovingly designed as a tribute to legendary architect Donald Ross. And yet another was built upon a precipice that towers above the countryside. The one constant in each of these layouts: nearly identical course conditioning that provides a country club experience at very affordable green fees.

"We take pride in the fact that Boyne Golf is distinct from virtually every other golf resort in the country," said Director of Golf Sales and Marketing Ken Griffin in an April interview. "We have mountain courses, valley courses, parkland courses, lake shore courses, wetland courses, a course built in a former stone quarry on Lake Michigan, and courses set in a production forest. That kind of variety ensures that all of our guests and even residents on our properties can create golf itineraries that are different and always memorable."

Beyond the quality and diversity of the golf, the Northern Michigan location of Boyne Golf allows for ideal summer weather with average temperatures of 75 to 80 degrees in the summer with low humidity and light winds. "For most of the

summer," said Griffin, "golfers can literally play all day as the sun doesn't set here until 9 or 10 o'clock."

Like many golf destinations across the country, Boyne Golf has experienced a post-pandemic resurgence in popularity. "While we remain a great 'buddy trip' destination," said Bernie Friedrich, the resort's Director of Golf Renovation and Development, "we are no longer specifically a 'men's' buddy trip destination. Over the past three years we've seen strong growth here in couples, in groups of couples, in women's buddy trips, and in family golf trips."

Boyne Golf is anchored by three resort properties: Boyne Mountain Resort, The

Highlands at Harbor Springs, and the Inn at Bay Harbor. Located in Boyne Falls, Boyne Mountain is renowned across all of Michigan for its towering and popular ski hills. Parts of those hills serve double duty during spring, summer, and fall as they are integral to the designs of both the Alpine and Monument courses. Players get to appreciate the size and scale of both courses from the start of each course as the ride between the clubhouse and the first tee takes one to the top of the mountain for magnificent views and towering drives toward fairways far below.

The Monument Course incorporates tribute holes to legendary architects while **The Alpine Course**, which serves as annual

host to the Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions, serves up breathtaking views on holes lined with mature trees.

A short drive west brings guests to the Highlands of Harbor Springs Resort. The sprawling property features four remarkable courses. Designed in 1966 by Robert Trent Jones, **The Heather** has long been considered one of Michigan's premier championship layouts. Acclaimed as the National Course of the Year by the National Course Owners Association in 2019, the course has over the decades played host to numerous Michigan Opens. Its 18 holes weave through forested lands, over and around lakes, and across rolling terrain. Both **The Moor** and

The Donald Ross Memorial Course have undergone sweeping renovations over the past two years to improve playability and aesthetics. Award-winning architect Ray Hearn has made massive strides in sculpting holes on the Ross course to more closely emulate the signature look and feel of some of the architect's greatest holes. **The Arthur Hills Course** is a must-play experience that weaves through forested land. The course is highlighted by No. 13, a 570-yard par 5 that begins from a tee high above the Northern Michigan landscape and dives down toward a massive fairway landing area.

Designed by Art Hills, the 27 holes at **Bay Harbor** are actually three unique 9-hole courses each with different landscapes. The Links Nine takes players alongside cliffs hugging Lake Michigan. The Scottish links-inspired course is highlighted by the stunning par-5 No. 7 that serves up a huge tee shot landing area in between mounds and thick rough. Following a well-placed second shot that avoids the perilous right side of the fairway, the approach must keep to the right side of the putting surface that hovers above the lake. You will need an additional few minutes following the hole to take photos of your foursome standing behind this green seemingly on the edge of the world.

The Quarry Nine is a reminder of the property's humble roots as grounds of the cement factory which was decommissioned in the 1980s. One hole calls for a tee shot over a 40-foot gorge while others weave around the quarry and around natural ponds and wetlands.

The Preserve Nine is nestled in hardwood forest and abounds with wildflowers, native wetlands and an abundance of wildlife. Following eight holes through the woods, the course ends on a 186-yd. par 3 featuring a sloping green postured above the crystal blue waters of Lake Michigan. Located just across the highway from Bay Harbor, **Crooked Tree Golf Club** serves up 18 perfectly manicured championship holes perched high on bluffs overlooking Little Traverse Bay.

While golf will always be the centerpiece of the three resort properties,

unique amenities are available at each to serve up options for family members young and old. At Boyne Mountain, an indoor waterpark called Avalanche Bay caters to the young and the young at heart. Opened last October to rave reviews, Skybridge Michigan is the world's longest timber suspension bridge at 1,100 feet and soars 120 feet off the ground. At the Highlands of Harbor Springs, the Young Americans Dinner Theatre provides great food and performances from June 24 to August 26th. At the Inn at Bay Harbor (a Marriott Autograph Collection property), patio dining experiences can be enjoyed while viewing a spectacular sunset over Lake Michigan.

With over 3,000 beds among all three Boyne resort properties, there are accommodations that suit couples, families, and golf groups alike. New rooms at The Highlands Main Lodge & Chalet Edelweiss provide special elegant touches. At Boyne Mountain, an entire wing of the hotel has been renovated from the ground up with new furniture and furnishings. At Bay Harbor, rooms and suites are complemented by turn-of-the-century lakeside inns.

Golf packages are available at all three properties, with guests able to mix and match golf across all 10 courses. At Bay Harbor, the Spa Package includes hot breakfasts, valet parking and a \$300 spa gift card for services available at the inn. Michigan's Magnificent 10 Vacation Package serves up five days of unlimited golf plus an arrival round, a one-hour lesson at the Boyne Academy, two rounds at Bay Harbor Golf Club and a welcome party.

"Our Stay & Play Packages are a hot commodity," said Griffin. "We highly recommend booking visits to our properties early to ensure guests can get the dates they prefer, the rooms they want and access to the golf courses they wish to experience."

Boyne Golf properties are located a scenic 5.5-hour drive from Chicago. Direct flights can be made from Chicago O'Hare to Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City.

For reservations and more information about Boyne Golf, visit www.BOYNEgolf.com.



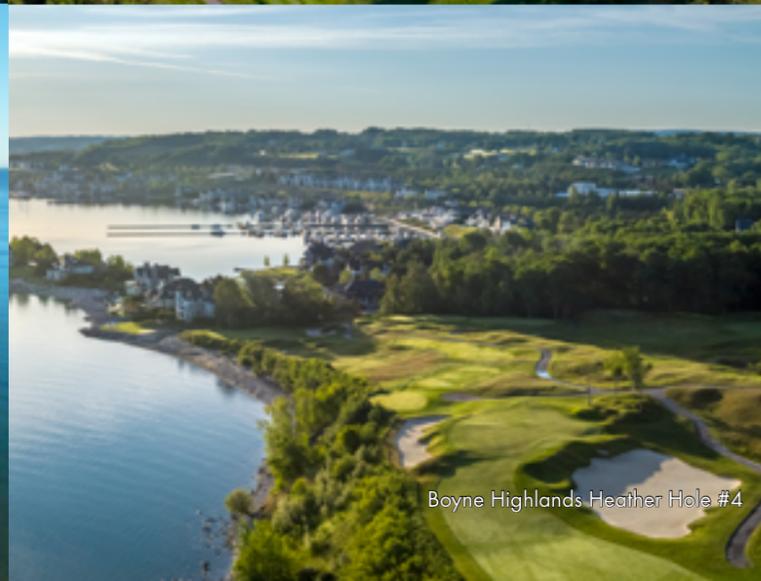
Bay Harbor Quarry Hole #6



Boyne Highlands Ross Hole #9



Bay Harbor Links Hole #6



Boyne Highlands Heather Hole #4

Golf at Gull Lake View is Way Cool in Kalamazoo

Michigan just may be the most golf-crazy state in the union. Along the state's western shores, each interstate exit, every highway and (almost) every city's Main Street leads to an amazing golf course. The road through Benton Harbor, for instance, leads to the fantastic Harbor Shores G.C. designed by Jack Nicklaus. A couple exits past Grand Haven leads one to the acclaimed American Dunes—yet another Nicklaus creation. A short drive away, South Haven is home to the award-winning Hawkshead Golf Course & Inn.

Located just off I-94 and US Hwy. 131, the city of Kalamazoo has over the years developed a reputation as a college town, a craft beer destination, and—thanks to a single family—a golf course epicenter. The city proper is invigorated by the presence of over 25,000 students enrolled at

Western Michigan University. The downtown area serves up an array of unique shops, award-winning restaurants, and world-class museums and attractions, including the Smithsonian-affiliated Air Zoo Aerospace and Science Museum and Gilmore Car Museum—celebrated as North America's largest automobile museum. Be comforted by the fact that thirst is never an issue in Kalamazoo as at least 12 breweries and distilleries (the count may have increased by the time you read this) line this community of 73,000, including Bell's Comstock Brewery, Useless Creatures Brewing Company and Valhalla/Norse Nectar Meadery. Little wonder why the city's tagline is: "Cool. Comfortable. Kalamazoo."

A short drive out of town leads one to Augusta, where Gull Lake View Golf

Resort has over the years become part of the fabric of Midwest golf. Going on its fourth generation, the Scott family has for the better part of six decades built Gull Lake View into one of the largest family-owned golf resort destinations in the country. Its golf courses include the acclaimed new Stoatin Brae, named the "National Golf Course of the Year" by the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) in 2020.

Way back in 1963, Darl Scott parted ways with nearby Gull Lake Country Club to build a country-club-quality yet affordable golf complex for the public to enjoy. On beautiful rolling land that could be mistaken for northern Michigan's scenic turf, Darl and wife Letha designed and built Gull Lake West, an exquisite destination golf course that very quickly developed a

following for both its interesting architecture and its impeccable conditioning.

As Gull Lake View grew in popularity, two of the Scotts' sons guided the family golf business into the next generation. To keep up with increasing demand, they built a second course, Gull Lake East. The combined 36-hole destination quickly became the buzz of Michigan golf aficionados. Inevitably, they would need someplace to stay in between rounds. So the Scotts suddenly also became hoteliers.

Supported by the momentum of the golf boom sweeping the nation (and Michigan) in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Scotts designed two more courses right down the road from the Gull Lake courses. Stonehedge North and South elevated Gull Lake View to a new level of challenge and beauty. By then, golfers were traveling from all over

the Midwest and Canada to enjoy the Gull Lake Experience that combined top-notch golf with a personal, family touch.

"I am sure it sounds like a cliché," said Bill Johnson, the resort's long-time director of golf, "but over the years we've gotten to think of some of our returning guests as extended family," he said. "Just as the resort was founded and is managed by generations of the Scott family, we have been around long enough to see not just dads and moms bringing their sons and daughters to Gull Lake View—we have seen instances where grandparents bring their kids and grandkids to enjoy a weekend of golf on our properties!"

One of the most unique aspects of how the Scotts developed Gull Lake View and kept it affordable was to keep design, maintenance, and management "in house."

Darl designed each of the first four courses. He leveraged his knowledge of agronomy and landscaping with his construction skills to build a virtual "Darl's Field of Dreams."

The family's vision continued to expand in 1988 with the acquisition of nearby course Bedford Valley. Built with a new-age minimalist design, the layout offered a contrast to the Scott-design courses and gave guests still another playing option. Bedford Valley has hosted the Michigan Open on numerous occasions and quickly developed a following among resort guests.

Even when golf's popularity dipped following the 2008 national recession, the Scott Family continued to explore ways to keep golfers happy. Director of Golf Johnson along with Scott family members had been

continued on page 35



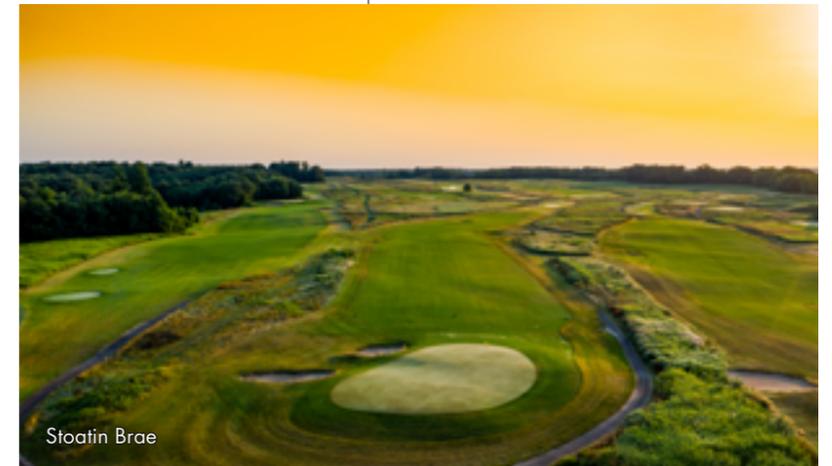
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Stoatin Brae



Stoatin Brae



Gull Lake View



Gull Lake View



Downtown Kalamazoo

Lake of the Ozarks Area Continues to Expand Offerings

Ever since Central Missouri's Bagnell Dam was constructed back in 1929, the area that came to be known as Lake of the Ozarks has constantly evolved from its humble origins as a generator of electricity. After some 54,000 acres were flooded to create one of the largest man-made lakes in the world, the area quickly attracted boaters and anglers. Home, hotel, and restaurant construction naturally followed to make Lake of the Ozarks one of the Midwest's premier fishing and leisure craft destinations.

Sometime in the 1960s, some wise entrepreneurs saw an opportunity to expand the lake's amenities well beyond water sports. Guys named Arnie, Jack, Gary, and Lee helped change golf from a country club sport to an everyman's game. With its forested, hilly topography—along with its hospitality infrastructure already in place—Lake of the Ozarks was a natural fit for golf course construction. Over ensuing decades, acclaimed architects, including Robert Trent Jones, Arnold Palmer, Bruce Devlin, Robert Von Hagge, and Tom Weiskopf, designed a number of the finest courses across the Midwest. Those championship courses have been complemented by many others to create the magnificent Lake of the Ozarks Golf Trail.

In total, the Lake of the Ozarks Golf Council promotes 12 properties that all rest a short drive from the massive lake. Steve Walker, executive director of the council, says his favorite part of his job is introducing new golf groups to the area. "Very quickly after the lake was built, Lake of the Ozarks became known as an outstanding water recreation area. While the lake will always be a premier attraction for guests, the destination has become so much more than its origin story. Once golfers come and experience our great courses designed by the likes of Palmer and Weiskopf, along with superb views of the lake, great food, and Missouri hospitality, they fall in love with the area. A return trip is inevitable."

One of the greatest ambassadors in the game's long history, Palmer designed 18 of the 27 holes that make up **Osage National Golf Resort**. Each course has a distinctive character defined by its name. **The River Course** features a number of

holes bordering the steep banks of the Osage River. **The Links Course** was designed near the center of the river valley to provide a traditional parkland experience. **The Mountain Course** plays up, along and down the most dramatic topography on the property to provide wondrous views as well as a few intriguing challenges. The par-5 No. 5 begins from the top of the ridge that gave the nine its name. Enjoy the views from atop the world along with the breathtaking cart ride down the bottom of the valley.

Winner of the 1973 British Open, Tom Weiskopf followed up his PGA Tour successes with a remarkable career as a designer of championship courses in the UK, China, Hawaii, and around the US. **Old Kinderhook** at Lake of the Ozarks was built in a huge scenic valley and serves as the centerpiece of a terrific 700-acre resort property complete with boating, a spa, indoor/outdoor saltwater pools, and a lodge with 84 elegant rooms. The 6,726-yard course is perennially ranked among the top five public layouts in Missouri. Its primary characteristics include huge topographical changes, mature trees, waterfalls, and water hazards.

Walk into the lobby of **Margaritaville Lake Resort Lake of the Ozarks** and you become captivated by the "island vibe" of the epic hotel formerly known as Tan-Tar-A. The massive redesigned atrium is decorated from floor to ceiling in wood paneling complemented by pastel walls. The staff is appropriately dressed in casual island apparel. And, of course, gentle Caribbean music creates an irresistible mood that makes you tap your feet even as you check in.

The primary amenity for golfers, of course, is the resort's acclaimed **Oaks Course**. Designed in 1980 by the team of Bruce Devlin and Robert von Hagge, the course traverses across rugged terrain that befits its former use in the 1970s as a ski hill. The course lives up to its name as most holes are lined by towering oaks creating an isolated, majestic setting.

While the Oaks Course offers a number of memorable par 3s, the signature hole is the breath-taking par-5 No. 9. Following a

tee shot to a large rolling fairway, the player has the choice of playing short of a pond fed by a small waterfall, or to go all-in with a fairway wood down into a valley to overcome the pond, the waterfall, and a large bunker protecting the right side of the putting surface. My recommendation: go for it!

No stay at the Margaritaville Resort is complete without enjoying some of the other amenities offered at the sprawling 410-acre property. Kids and kids-at-heart can enjoy a 20,000 sq. ft. indoor waterpark. The Driftwood Spa & Salon provides a myriad of spa services. The Port of Indecision Marina serves up affordable boat rentals,

wave runners, and pontoon boats to explore the lake. Make sure to savor at least one frozen concoction that helps you hang on with a margarita at the Chill Bar & Grill a short walk from the lobby entrance.

Bear Creek Valley Golf Club meanders through 250 acres of colorful Ozark forest, meadows and scenic valleys along "Little Bear Creek". The course has zoysia fairways, subtle bentgrass greens, and multiple tee settings, which will insure an enjoyable, yet challenging, round of golf. The facilities include a casual restaurant and lounge, a driving range, putting green, and pro shop.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., **The Cove** is the flagship course at **The Lodge of Four Seasons**. The layout features 72 bunkers, rolling hills, and water hazards on nine of the 18 holes. The course's signature par 3 calls for a tee shot almost entirely over the "Witch's Cove" section of the lake. The hole can play from as far back as 230 yards. But most of us mortals can play it using a mid-iron off the tee.

Lake Valley Golf Club features an unusual array of six par-3s, six par 4s and six par 5s. Set over rolling hills, the course recently received a major upgrade in bun-

kering which adds to both the challenge and the aesthetics of the property.

Indian Rock Golf Club is highlighted by the delightful No. 17 which incorporates the towering rock formation which gave the course its name.

Established way back in 1955, **Rolling Hills Country Club** dishes up some of the area's best bentgrass greens.

Eldon Golf Club was recently cited as the "best public course" in the area due to its rolling hills, bubbling creeks, zoysia fairways, and upgraded bunker system.

Those looking to finish their evenings with more golf should head to LOZ Golf Lounge which serves up over 200 virtual golf courses in a comfortable indoor setting. Cold microbrews and scrumptious sandwiches are on the menu.

So how does one arrange a trip to one of the great golf destinations in America? Very affordable Golf Trail Getaway packages are available through the Golf Council, and start as low as \$80/night per person including lodging and golf with a cart. Package options allow guests to pick and choose their preferred golf courses to play and can opt for lodging that spans from economical to luxurious. Along with great brand-name resorts like Margaritaville or the Lodge of Four Seasons Golf Resort, the area offers **Big Thunder Marine at Ozark Yacht Club**—six homes that can accommodate groups of 10 to 24 guests. **The Resort at Lake of the Ozarks** allows golfers to "live the lake life" with elegant accommodations overlooking the lake, yet just minutes away from the historic Bagnell Dam Strip. The resort is also adjacent to the Encore Lakeside Grill & Sky Bar, a 50,000 sq. ft. entertainment complex that serves up nightly live entertainment as well as great food.

"Our Golf Trail Getaway packages don't just make booking a trip easy," said Walker. "They also provide the most affordable way to experience the 12 great golf courses and spectrum of lodging options available in the Lake of the Ozarks area."

For reservations, golf packages, and the Lake of the Ozarks Golf Guide (available in both digital and hard copy), visit the Lake of the Ozarks Golf Trail website at www.golfingmissouri.com



Osage National PANO Hole #1



Old Kinderhook



The Cove Hole #2



Tee time or tea time? Prime steak or high-stakes game? Your choice.

Warm up with a bucket of balls. Or just warm up your belly.

Walk directly to The Lawn Restaurant, just a pitching wedge away from Wilmette Golf Club's driving range, and order a plate of blistered shishito peppers (dressed with feta, wild honey, and chili crunch).

Then bring serious heat with a Nashville Hot chicken sandwich (buttermilk fried, spice rubbed, sauced with Alabama white barbeque, hot honey, bread-and-butter pickles, and sesame bun).

Now, you're warmed up. You're sweating, before you've even started looking over that birdie putt on the par-4 first hole after knocking your mid-iron approach close.

Greens in regulation on your mind? Never mind. Focus on these greens: The Troon chopped salad with smoked salmon, arugula, tomato, crunchy corn, pepitas, sultanas, couscous, and creamy basil dressing.

Wash it down with a smoothie? Sure. Say, a "Kale Mary" (blueberry, kale, avocado, orange juice, matcha powder, agave, and apple cider vinegar)? Or how about a "Fairways + Greens" (spinach, apple, banana, avocado, spirulina, matcha, agave, and lemon juice)?

"Every dish has a story behind it," said chef John Diaz, Wilmette GC's Director of Food and Beverage

Great Golf Meets Fine Dining at Wilmette Golf Club

Course Introduces New Lawn Restaurant

By Joe Aguilar



and the man behind every salivating dish The Lawn offers, along with popular Chicago restaurateur/proprietor Michael Madden, who grew up in Wilmette, and Operating Partner/Director of Operations Jeff Gronske.

Come to century-old Wilmette GC to play 9 or 18 holes, and then stay for lunch or dinner at a new, high-end restaurant bursting with a vibrant ambiance and attracting hackers and homemakers, business men, and guys who are all biz on the golf course.

Wilmette turned to a more upscale dining experience. But not so high end that someone on a tight budget or a mom or dad pushing a stroller couldn't enjoy it, or have to speak French to order from the menu.

Or is it, come to Wilmette Golf Club for lunch or dinner at a new, high-end restaurant bursting with a vibrant ambiance and attracting golfers and non-golfers, and then stay for golf?

The course is located 35 minutes north of downtown Chicago and just west of Interstate 94 on Lake Street (and a 5 iron from prep football powerhouse Loyola Academy). Wilmette GC is widely regarded by golfers in the area for the quality of its greens and



excellent pace of play, and is easy to walk. No. 11 is the course's signature hole: a 430-yard par 4 with water down the left, including near the green.

The Lawn is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, with brunch available on weekends.

"I think for the last several years it was, come for the golf and then maybe be on your way or stay for something [off the menu] that was halfway decent," said course superintendent Nick Marfise, a man who knows greens and eats his greens. "Now, we got a new [food] vendor in here and they've really stepped it up a notch."

Opened in 1922 under the name Playmore Golf Club and designed by Joseph Roseman, who was one of the course's three original owners and an inventor and grounds keeper, the Wilmette Park District Golf Course celebrated its 100th year in 2022. The addition of a continuous concrete cart path for the first time in the property's history was the main attraction.

As the course tries to pave a road to success, however, its vision has less to do with golfers enjoying a comfortable ride in their canopied cart.

Heading into January 2022, with the world coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and with many



local restaurants having shut down or looking for new locations and new ideas, the Wilmette Park District considered a complementary component to its golf course that would attract more than just its usual customers and golfers on the go.

The decision-makers followed their gut, so to speak.

General Manager Adam Kwiatkoski came aboard 10 years ago, just after the installation of new greens on all 18 holes. When the most-recent restaurant contract became available, the course entertained about eight bids. Kwiatkoski said one bidder's idea was to build a supper club: all dark walls and white table cloths.

"For a lot of reasons," Kwiatkoski said, "we chose not to do that."

Instead, Madden conceptualized The Lawn. He pitched it to the board, which accepted it.

Every golf course offers a burger, hot dog, or chicken sandwich, and Wilmette GC did too. But the board had a bigger appetite. The restaurant itself received a completely new look. Hardwood floors and windows the size of King Kong's strike zone were installed. A bar and patio were added, complementing the existing fireplace.

Kwiatkowski said the restaurant, which features indoor and outdoor seating, comfortably seats 200, including about 125 on the patio.



The Lawn opened right before Labor Day last year and business has only increased, buoyed more by word of mouth than an extravagant marketing campaign.

"We did 280 [customers] for Easter," Kwiatkoski said. "If we had a huge room, we could have done 500. Two weeks leading up to Easter, the phone was ringing every 10 minutes [to make reservations]."

Don't let Diaz's title as Director of Food and Beverage fool you. If a golfer were as creative around the green as Diaz is around the kitchen, he or she would get up and down every time. Diaz was responsible for the menu.

"We didn't hire some [ordinary] cook," Kwiatkoski said. "He's a chef."

Kwiatkoski has witnessed Wilmette's 'Gordon Ramsay' in action, chef's knife slicing and dicing, ingredients flying like Super Bowl confetti, aromas so salivating you could gain five pounds with just a couple of sniffs.

"I'd be here in the winter just hanging out, snow on the ground," Kwiatkoski said of Diaz. "He'd be like, 'Here, try this,' just messing with stuff. Everything is super good. We had a pizza night. [At the end of the night], people were like, 'You should start doing carryout pizzas. Like, that pizza was awesome. What did you do to the dough?'"

So how about a Magnolia Lane pimento cheese appetizer, on grilled bread of course? Can you ever go wrong with a turkey club? Try Diaz's Pebble Beach, which includes bacon, red onion, and Dijonnaise. Or maybe you're in the mood for Kinkaid's crab cake, complete with roasted corn salsa and mustard creme fraiche?

"You'll come in on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night and tables are full," Kwiatkoski said. "Yeah, golfers filter in and do their thing, but there will be tables full of ladies drinking white wine at one



Chef John Diaz
Photo: Mike Whealan
Photography

in the afternoon. There will be moms with strollers, families, people in their 70s and 80s having salads sitting outside by the fireplace.”

If you're just playing golf, the restaurant still offers “golfer food” for those who want to grab a bite at the turn. Kwiatkoski recommends The Lawn Dog, which is an elongated hamburger served on a hoagie.

The 22-seat bar offers more than its share of variety. Cocktails include the Amen Corner Transfusion (Tito's vodka, grape juice, lime, ginger beer) and the Front Porch Margarita (Tanteo blanco or jalapeno tequila, Cointreau liqueur, lime, and sugar cane).

The wine menu features more than 60 options, including a particular bottle of red that will cost you as much as the newest driver that you *have* to have. No, you don't have to bone up on your French to order it. Yes, you can order a simple low-calorie beer or a reliable lager instead.

Phil Mickelson would try a Left Hand Milk Stout, no?

“There'll be a guy sitting at the bar drinking Miller Lite,” Kwiatkoski said, “and there'll be a guy sitting next to him drinking an aged, 12-year-old rye whiskey with a big ice cube.”

“It's a new restaurant in a great area. The neighborhood's awesome,” Diaz said. “It's fun catering to the golfers.”

The Lawn supports many local businesses, including Zier's Prime Meats & Poultry (The Lawn's menu features a choice of an 8-ounce filet mignon or 14-ounce sauced ribeye), Burhop's Seafood (the fish sandwich is blackened), and The Spoke & Bird bakery (buns of fun).

“If you have a good golf course,” course superintendent Marfise said, “you got to have good food.”

Kwiatkoski thinks his municipal course has both. The course is designed in a classic parkland style, measuring less than 6,400 yards from the back tees and featuring only two par 5s on a par-70 layout. Don't be fooled, though. Wilmette Golf Club has a lot of fun and challenging holes.

“It's a great golf course because it's in good shape, and it's a fun golf course for good players to play, but it's not too difficult,” Kwiatkoski said.

Kwiatkoski said he's heard from others who run golf courses and have told him their golfers played Wilmette. Sure, the old course holds up well, but the golfers left raving about the restaurant.

“It's a draw for both,” Marfise said of the food and golf combo. “If the golf course is a draw for the restaurant, and the restaurant is a draw for the golf course, it's bringing people here that maybe otherwise wouldn't come here.”

Marfise's eyes scanned the patio on a summer-like afternoon. Some men were dressed to kill on the golf course, some women were dressed to kill.

“There are a lot of people eating that don't play golf at all,” Marfise said.

Said Kwiatkoski, smiling, of the restaurant, “It's definitely at ‘buzz’ status at this point.”



Photo: Mike Whealan Photography



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Golf Direct Now

When it comes to purchasing golf equipment, apparel, and accessories, some people prefer an in-person shopping experience while others prefer the comfort of shopping online. And with the demise of so many “mom and pop” type golf shops, the golf retail landscape has significantly changed over the past decade. If you head to West Chicago, however, you’ll find Golf Direct Now. A modern, welcoming, brick-and-mortar location that gives us all of the feel of our favorite one-off golf shops. Pull back the curtain, however, and Golf Direct Now is quietly becoming one of the best online golf retailers in the U.S. Who knew? Right in our backyard.

Let’s take a look at all of the goings on at Golf Direct Now and why you should consider them for your next golf purchase, whether your shopping cart is physical or virtual.

Equipment

All of your favorite brands are in the house. Callaway, Titleist, PING, TaylorMade, Tour Edge, Bettinardi, Mizuno, Srixon, and more. Whether you’re looking for the latest models or want to score a deal on last year’s gear, you’ll find it. If you prefer to buy off the rack you can, but Golf Direct Now does offer performance fittings with Trackman for a small fee which is waived if you purchase the equipment.

Bags, Balls, Footwear, and More

Golf Direct Now carries all major golf ball brands and models with plenty of deals to score. Their golf bag selection is quite impressive, as is the large number of golf shoe options for you to see, touch, and try on. You’ll find plenty of choices from brands like G/FORE, ECCO, FootJoy, PUMA, and more.

Apparel

Here are some words that get us excited. “In-store-only exclusive brands.” You can find the big names anywhere, but brands such as B. Draddy, Fairways & Greene, and Zero Restriction are all available for you to check out. In addition, you’ll find plenty of choices from TravisMathew, Adidas, Oakley, and more.

Golf Lessons

Yes, you can even get your game tuned up at Golf Direct Now. The teaching bay is

manned by two extremely qualified PGA Professionals. Andrew Stevens (formerly with Stonebridge CC and Calumet CC) and Nathan Perry (formerly with Aurora CC) are both available to get your game on track. Lessons run \$60 for 30 minutes and \$120 for one hour.

Club Repair

“I swear, the head just flew off.” We’ve been there. The good thing is Golf Direct Now offers a complete club repair department. Whether it’s a simple re-grip, shaft install, or loft/lie adjustment, they’ve got you covered.

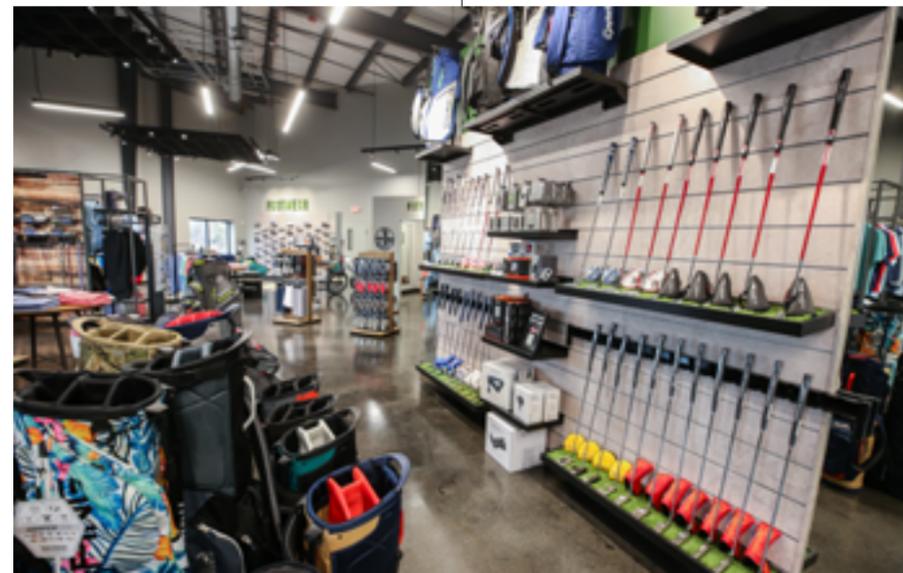
My Golf Box

One of our favorite offerings is My Golf Box. This monthly or quarterly subscription

box arrives at your house with high-end apparel curated from the Golf Direct Now staff, all at a 30% discount. It’s one of the best deals in golf. One-time purchases are also available.

So whether you’re in the market for a completely new bag setup or just need an accessory such as a glove or new laser rangefinder, Golf Direct Now is the newest store on the block and we’ll be among their regulars.

Golf Direct Now
560 West Roosevelt
West Chicago, Ill. 60185
888-647-2638
www.golfdirectnow.com



Gull Lake View

continued from page 25

keeping an eye on a rolling piece of land that had at one time served as an apple orchard. They acquired the parcel and collaborated with Brian Schneider, Eric Iverson, Don Placek and Brian Slawnik—all senior associates of the acclaimed Renaissance Golf Design of Traverse City—on a unique, Scottish links-inspired course which would challenge single-digit handicap golfers while inspiring intrigue and excitement from long-term guests. Opened six years ago, Stoatin Brae—which means Grand Hill in Scottish Gaelic—brought new energy to Gull Lake View. Celebrated as America’s Best New Golf Course by national golf magazines, the course instantly appealed to an audience who sought destination courses that offer exciting new adventures. Its open links-style layout with delightful Auld Sod characteristics allows golfers to enjoy an Open Championship experience just a short drive from their homes in Detroit or Toronto or Chicago. Along with softly rolling terrain and dramatically pitched putting surfaces, the course plays hard-and-fast to vault tee shots forward in fescue-lined fairways.

“It took a few rounds for some of our guests to get used to the pitch-and-run style of play on Stoatin Brae,” said Jacob Heerlyn, director of marketing at Gull Lake View Resort. “But once they got the hang of links golf, they fell in love with the idea that just a few blocks away from our traditionally designed courses, they can experience golf the way it was originally played in Scotland and Ireland. In just a few years, Stoatin Brae has become a must-play experience by both our longtime guests and first-time visitors.”

Gull Lake View Resort is a fun and rewarding experience for everyday golfers of all skill levels. With its wide variety of golf course options, the property is one of the best and most affordable golf destinations not just in Michigan but across the Midwest. Working-class buddies can enjoy a fantastic experience without breaking the bank as they might by traveling long distances to high-end, multi-course locales that seemingly receive all of the national attention. Comfortable and elegant group lodging is located just off the fairways and clubhouse of the original Gull Lake courses. The clubhouse is also proud home to Charles & Darl’s Smokehouse which serves up delicious slow-cooked barbecue ribs nightly.

For reservations and more information, visit www.gulllakeview.com.

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THE BLUFFS
CHALLENGE IN CHANNAHON, IL

Located right off of Interstate 55 in Channahon, IL, The Bluffs, also known as Heritage Bluffs Golf Club, offers both a challenge and composure across its rolling acres. With scenic beauty unlike most Chicago-area courses, The Bluffs is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and has received a 4-Star rating from Golf Digest magazine.

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

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



Chalk Up Another Winner

One fine spring day in 1972, attorney, private pilot, and wine aficionado Fred Fruth was piloting his plane over the Russian River Valley area. Down below, he saw what he had been searching for: a property that had the climate and soils to grow first-class wine grapes. Fruth and his second wife, Peggy, purchased the land, named the estate Chalk Hill, and started producing wine about a decade later. They gradually planted more than 270 acres of vines. Years later, Fruth said, "I have always been interested in wine because my grandfather had vineyards. I'm actually more interested in the working-the-soil aspect, but I have many very talented people in the winery who know how to produce a world-class wine. When I bought this property, I was told it was too hilly to be a vineyard, but I simply planted the grapes in rows going uphill. People said you can't do that, but I'd seen it done in Germany so I knew it would work."

Lawyer Bill Foley acquired Chalk Hill in 2010. Although Foley is titled as "vintner," I doubt he sees the interior of the winery very often. He is a vintner in the broader sense of "someone who sells wine." He owns fifteen other wineries as well as a hockey team, and is a financial industry executive.

The Chalk Hill AVA is one of 13 in Sonoma County, and is distinguished from the neighboring appellations of the cooler Russian River Valley to the west and the warmer Alexander Valley to the northeast. Elevations are higher and soil fertility is lower. The soils include gravel, rock, and heavy clay. Under the topsoil is a distinctive layer of chalk-colored volcanic ash which inspired the name of Chalk Hill.

Each vineyard block has been planted based on criteria that include: soil profile and chemistry, slope, orientation to the sun, and climate. Under Fred Fruth's direction, Chalk Hill was an early leader in planting its hillside vineyards "vertically," following the rise of the terrain, rather than across it. Because of this, the topsoil must be protected with a diverse cover crop serving many purposes. It anchors and protects the soil, preventing erosion; captures and affixes nitrogen; and harbors a varied community of beneficial insects that aid in pest management. Water conservation is addressed through a precisely controlled drip-irrigation system.

More than two-thirds of Chalk Hill's 1300 acres remain uncultivated. In addition to the vineyards, the property features wilderness

areas, the winery, a hospitality center, a culinary garden, a residence, stables, and an equestrian pavilion.

The Winemakers

Michael Beulac, Senior Winemaker
Beulac, a Vermont native, brings with him over thirty years of experience. He began his winemaking career when Tim Murphy of Murphy-Goode offered him a job as a harvest intern in 1989. Immediately after and through 1991 he worked as a cellar master with long-time Russian River winemaker Merry Edwards. Beginning in 1997, he spent four years as winemaker for Markham Vineyards in St. Helena. He became Vice President of St. Supéry Vineyards in Rutherford in 2001, working closely with Michel Roland and Denis Dubourdieu. Beulac was general manager and winemaker at Napa's Pine Ridge Vineyards from 2009 until coming to Chalk Hill this year.

Darrell Holbrook, Winemaker
A Sonoma County native, Holbrook spent his childhood among the vineyards there. By age 12, he often accompanied his father to his job at Lytton Springs Winery, [now Ridge Vineyards] driving tractors and helping where he could. In 1994, after working at Lytton Springs in the vineyards, he began an apprenticeship under David Ramey, Chalk Hill's winemaker at the time. He worked his way up from a cellar intern (aka cellar rat) to enologist and production manager, and then assistant winemaker in 2009. Ten years later he was promoted to winemaker.

Courtney Foley, 2nd Generation Vintner
The youngest daughter of Chalk Hill Estate proprietors Bill and Carol Foley, she studied enology and viticulture at both Napa Valley College and Fresno State University. Her practical experience began under winemaker Leslie Renaud at Lincourt Vineyards and Foley Estates (surprise!) in Santa Barbara County. Once back in Sonoma, she again found herself working with Renaud at Roth Estate Winery in Healdsburg. Just in case the wine thing doesn't work out, she also has a J.D. degree with a focus on Environmental and Ocean Law from the University of Oregon School of Law.

Chalk Hill Chalk Hill Estate Red 2018

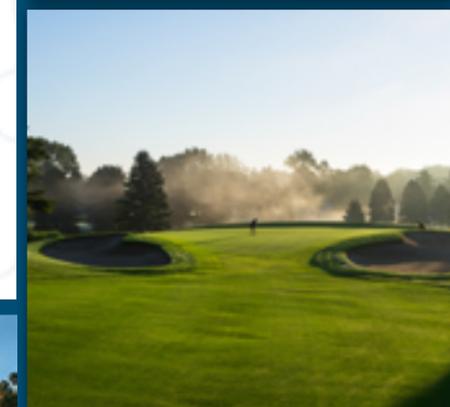
This selection is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Malbec, 10% Petit Verdot, and 2% Carmenere. Primary fermentation



smhawk@winervana.com

was in stainless steel, followed by 100% malolactic fermentation with batonnage. It was then aged 21 months in 61% new French oak. It was bottled unfined and unfiltered. It is a rich, deep red in the glass, quite dark but completely transparent. The nose offers up aromas of cedar and complex dark fruit. These express on the full-bodied palate as tart cherry and sweet prune, with some spice and a hint of cigar box. This is all supported by grippy black tea tannins and balanced acidity. ABV is 15.5%. This would pair quite nicely with a meatloaf.

For more about Chalk Hill Wines and many other wine and spirits reviews, be sure to visit www.winervana.com.



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Located just outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Gull Lake View Golf Resort features six championship courses, including Stoatin Brae, a top 100 course you can play by Golfweek. Come here for the golf, and play 18-holes a day for six days, without ever playing the same hole twice.

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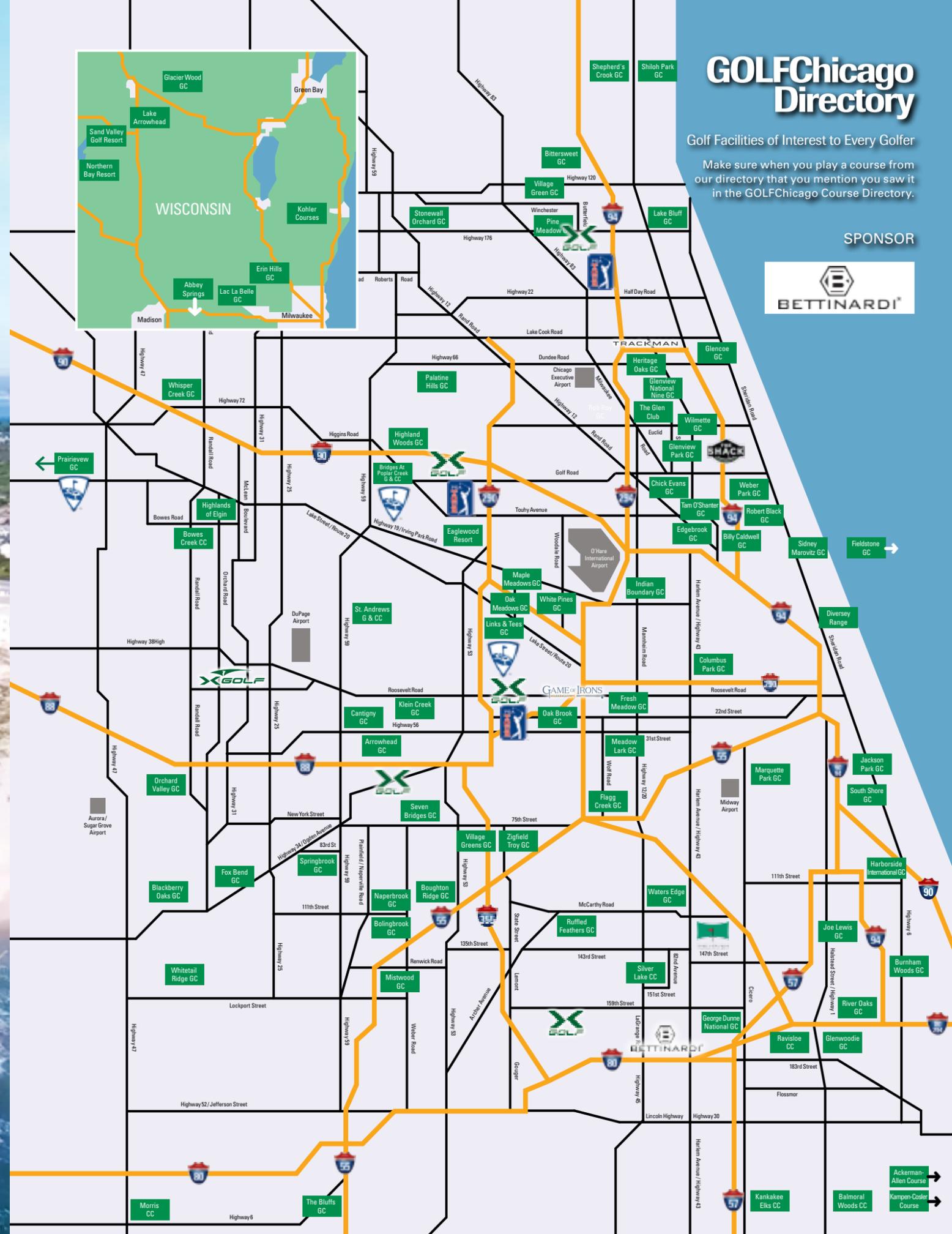


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Belmont Golf Club

630-963-1306
2420 Hadow 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.



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.



Bettinardi Golf

708-802-7400
Studio B
7800 Graphics Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
bettinardi.com/pages/studio-b-putter-fitting

Studio B is Bettinardi Golf's high-tech putter-fitting facility located above the factory floor. During your one-hour fitting, our certified fitter will assess your stroke and determine what Bettinardi putter, length, loft, and lie would be best suited for your stroke.



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.



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.



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.



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60124
bowescreekcc.com

Ranked as *Golfweek's* Best Courses You Can Play, Bowes Creek Country Club gives you every option to play your ideal round of golf. Along with annual memberships, we offer a "member for a day" pass, allowing you the privilege to play unlimited golf with cart as well as full use of the practice facility. If playing a quick round of nine or eighteen holes suits your game better, we offer that as well. Bowes Creek provides the public golfer a private-club experience, without an annual membership.



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, and five-time host of the Illinois State Amateur, Cantigny features 27 challenging holes on beautiful, rolling terrain covering 300 acres. Rated Top 30 Best in State by *Golf Digest*. Cantigny Golf Academy offers junior clinics, private lessons, club fitting, grass practice tees, and climate-controlled hitting bays. Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole, par-3 course for ages 8 to 15.

New for 2023

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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.

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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



Erin Hills

866-772-4769
7169 County Road O
Erin, WI 53027
erinhills.com/

Erin Hills is a course like none other — routed over the kettle moraine areas left by glaciers, surrounded by wetlands and a river, with ground that consists of glacial till of varied composition of sand and small rock. In an unconventional decision for a course in Wisconsin, the architects routed the fairways around contours of the property and provided a firm playing surface that plays shorter than its length on the scorecard.



Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
dupagegolf.com

Green Meadows is a fun nine-hole gem that offers quality conditions in a traditional parkland setting.

Featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, the Green Meadows layout is the perfect blend of challenge, enjoyment, and value for all skill levels!

Senior discounts are available every day, and DuPage Golf Discount Card holders save on every round.

Look for Green Meadows behind the Westmont water tower on 63rd St.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



Fieldstone GC

248-370-9354
1984 Taylor Rd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
fieldstonegolfclub.com

Amidst over 170 local golf courses, Fieldstone is consistently hailed as one of the top daily fee facilities in Southeast Michigan. We present an exceptional variety of hole designs by the renowned architect Arthur Hills that mesh the diverse landscape and wetlands with gently rolling fairways through majestic hardwoods. Add our unparalleled maintenance and dedicated staff of professionals for an experience that many private clubs try, but often fail, to emulate.



Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
dupagegolf.com

Maple Meadow's Championship "West 18" features a modern prairie design, and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open and the host course for the DuPage Junior Classic.

Choose from four sets of tees and enjoy immaculate bent grass fairways and greens.

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Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



Fox Bend Golf Course

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

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course, boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. This 6,890-yard, par-72 course tests skills of all levels with 34 well-positioned bunkers and water in play on 11 holes. Fox Bend has hosted three Illinois Opens, the 2010 & 2011 USGA Qualifiers, and the 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021, and 2023 Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers. Visit Christina's Pub & Grill before or after your round of golf to enjoy spacious outdoor seating with gorgeous views and American fare done right!





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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.



Game of Irons

630-303-9454
3041 Butterfield Rd.
Suite 104
Oak Brook, IL 60523
gameofirons.com

Game of Irons is Chicagoland's most exciting virtual golf experience! Be transported to over 200 world-famous courses in the comfort of a premium indoor facility with 16 hitting bays in over 18,000 sq. ft. - perfect for corporate events, parties, and club meetings. We offer a full bar with craft cocktails and amazing food. We invite you to try out our #1 rated simulators with moving floors that adjust to the course contours, auto ball tee and multiple turf types (fairway, rough and bunker).



The Haven Indoor Golf

708-671-8052
12317 S. Harlem Ave.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
thehavenindoorgolf.com

The Haven Indoor Golf & Bar is the only indoor facility in the Southwest Suburbs using Foresight GC Hawks! Our simulators are true game improvement simulators making us the premier facility in the Southwest suburbs.

Foresight Sports launch monitors use exact photometric measurements and image processing taken with a clear, direct view of the critical ball launch condition and club head into impact. The result? Our launch monitors measure - not estimate - club head data based on the club's triangulated face plane, delivering vastly more accurate results.



Glacier Wood Golf Club

715-445-3831
604 Water St.
Iola, WI 54945
glacierwoodiola.com

Glacier Wood Golf Club is an 18-hole public facility centrally located in the state, two hours north of Madison. Ranked as the #2 golf course in the state of Wisconsin through Golfpass.com, as well as #17 in the nation for value, Glacier Wood Golf Club is worth the drive. With four sets of tees, the golf course is fair for players of all skill levels, and offers a driving range equipped with four target greens and a 19,000 sq. ft. natural grass hitting area, as well as two practice greens used for putting and chipping. With tree-lined fairways, undulating green complexes, and a wide array of natural wildlife, Glacier Wood Golf Club is a must play.



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.



Glenwoodie Golf Club

708-758-1212
19301 S State St.
Glenwood, IL 60425
glenwoodiegolf.com

Glenwoodie, just 25 minutes from Chicago, has been a favorite championship course for serious and recreational golfers in Chicago and Northwest Indiana for over 90 years. Consistently ranked in the top 35 public courses, the 18-hole, par-72, 6902-yard course features bent-grass fairways and large rolling greens surrounded by groves of majestic oaks.

- 14,000 sq. ft. Clubhouse and Community Center with fully-stocked Golf Shop
- Full Service Bar and Grille, and Outdoor Patio
- Electric Cart Fleet
- Lighted Practice Range
- PGA Professional Staff



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.



Kankakee Elks Country Club

815-937-9547
2283 Bittersweet Dr.
Saint Anne, IL 60964
elksgolff627.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.



Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. 111th St. / Hassert Blvd.
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.



Klein Creek Golf Club

630-690-0101
1N333 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190
kleincreek.com

Klein Creek Golf Club is an 18-hole public golf course located one mile south of North Avenue and easily accessible from I-355. Designed by Dick Nugent, the layout features an open design in which water is present on 15 holes. Trees frame the layout's gentle doglegs, and tall prairie grasses border the fairways. Contoured mounding frames the fairways and greens, allowing a variety of approach options and great risk-reward opportunities.



Northern Bay Resort and Marina

608-339-2090 ext. 2
1844 20th Avenue
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.



The Club at Lac La Belle

262-567-7833
6996 Pennsylvania St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
clubatlaclabelle.com

The newly renovated Club at Lac La Belle is now open for public play! If the club's original founders and its legendary Scottish golf professionals were alive today, our hope is that they would recognize our new course as fun "sporting" golf, which was a fundamental part of the game in 1896. We invite you to come see why Lac La Belle is the birthplace of the Wisconsin Golf Trail



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.



Lake Arrowhead

715-325-2929
1195 Apache Lane
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.



Wilmotte Golf Club

630-208-7600
2325 Longest Dr.
West Chicago, IL 60185
prairielanding.com

Prairie Landing Golf Course is a prairie links style 18-hole course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. The course has been rated 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest* for "Best Places to Play." Prairie Landing Golf Club prides itself on offering the quintessential golf experience of the Chicagoland Area.





LEGENDARY
PUTTERS,
AND
SO MUCH
MORE!



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

Sand Valley is known for its three award-winning golf courses, Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes, and the Sandbox, which were modeled after the great heathland courses of London. Enjoy dramatic views, a magnitude of strategic playing options, modern lodging, and a culinary experience to match.



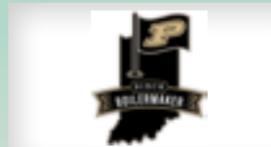
PrairieView Golf Club
815-234-4653
6734 N. German Church Rd.
Byron, IL 61010
prairieviewgolf.com

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 Byron, 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.



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.



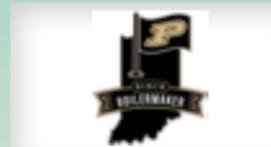
Purdue's Ackerman-Allen Course
765-494-3139
West Lafayette, IN
purduegolf.com

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.



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.



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.



Stonewall Orchard Golf Club
847-740-4890
25675 W. Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030
stonewallorchard.com

Cutting through hundred-year-old oak and pine trees, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club has quickly become one of Chicago's most prolific public golf courses.

Since opening in 1999, the Arthur Hills-designed gem located in northwest suburban Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open, and currently sits in rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every fall.



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!



X-Golf Kildeer
847-847-1723
20771 N Rand Rd Suite I-4,
Kildeer, IL 60047
xgolfkildeer.com

XGolf Kildeer offers an upscale indoor golf experience. State-of-the-art golf simulators, full bar, private and semi-private rooms, and wide open floor plan!



White Pines Golf Club
630-766-0304
500 W. Jefferson
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.



X-Golf Libertyville
224-504-2940
1177 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Libertyville, IL 60048
xgolf-libertyville.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.



Whitetail Ridge Golf Club
630-882-8988
7671 Clubhouse Dr. Yorkville,
IL 60560
whitetailridgegc.com

Experience a "tail" of two Nines at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club. Our Front Nine flows through a beautiful valley featuring a creek that splits through its relatively flat landscape. Our Back Nine begins on #10 with a climb up the slopes and follows the rolling hills into some towering trees. Finish your day in The Persimmon Room. This newly renovated space features an indoor/outdoor dining area with shareable dishes, scratch-made entrees, an extensive list of bourbons and whiskey, and the most spectacular sunsets around!



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.



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 golfwilmette.com.



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.





Rules, and Misrule

I've always considered myself a political liberal and a baseball conservative. Down with the designated hitter, I say! Starting with a man on second in extra innings? Bunk! No more having to actually throw the pitches for an intentional walk? Hogwash!

The noted conservative George Will and I have little in political common other than an orange distaste for a certain recent President. But we do seem to be on the same page as far as some of the new baseball rules are concerned, namely, the pitch clock. Now pitchers have to deliver the next ball to the plate 15 seconds after it comes back from the catcher. Twenty seconds if there are men on base, or risk having a ball added to the count.

Likewise, batters have until eight seconds left on the clock to be ready at the plate, or a strike is called. So far, this seems to be working like a charm. Games, which averaged three hours and five minutes last season, are down 29 minutes, to two hours and 26 minutes, and we no longer have to watch players re-wrapping their batting gloves after every pitch.

So, golf, what do you say? And I'm not even talking about the pros, where Patrick Cantley has become the poster child for slow play, and where there are rarely enforced penalties for dawdlers. (And where a shot clock was tried on the DP Tour and shortened rounds by a half-hour.) Pace of play we shall always have with us.

I'm talking about that tortoise-like amateur foursome right in front of us. What's worse than waiting for a player taking some more practice strokes with his putter while grinding out for an 11? Maybe a good new rule would be after reaching, oh, triple bogey, a player would be declared unplayable until the next hole. Better, considering all the technological advances no doubt within reach, after reaching three-over one's ball would simply evaporate into a small pile of dust.

The USGA and the good old R&A are like U.S. Presidential elections in that potential alterations to the status quo come up every four years, with quarterly updates. The governing bodies that be labored mightily to come up with more simplified rules of golf in 2019 and it surely helped. But, truth be told, deciphering the rules still sometimes requires the wisdom and diligence of a Talmudic scholar.

But if nothing else happened in 2019, I'd be grateful for the so-called T.C. Chen rule, i.e., hitting the ball twice on a single stroke. I do this at least a few times a season and now counting it as only one stroke seems a positive balm for a psy-

che already smarting from sheer embarrassment over one's incompetence. True, the double hit is an oddity, but now you can take the shot (formerly, shots), and move on.

Sadly, no new rule covers the even worse embarrassment adhering to the whiff. The sound and fury clinging to a whiff, signifying nothing (except one stroke) should impose a rule of silence from one's playing partners. Unfortunately, barely suppressed snickers seem more common, if not outright guffaws, or some pearl like, "Ah, nice breeze!"

Interesting though, isn't it, how silence does seem the rule after The Shot That Dare Not Speak Its Name, the s___k, which we'll refer to here as the hosel rocket? That's because a hosel rocket is beyond embarrassment. It caroms directly into horror. It is shrouded in dread within every golfer's noggin, a poisonous leach on the brain, because it is so sudden, so unexpected, so beyond explanation, but not so easily expunged. Even seeing another player hit one is so terrifying it's best to just pick up one's bag and leave quietly, as if from a funeral.

One generous new rule for 2023 is actually what is called an exception to 4.1b(3), No Replacing Lost or Damaged Clubs. Now if you damage a club during a round, from scrapping a cart path, say, or nicking a tree, you can fix or replace the club during the round.

The caveat here is that damage to a club from anger or abuse is still a no-no. If you blow a shot—a hosel rocket, say—and then your fuse by wrapping your club around a tree or snapping it over your knee, you're not allowed to replace the club. Let's see some anger management out there, people.

If you helicopter a club into a pond—after hitting a hosel rocket, say—there's no exception to 4.1b(3). Not only is the club lost, but this was surely an act of anger and abuse anyway, even if it tends to be quite dramatic, and aeronautically impressive.

Excepting the extraordinary ricochet, nothing good ever comes from a hosel rocket, does it? Seems I can't get this out of my mind. Maybe the USGA and R&A need to delve into this golf injustice more. Organize a new study group, come up with a clever new rule—call it the Do Over?—and maybe we'll all sleep better at night.

As far as he knows, Tom Bedell is the only member of both the Golf Writers Association of America and the North American Guild of Beer Writers. If you play with him, he suggests standing to his left.

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- JOHN STEINBREder



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