

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

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LAC LA BELLE: A SLEEPING GIANT AWAKENS

DADS & GRADS GIFT GUIDE

MOVIE REVIEW: PHANTOM OF THE OPEN

MICHIGAN'S ISLAND RESORT & CASINO: THE PERFECT 4-SOME

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Cover: Lac La Belle

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OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

This spring was yet another cruel reminder that golf season here in Chicago doesn't really get underway until May. Personally, I learned this many years ago when I competed in a late-April tournament at Village Greens of Woodridge and was standing on the first tee amidst a mixture of pouring rain and heavy snow. Ah, spring in Chi-Town.

The silver lining: we were able to spend a lot of time researching new equipment and, for many, receiving professional instruction in the hopes of hitting the ball both farther and straighter than ever before.

As a full-time instructor and custom club fitter working for GOLFTEC, my spring was spent getting my students better equipped to improve their game both from a mechanics and on-course standpoint, as well as the equipment that they'll be sporting this season.

This month's issue is also filled with the latest gear and accessories on the market, as featured in our ever-popular Good Stuff department. If looking for a gift for the golfer who has everything, then look no further than our Dads and Grads feature for some great gift giving ideas. (Quick tip: Search John Daly on Cameo.com. You'll thank me later.)

Our cover story features the rebirth of Lac La Belle, a classic resort and one of the oldest golf destinations in Wisconsin. And just when you thought Michigan golf couldn't get any better, senior writer Neil Kotlarek introduces us to yet even more great golf courses, truly solidifying the state as one of the best in the country for golfers of all skill levels.

Back in December, I had the chance to preview a Sony Pictures movie based on a true story called Phantom of the Open. It will open in theatres as well as streaming online across the country in early June, and you'll find my review a few pages down from here. An amazing story of how a non-golfer finagled his way into multiple open championships, it is based on a true story, one which even rabid consumers of golf content, as well as golf historians, probably never heard of.

So here's to the official launch of golf season and to you playing your best golf yet. Remember, no matter the ups and downs you experience on the course, appreciate every moment.

In the April 2022 issue, the image and price of the Divnick Golf Heybike Ranger were incorrect. The correct information is shown here.

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GOLFChicago
Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Founder: Bill Daniels
Publisher: Dave Weretka
Editor: Dave Silbar
Art Director: Stephen Hawk
hawk@hawkdesign.net

Senior Writer: Neal Kotlarek

Editorial Contributors: Joe Aguilar, Dave Lockhart, Dr. Kevin McGarry, Dr. Ryan Pokrywka, and T.J. Sullivan

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Editorial Inquiries
Dave Silbar
dsilbar@silbarpr.com
847-845-7548

Advertising and Marketing Inquiries
Andy Rees
Director of Business Development
arees@golfchicagomagazine.com
312-451-1355

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THE GOOD STUFF



Rifle Scope, Engaged

SeeMore continues to build on innovation and proven results with each product launch. The company's newest lineup, the PVD Classic Series, is a collection of sleek designs that are designed to get the putter face square each and every time. The Model T is a mallet head design that will appeal to any one that already rolls something similar. This extreme heel and toe weighted flat stick has a milled aluminum insert that is oh so smooth feeling on the green. The polished charcoal PVD smoke finish looks great and eliminates glare. Don't forget the hallmark of any SeeMore putter, the RifleScope Technology. Just hide the red dot and take it back with confidence.

\$250 seemore.com

Big Stick, Big Results

Honma Golf ushers in its 2022 lineup with its TW757 D, the most technologically advanced driver the company has ever produced. Highlighted by the Ti-Carbon Fast Frame, the TW757 D produces big speed thanks to its ribbed carbon crown, vertical rib slot face insert, and an advanced sole for low CG and high MOI. Each driver can be customized with one of five premium VIZARD shafts which are hand-rolled at Honma's facility in Japan and are designed with the TW757 heads.

\$719 us.honmagolf.com



Straight Down Mohave Golf Shoes

We've been longtime fans of Straight Down apparel, so needless to say we were eager to sneak a peek at the company's new golf footwear. The Mohave line features a feather-lite midsole with a knit upper for superior lightweight performance. Featuring a proprietary pattern that was conceived for trail and hiking applications, their diamond traction outsole provides exceptional grip on a variety of surfaces including those found throughout the course. These shoes are stylish and look just as sharp off the course as well as on it. The rubber diamond super traction outsole provides all the grip you need on the links without the need for spikes. This shoe is made with the lightest materials, and Straight Down's exclusive ball cushioning foam insole will have your puppies moving around with a relaxed fit and style all your own.

\$160 www.straightdown.com



Get Dialed in with the Pure Plane Pro

In a sea of training aids, the Pure Plane Pro is the real deal. Designed by 2019 Massachusetts PGA Teacher of the Year Adam Kolloff, Pure Plan Pro was built to use the weight of a golf club to anchor one end of an alignment stick to the ground. Whether your path is too inside-out, too outside-in (aka over the top), if your hips sway away from the target, or you suffer from too many heel shots, the Pure Plane Pro is sure to cure all your swing woes. Says Kolloff, "I was frustrated to find an easy to use and lightweight training aid that could anchor an alignment stick to the ground, which could be adjusted and used in so many ways to help players improve. I would put sticks into the ground when I was outside, but indoors it was a challenge. Current aids were either heavy, bulky, not portable, or lacked features that I was looking for."

\$49 www.pureplanpro.com



Swing Minder Has You Covered

Swing Minder Founder Matt Beasley has done all of the heavy lifting. Now, it's up to all of us to make the shots happen! With his Swing Minder golf instruction reference cards, Beasley compiled all the on-course advice golf teaching professionals can provide and spent 10 additional months doing even more research. He then combined his eye for graphic design and background in instructional technology to create Swing Minder Quick Reference Cards. With his help, every golfer can now save tons of wasted strokes every round. Take the guesswork out of golf and have the confidence to get yourself out of trouble. We can't promise to keep you out of the rough, but Swing Minder guarantees you will know what to do when you get there. These quick and easy to read and understand reference cards are perfect for studying up at home or for clipping onto your golf bag for a quick reminder before and during your next round. Immediately know ball position, stance, setup and more for over 30 different trouble shots and save tons of wasted strokes.

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www.swingminder.com



A Jerky that Makes Your Bad Shots so Much Better

Old Trapper beef jerky is the perfect nosh to take for a quick snack on the course this summer. They've recently introduced an 18-ounce bag with four signature flavors—Old Fashioned, Peppercorn, Teriyaki, and Hot & Spicy. Recognized as one of the best beef jerky brands by *Taste of Home* magazine. Old Trapper's commitment to quality and transparency is clear. The 18-ounce bag was designed to provide consumers with a bag big enough for sharing and is the perfect snack for the course or your next buddies trip. Packed full of the highest quality beef where every single piece is tender and delicious in Old Trapper's signature transparent bag so consumers can clearly see what they are getting. Not only is it among the best we've tasted, but we found each piece tender, deliciously savory, and smoked to perfection. Available at grocery and convenience stores nationwide.

www.oldtrapper.com

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The liners start at \$12.95 for a three pack. www.nosweatco.com



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COMING SOON

Dave Silbar

“The Phantom of the Open” Charms All

There are loads of memorable scenes in what’s poised to be this summer’s best movie, “The Phantom of the Open.” Before unveiling them, let’s set the stage:

First, the “Phantom” storyline, centered on a golf theme, actually happened. It’s a complete contrast to “Caddyshack” and “Happy Gilmore” mockeries of decades past. Bill Murray and Adam Sandler hardly compare to the poetry-in-motion acting techniques of Mark Rylance and Sally Hawkins – Oscar and Golden Globes award winners, respectively – who star in “Phantom.”

Second, it’s much more than a golf movie. There’s hilarity and hijinks, heart-warming relationships, and reminders of the importance of family values. We don’t hear enough goodness nowadays with news littered with controversy and crime ad nauseum.

It bears worth repeating: “Phantom” is based on a true story, one which even rabid consumers of golf content, as well as golf historians, probably never heard of. Here goes:

Forty-six-year-old Maurice Flitcroft (Rylance) is a crane operator at a shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, England. This isn’t the educated metropolis of London, folks. It’s tucked into the country’s northwest corner far from the world of pinstripe suits and premier pints in Manchester, 100 miles southeast.

When Maurice gets let go, he recedes home. On the telly is Tom Watson putting to win the 1975 Open Championship.

Upon nary a concerted thought, Maurice gives his blue-collar buddies a doozy, “I’m going to give the British Open a crack.” Really, dude, you’ve never picked up a golf club, hardly project the part and don’t even remotely qualify for country club membership.

“Practice (pause) is the road to perfection,” Maurice calmly projects. And that’s what he does, hitting dribblers off the tee, flinging a club while practicing on the beach, and infrequently driving straight and far, let alone airborne. Where are Butch Harmon and David Ledbetter when you need them?

Maurice improves, but barely enough to even remotely make any taxi squad.

Nonetheless, he applies to the Royal and Ancient to play in the 1976 Open Championship qualifier. Because he doesn’t hold a handicap to confirm amateur status, he ticks the professional box and innocently slips past the elitist establishment directly into the tournament.

Before teeing it up, he hams it up with 19-years-young phenom Seve Ballesteros. The generation gap and economic strata deltas are obvious. Is he nervous, the stylish Spaniard inquires? Maurice replies that he figures out “what did I do wrong? How can I do good-er?” Ballesteros salutes, “Until next time.” Maurice closes with “Hasta cajones” that, in plain English, means “Until testicles.”

Scores of seven, 10, and 12 fill Maurice’s card and he finishes in Hall-of-Shame style at 121, miles above par. What is a performance made for headlines is A-OK with Maurice; he’s content simply letting go of limiting beliefs. Says wife Jean (Hawkins): “Whatever happened, no one can say you didn’t try.” Another of Jean’s harmless beauties when told of her husband’s record-worse score, the highest in majors’ history: “Does that mean he’s won?”

More unintentional comedy from the all-too-regular Flitcroft family shines throughout the movie and character development – including spot-on performances of Maurice and Jean’s disco-dancing twins and the Royal and Ancient’s stuffy sec-

retary – is what Academy Award material is made of.

And might we add, for color, that Rylance never played golf before “Phantom.” He took lessons for the role, but purposely couldn’t get so good because Maurice was so bad. Now that’s talent.

So goes the cult-like potential of “Phantom,” a fun-loving and touching movie that cements that golf is for all, no matter the demographic, skill level or (gulp!) score.

“Phantom” opens in theaters nationwide beginning June 3.



Photos: Nick Wall



The Low Trajectory, High Spin Wedge Shot

How many times have we seen a tour pro hit that low trajectory, high spinning wedge into a green and think to ourselves, "Wow, it would be so much better if I had that shot in my bag?"

Today is your first lesson in how to hit the low spinning bullet. We are going to break this shot down into four simple parts:

1. Your set-up
2. The backswing
3. How to use your chest and arms in the swing
4. What happens to your hands at impact and the follow-through.

Step 1: The set-up is important when trying to execute this shot. With your feet close together and a slight bit of forward shaft lean, start with your weight evenly distributed on both feet, then transfer more weight to your front foot at the start of the backswing..

Step 2: Let's imagine you have a 50-yard little pitch shot into the green. Your first

thought is to slow the swing down and swing softer, but that's not the best strategy in this situation. First, you need to have a premium golf ball and either a new set of wedges or at least very clean grooves to help produce the maximum amount of spin. Newer wedges have a ton of spin built into them. Let's start with a shorter backswing than you might expect to execute the low spinning shot. This allows you to be more aggressive through impact, creating more speed and spin.

Step 3: Your chest is the engine and creates the speed for this shot. Wherever your chest goes, your arms and hands need to follow. Allowing your chest to be the vessel of speed is how you achieve the crisp contact you need to produce the ample amount of spin needed to get that golf ball to land and check up immediately.

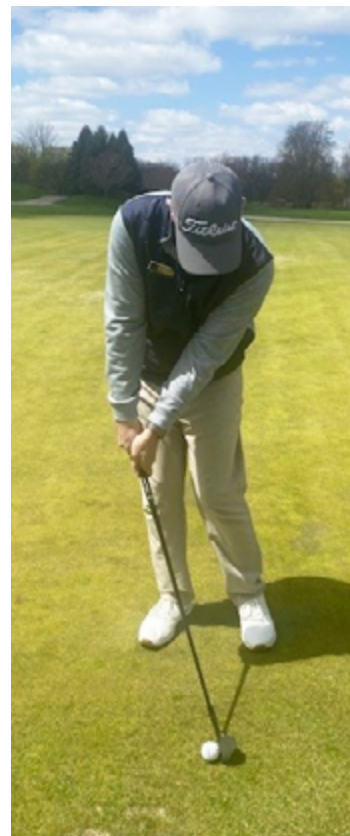
Step 4: Now come the hands and what they do at impact. We have all heard

the term dynamic loft. If not, here is a simple way of looking at it. Dynamic loft is the amount of loft on the clubface at impact and is measured relative to the horizon. If we want to hit this shot low, we need to keep our lead wrist flexed as much as possible at impact with very little wrist bend to decrease the dynamic loft.

The most important rule of thumb is to practice this shot over and over so that by the time you're faced with it under an actual playing condition you'll have the confidence to not only pull it off successfully, but understand where you need to land the ball in order to get closest to the hole.

I hope you find these tips helpful. Contact your local PGA professional or let us know how we can help. To reach Arrowhead Golf Club, please call (630) 653-5800.

Andrew Ogata is the Golf Professional at Arrowhead Golf Club.



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PURE MICHIGAN



Sweet Home Chicago

Pepsi Little People's Championship a Big Deal

Masters winners Scottie Scheffler and Zach Johnson. Three-time major champion Rory McIlroy and Open Championship winners Todd Hamilton and Ben Curtis. What do all these accomplished golfers have in common other than being on top of the golf world at one time or another? They are all former competitors of the Pepsi Little People's Golf Championship held every year since 1974 in Quincy, Ill.

Started by amateur golfer Nan Ryan after being asked by a local reporter covering her in the 1973 Quincy Women's City Golf Championship why there wasn't a local junior tour in the Midwest like in Florida. Ryan's answer: "Well I think I will start one."

The 49th annual Pepsi Little People's will be played June 20-22 at Westview Golf Course and the 9-hole KC par-3 Course in Quincy. It will be played in seven age divisions for boys and seven age divisions for girls (3-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, and 16-18). Trophies go to the top three finishers in each division, with participant medals to



all non-trophy winners ages 3 through 9, and medals to 6th place for non-trophy winners for ages 10 through 18.

"I didn't realize in 1973 that Pepsi Little People's would be my life's work, but I haven't regretted a minute of it," smiles Ryan. "All the way from setting up the tournament, getting the entries, talking with parents, seeing them at the tournament and watching these amazing young golfers, to doing the pairings, seeing the final results ... it's all a wonderful experience for me."

After that exchange with a Quincy *Herald-Whig* reporter in 1973, Ryan would soon after approach a local Pepsi distributor and local meat company to inquire about sponsoring a junior tour. Soft drink giant Pepsi has remained the title sponsor for all of these years.

In addition to aforementioned major champions, a lengthy list of accomplished players have competed in the tournament, including Sahith Theegala, Ryan Armour, Garrick Higgo, Luke Guthrie, Beau Hossler, Scott Langley, D.A. Points, Peter Uihlein, and Ricky Werenski. And on the Women's side – Vicky Goetze, Becca Huffer, Kim Kaufman, Alena Sharp, Mariah Stackhouse, Emma Talley, and Jasmine Suwannapura have all walked the fairways of the Pepsi Little People's.

Players come from every state and some 36 foreign countries. Ryan says most international players have come from South Africa – 84 in fact, since 2006 – and several are currently playing on the DP World Tour.

"Every weekend we have between 10 and 20 former Little People's players playing on some pro tour," adds Ryan. "I can't think of anything I would rather be doing than what I do with Pepsi Little People's. I have met so many wonderful people from all over the world, and have watched some of these kids when they were 5 years old – and are now playing on some professional tour – what a thrill to know that they played in Pepsi Little People's."

There's also a wonderful Little People's Scholarship Program for families who cannot afford to play in the event, and Ryan says her event donates annually to Transitions of Quincy, an organization working with underprivileged children and parents in need of training for their special needs program. Over the past 48 years the Pepsi Little People's Golf Championship has donated some \$300,000 to charities.

For more information or to register your child, visit <https://www.littlepeoplesgolf.com>

Amputees Find Love, Therapy Through Game We All Love

On September 10 & 11, the Midwestern Amputee Golf Association (MWAGA) will host its 22nd annual Adaptive Open at Odyssey Golf Course in Tinley Park. The two-day, 36-hole tournament features players with physical disabilities ranging from amputees to seated players. The tournament is open to anyone with a physical disability recognized by the USAGA's sports classifications at any skill level. MWAGA not only has an Open Division, but divisions for Juniors under 18, Seniors over 55 and Super Seniors players over 70 years old.

On September 9, the day before The Adaptive Open, MWAGA will host their annual Fundraising Scramble. This is MWAGA's only fundraising event and allows this great organization to help others and introduce them to the game of golf. Individuals can register to join members of

MWAGA and play in the outing with a group of your own or they will pair you with others and an adaptive golfer by going to MWAGA.org for registration and other information.

Established in 2001, MWAGA is a volunteer group of individuals who have experienced and overcome the loss of a limb or limbs and utilize the game of golf to promote friendship, fitness, fun and rehabilitation through active participation in golf for amputees of all ages. "We believe our local annual amputee golf event helps not just amputee golfers, but any golfer with a physical disability, achieve some of these objectives," says President Bradley Schubert. "Our organization also promotes the value of golf for rehabilitation by providing information and training to rehabilitation centers and prosthetic facilities."



The MWAGA is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization headquartered in Northbrook and includes Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota in its region. The Midwestern region is under the larger umbrella of NAGA, the National Amputee Golf Association (www.nagagolf.org) which is headquartered in Smyrna, Tenn.

WLS and WQKX Partner for Links & Drinks Open June 3

Join your favorite on-air personalities from WLS (94.7 FM & AM 890) and WKQX-F (101.1 FM) at the 2nd Annual Links & Drinks Open at Klein Creek Golf Club in Winfield on Friday, June 3. Under new ownership & management since 2019, Klein Creek Golf Club has been selected for this outing since the course has undergone major golf course and clubhouse upgrades over the last couple seasons. At 6,700 yards, the Dick Nugent-designed course is challenging for even the most accomplished of players. Each hole is designed to create a memorable golfing experience. No matter what your skill level, this event is for you. Format is a foursomes scramble so you can carry the group on your shoulders or just relax, drink a beverage or two, and con-

tribute by hitting a good shot here and there. Entry is \$150 and includes a special gift bag, pre-tournament lunch, 18 holes of golf with cart, on-course contests, awards dinner, prize giveaways and much more. Raffle prizes include tickets to see The Lumineers, Duran Duran, The Black Keys and other big name artists! Bring your 'A' game and WLS and WKQX will bring their 'B' game (as in beverages). For more information or to register, visit www.947wls.com.

University of Illinois Atkins Golf Club Unveiling

Atkins Golf Club at the University of Illinois is ready to open to the general public on June 4th, after undergoing a major renovation. The journey began in June of 2020, when it was announced that The Atkins Group had donated more than 300 acres of real estate in southeast Urbana to the University of Illinois, the University of Illinois Foundation, and the U of I Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. Highlighted within the incredible gift was an 18-hole golf course and the associated buildings. During the fall and winter of 2020, the renovation scope was determined, and construction began in the spring of 2021, thanks to a \$5 million gift. With the expertise of golf course architect Drew Rogers and Wadsworth Golf Construction Company, the golf course was transformed into a championship venue, highlighted by new Better Billy bunkers (which were repositioned and reangled), pro angle sand, re-grassed greens, and new tee boxes (back tees measure over 7,500 yards), in addition to lake, bridge, and irrigation system improvements.

Atkins Golf Club at the University of Illinois will be the home of the Fighting Illini Men's and Women's Golf Teams. The athletic department owns the storied Orange and Blue Golf Courses, but Atkins GC will serve as a primary home for both teams. .



Standard public rates for the 2022 season range from \$49 to \$79 for 18-holes, depending on the day and the time. The 18-hole facility also features two practice greens and a driving range with a large bent grass teeing area, in addition to new synthetic turf tee line. Golfers can utilize the new fleet of 2022 electric golf cars, each equipped with multiple USB ports and a cooler. The course is available to the public for daily fee play, league play, and group events both large and small. The property also includes a farm to table restaurant, private dining space and large banquet space to accommodate groups of all sizes. Visit atkinsgolfclub.com for more information or call (217)-481-8150.

Far Beyond Golf at Sand Valley



You may already know about Sand Valley. Set in the prehistoric dunescape of Central Wisconsin, Sand Valley has drawn golfers to its rugged fairways since 2016. The resort is home to three (soon to be five) award-winning golf courses – Sand Valley (Coore & Crenshaw, 2016); Mammoth Dunes (David McLay Kidd, 2018) and the 17-hole short course, the Sandbox (Coore & Crenshaw, 2018). Two new courses are on the way: Tom Doak’s jaw-dropping re-creation of C.B. Macdonald’s The Lido (2023) and Doak’s heathland-inspired Sedge Valley (2024). In other words, if it’s golf you’re after, look no further.

But there is more to the rolling and tumbling surrounds of Sand Valley than golf alone. Owners Michael and Chris Keiser are just getting started on their mission to transform their 12,000-acre property into a four-season wilderness and hospitality experience for golfers and non-golfers alike.

SEEK NATURE, AND YOU WILL FIND IT HERE

Summer, with its long days, fields of green, cleansing rains and dramatic cloud formations, provides endless opportunities to explore. Fill your pack with grab-n-go

items from Mammoth Bar and set out on foot or fat-tire bike to find your own personal retreat. Sand Valley is home to hundreds of species of birds, many of which you will encounter on the resort’s five miles of hiking and biking trails. If you are drawn to still waters, you will find them here. Admire the dunes from a canoe or paddleboard. Or cast a line in one of the property’s three lakes.

TENNIS, ANYONE?

Maybe the most unexpected off-course pursuit at Sand Valley is tennis. Not just any tennis, but impeccably presented lawn tennis. Sand Valley’s 15 grass courts bring Wimbledon to Wisconsin.

“We have all this sand, which is perfect for turf, and all the expertise from our golf course maintenance professionals,



and we just thought that grass tennis was a natural,” says Chris Keiser. “Honestly, it didn’t occur to us at first just what a rare thing it was to be able to play this type of tennis. Guests love it!”

AT HOME IN THE WOODS

Indoor spaces at Sand Valley are designed to reflect nature and provide space for relaxation and rejuvenation. Modern and comfortable lodging options accommodate all types of getaways. The lodge rooms provide the perfect balance between convenience and a quiet retreat. For an even more private experience, stay in one of our beautiful cottages. Cottages are nestled among rugged sand barrens steps away from lakes or quiet groves.

When night falls, gather around the firepit on the Mammoth patio or trek



up to Crenshaw’s Cabin and take in a 360-degree view of the sky and stars. Perhaps you will find yourself beneath a shower of meteors, such as the Perseids, which light up the sky every August.

FARM TO TABLE, AS IT SHOULD BE

There may be no better way to celebrate local cultures and environments than at the dining table. The culinary art of regional and seasonal fare has faded over the years, but not at Sand Valley. Lunch at the Sandbox Food Truck is the perfect easy mid-day meal. Mammoth Bar, a warm and rustic retreat, features Wisconsin craft beers, light fare, and the resort’s legend-



ary cheese curds. Aldo’s Farm & Table is a contemporary, semi-formal dining space that features locally grown and raised fare and can accommodate a more intimate dining experience or larger groups looking for a family-style gathering.

SAND VALLEY KEEPS PURSUING

The greatest summer and fall pursuits at Sand Valley cannot be enjoyed by resort guests ... yet! That’s because construction is kicking into full gear this season on Sedge Village, a collection of new amenities and activities. Sand Valley guests have long asked “where’s the pool?” The answer soon will be, “behind the Sandbox,



overlooking Mammoth Dunes.” The Pool House will feature an outdoor infinity pool, indoor sauna, steam and cold plunges, and massage treatment rooms, along with grab-and-go food and beverage.

“Our agreement with our guests has always been, ‘you keep coming back, and we’ll keep giving you new reasons to come back,’” says Michael Keiser, co-owner. “We are thrilled to kick off this expansion and we see a future full of expanding experiences.”

Opening for the 2024 season, adjacent with Doak’s Sedge Valley golf course, will be an authentic smokehouse BBQ restaurant with interactive golf games and a full arcade, along with a patio overlooking the world’s largest putting course.

It’s not all golf at Sand Valley. The Sand Valley Tennis Center will feature a 13,000-square-foot clubhouse with a bistro serving brick-oven pizzas and other light fare, and just the eleventh Court Tennis court in America (Court Tennis is the forerunner to the game we know today).



A True Diamond in the Northern Michigan Rough

Looking for a bucket-list golf trip without the headaches of planning or the second-mortgage expenditures? Michigan's Island Resort & Casino fits virtually every box on the checklist, including outstanding and affordable golf, luxury accommodations, spa services, great food, and gaming. Best yet, the resort's location in the state's Upper Peninsula doesn't require a plane ticket; rather, just a scenic car drive from Chicago toward Green Bay and then head north along the lakefront.

While this is not a new property, returning guests will be delighted by the many new additions made here over the past few years. For starters, the golf options have doubled with the opening of the rugged and splendid Sage Run course a few miles away from the resort. A \$33-million expansion of the hotel provides 138 guest rooms and suites geared toward golf groups; a waterpark for kids; an adults-only saltwater pool and whirlpool, and an elegant steakhouse.

"Golfers are a huge priority for the resort," said General Manager Tony Mancilla. "There is no coincidence that the new hotel has rooms overlooking the golf course. Overall demand for golf and accommodations has increased significantly since the opening of Sage Run. It just made sense in designing the new hotel (an extension of the existing hotel). We added amenities geared toward golfers, including luxury group suites with hot tubs and access to in-room massages, along with the Drift Spa which offers body treatments, facials, and the saltwater pool."

For golfers, of course, the first priority is the quantity and quality of the golf offerings. The resort serves up two of the top layouts in all of Michigan and expands its offerings by promoting The Perfect 4-Some Package that incorporates the highly rated Timberstone Golf Course in Iron Mountain and the stunning Greywalls at Marquette Golf Club. This quartet will challenge and inspire players of all ability levels on design, conditioning, and breath-taking views. In many ways, architect Paul Albanese found the perfect parcel of land upon which to build his Sage Run resort.

Isolated from civilization on a rocky ridge fostered by a receding glacier, the course perfectly reflects the surrounding Michigan Upper Peninsula landscape. Picturesque, rugged, remote, and tranquil are just a few adjectives that come to mind when surveying the property from off the first tee. Starting at Hole 1 and proceeding through No. 18, golfers are reminded of the property's farmland roots as thick fescue grasses protect the fairways with rock outcroppings located in unexpected areas.

Island Resort & Casino is managed by the Hannahville Indian Community and originated in 1981. The idea for the casino evolved from car bingo games that were used as fund-raisers to help the reservation's baseball team buy uniforms. Formerly known as Hannahville Bingo and Casino, the property evolved into a full-service resort in 2007 with the opening of the hotel. The Sweetgrass championship 18-hole golf course was unveiled a year later. The layout was immediately heralded as "Best New Public Course in America" by *Golf Digest*.

Like Sage Run, Sweetgrass G.C. was the work of acclaimed designer Albanese. Both Albanese and his business partner Chris Lutzke were long-time associates of Pete Dye. And indeed, they offer a tribute to the late master architect with the island green-adorned No. 15. Other clever touches across the course are a slanted Biarritz green and a Redan hole. That said, Sweetgrass is not specifically a tribute course. Albanese serves up unique stretches of holes that fit the eye perfectly and flow effortlessly. Added flourishes to the design are plaques and symbols placed around the course to honor the rich history of the Hannahville Indian Community and the area's heritage going all the way back to the 1650s.

The highlight of the front nine is the beautiful and thought-provoking 9th hole. A long drive on this par 5 challenges the player to consider a heroic second shot over a long stretch of flowing ponds leading to the green along the left side. The smarter choice is a layup short of a

continued on page 24



Sweetgrass



Greywalls



Sweetgrass



Timberstone



A Personal Touch Like No Other

Ever find yourself searching for a special gift for the golfer that has everything? You might think the popular celebrity video message company Cameo is only for reality television stars, but some of our favorite pro golfers are now available for hire. Major champions like Sergio Garcia, John Daly, Lexi Thompson, and a host of other popular pros are now available for Cameo messages. Whether it's a birthday message, an instructional tip, or even a tournament-opening hello for your next buddies trip, Cameo can make all of your golfing fandom dreams come true. Pricing varies by celebrity. cameo.com



A Vest for All of Us

Player 2 is producing golf threads that are not only built for performance, but also built for the amateur that knows how to enjoy the game. The perfect example is the Natural Bogey Vest, which has a great name and has tons of benefits. Patented Brrr Triple Effect Cooling allows you to layer this vest over a polo with no worry of getting sweaty, and if you do it's also moisture wicking. It's also wind resistant, rain repellent, and has two-way stretch material for easy swinging. Available in Island Fog or Midnight Sky. \$140 player2.com



No More Shines, Billy

Duca del Cosma has all golf shoe fronts covered, no matter if you have a grad looking for style or a dad looking for comfort. The Tomcat is an athletic design golf shoe that looks like a million bucks on the course and can easily go into the clubhouse or out to dinner with the same appeal. Highlighted by Airplay XII, which is a recyclable, innovative outsole and ARNEFLEX insole memory foam, the Tomcat is incredibly comfortable and a world away from the old saddle shoes. Italian designed and handcrafted in Europe, the Tomcat is available in light grey or navy. \$209 ducadelcosma.us



Made in the Shade

You can never go wrong with gifting a quality pair of sunglasses. The biggest benefit of the UA Hustle Tuned sunglasses from Under Armour is that they transition from the course to the car and beyond with no problem. These shades look great paired-up with a polo, a t-shirt, or a suit. The TR90 frames are durable, flexible, hypoallergenic, and impact-resistant so they can withstand a ton on the golf course. The lenses are also designed to bring out contours on the course that help you play better, and perhaps find that ball you're positive stayed in bounds. \$100 underarmour.com

Dads and Grads Gift Guide



Drip it and Rip it

When Vice Golf began storming the golf ball market with reasonably priced, high performing golf balls they gained a mighty and loyal following. Now, Vice is turning heads with its unique and fun designs that will add a little flavor to your round. The immensely popular Vice Pro golf ball gets a paint upgrade with the Drip Lime colorway. The luminous color particles add great visibility and are also available in a red, red/blue, navy/orange (Bear Down) or yellow/green (boo, Pack) versions. As with all Vice balls, the more you add to your cart the bigger discount you get. \$28.99 - \$35.99 per dozen. vicegolf.com

A Spirit Worth Celebrating

Whether you're clinking to a job well done or just being a great dude, a quality spirit should be poured into one's glass. If you fancy a vodka drink, Double Cross Vodka is a premier taste that is worth your craft. This vodka is incredibly smooth due to its beginnings with water from an aquifer 200 feet below the Tatra Mountains in Slovakia. Estate grown winter wheat is cold harvested making for a crisp, clean taste that will be sure to be top shelf in your home. \$30 doublecrossvodka.com



This Watch Means Business

If your favorite grad or dad is a golf tech junkie, look no further than the T9 GPS watch from Voice Caddie. This is the most advanced golf watch on the market because not only does it show distance, it also has green undulation layouts, V-Algorithm 3.0 which shows slope, smart green pin placement, complete hole views, and much more. All while navigating a full color touchscreen that is sure to be the envy of the entire foursome. This watch also comes with a built-in tempo practice mode, and you can track your shots and putts with ease. Added bonus, no fees whatsoever! \$349.99. voicecaddie.com



The New Generation

Arccos pioneered a segment of golf technology when it debuted its Smart Sensors that install into the end of your grip, providing endless amounts of data. Now, Arccos continues to innovate with the GEN3+ Smart Sensors which have improved battery life and are lower profile and super light in weight. Included in the 13-pack of sensors is a new P3 putting sensor so you can capture every aspect of your round. New shot tracking powered by A.I. is pinpoint accurate and delivers all of your shot details directly to your phone. There is no better way for your dad or grad to quickly improve their game than with this technology. \$199.99 arccosgolf.com





Lac La Belle

Yet Another Wisconsin Treasure

By Neal Kotlarek

In my 40-plus years of reviewing golf courses, I never came across a brand new layout that had a 120-year history. That changed when I drove into the parking lot in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and was introduced to the Club at Lac La Belle. Named as one of the top four new courses in America in 2021 by *Golf Digest* magazine, Lac La Belle is actually a legacy property dating back to a time when golf was still in its infancy across America. Indeed, two of the club's first golf professionals, Alex Smith and Willie Anderson, combined to win six U.S. Open championships in the early 1900s. Smith was, according to some reports, to have designed the first nine holes of the course originally known as Oconomowoc Golf Club.

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

The end-result of all that work combined with the creative genius of Oliphant's president and chief architect

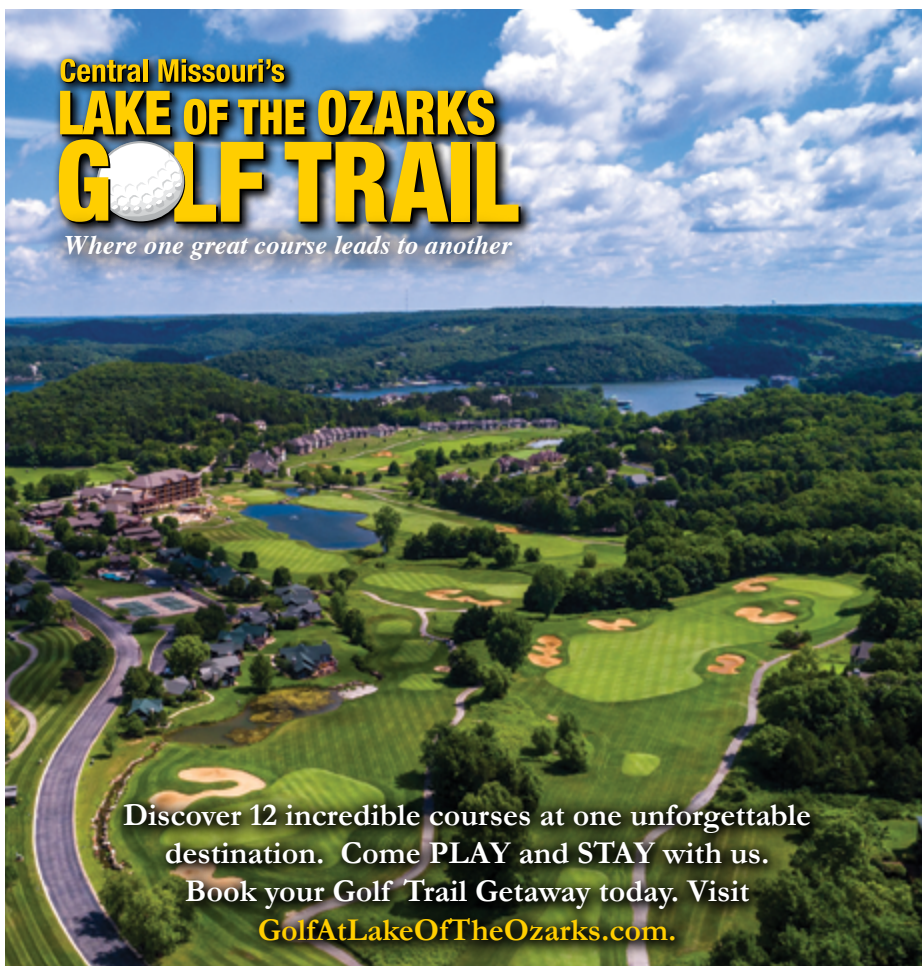


Craig Haltom is a brilliant new course characterized by challenging dogleg par 4s and par 5s, scenic par 3s and magnificently rolling, multi-tiered green complexes. “The course combines the best of parkland golf with Scottish links influences,” said General Manager Tyler Morse. “This is not a vanilla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

continued on page 36



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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 that offer 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 our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range, a large putting green, and a separate chipping green and bunker.

New this summer, join us after your round in our newly renovated clubhouse featuring an indoor and outdoor bar addition!



A True Diamond

continued from page 16

massive fairway bunker to set-up a pitch to a large, sweeping green.

For the 11th year, Sweetgrass G.C. is scheduled to host the Symetra Tour's Island Resort Championship June 24 – 26th. Known as the "Road to the LPGA," the Symetra Tour is considered the most established women's developmental tour in the world. Players compete for a \$200,000 purse and the opportunity to qualify for the 2022 Evian Championship in France, an LPGA major title. "The participants tell us that we are one of the highlights on their tour year in and year out," said Mancilla. "We work hard to give players, sponsors, volunteers, and spectators a great experience. These ladies are the future stars of the LPGA Tour and we take a lot of pride in giving everyone a memorable experience."

Guests who take advantage of "The Perfect 4-Some" packages use the resort as a base and schedule two separate legs for visits to Timberstone G.C. to the west and to Greywalls to the north. The customizable packages and lodging options include four rounds and a three-night stay starting at a mere \$445 during prime season from the end of May through September 28th. "Each of the four courses is a prime venue," said Mancilla. "Our guests are blown away by the quality and variety of the golf offered at a four-round package price

with accommodations that costs less than a single round at Pebble Beach."

Timberstone G.C. at Pine Mountain Resort was designed by Michigan's own Jerry Matthews and exemplifies the architect's commitment to natural design. The course is located on a sprawling 240 acres of land and features jaw-dropping holes carved through dense forested land and accented by lakes and streams. My favorite hole on the course is the par-3 No. 4. Nicknamed "Miner's Trick," the hole calls for a mid-iron over sparse vegetation to a cucumber-shaped green protected on the left side by a pot bunker locals call the "Pit from Hell." Land your tee shot in here and your score on the hole is almost certain to be something north of heavenly.

Greywalls at Marquette Golf Club may just be the most underrated golf course in America. Due to its relatively remote location, this stunning 231-acre Mike DeVries-designed layout doesn't get nearly the acclaim it so richly deserves. As its name suggests, Greywalls features walls of sheer rock that tower above greens and massive granite outcroppings that bisect fairways. Holes ride up, down, and across boldly contoured slopes and fairways framed by mature trees and sweeping bunkers. Views of nearby Lake Superior can be enjoyed across the course's higher elevations. My favorite hole on the course is the short 312-yard No. 5. A cleverly placed drive allows the player to weave a short iron

between a mound of stone to the left of the green and a monolithic rock wall to the right.

Along with the bargain hotel and green fee rates, The Perfect 4-Some Package includes a certificate for \$10 off a \$50 or more apparel purchase at either Sweetgrass or Sage Run.

As a full-service complex, Island Resort & Casino offers an array of dining options as well as a regular slate of entertainment, including top country music and rock acts. The Horizons Steakhouse features nightly chef specials and premium steaks and seafood. Other

options include a pizzeria, a sports bar, and a pub offering 18 draft options and 30 varieties of bottled beer.

The resort has expanded its gaming options significantly since its days as a car bingo destination. Table games are offered alongside slots, poker and, of course, bingo. Twin Spires Sportsbook serves up convenient kiosks located outside the sports bar.

Located in Harris, Mich., Island Casino & Resort is a scenic lakeside five-hour drive from Chicago. For reservations, package deals, virtual tours of the golf courses, and more information, visit www.islandresortandcasino.com.



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Green Star Award
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– Golf Inc.

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– Golfweek

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Green Meadows Golf Course
Westmont, 630-810-5330
This 9-hole gem features quality conditions and traditional parkland styling.

The Preserve at Oak Meadows
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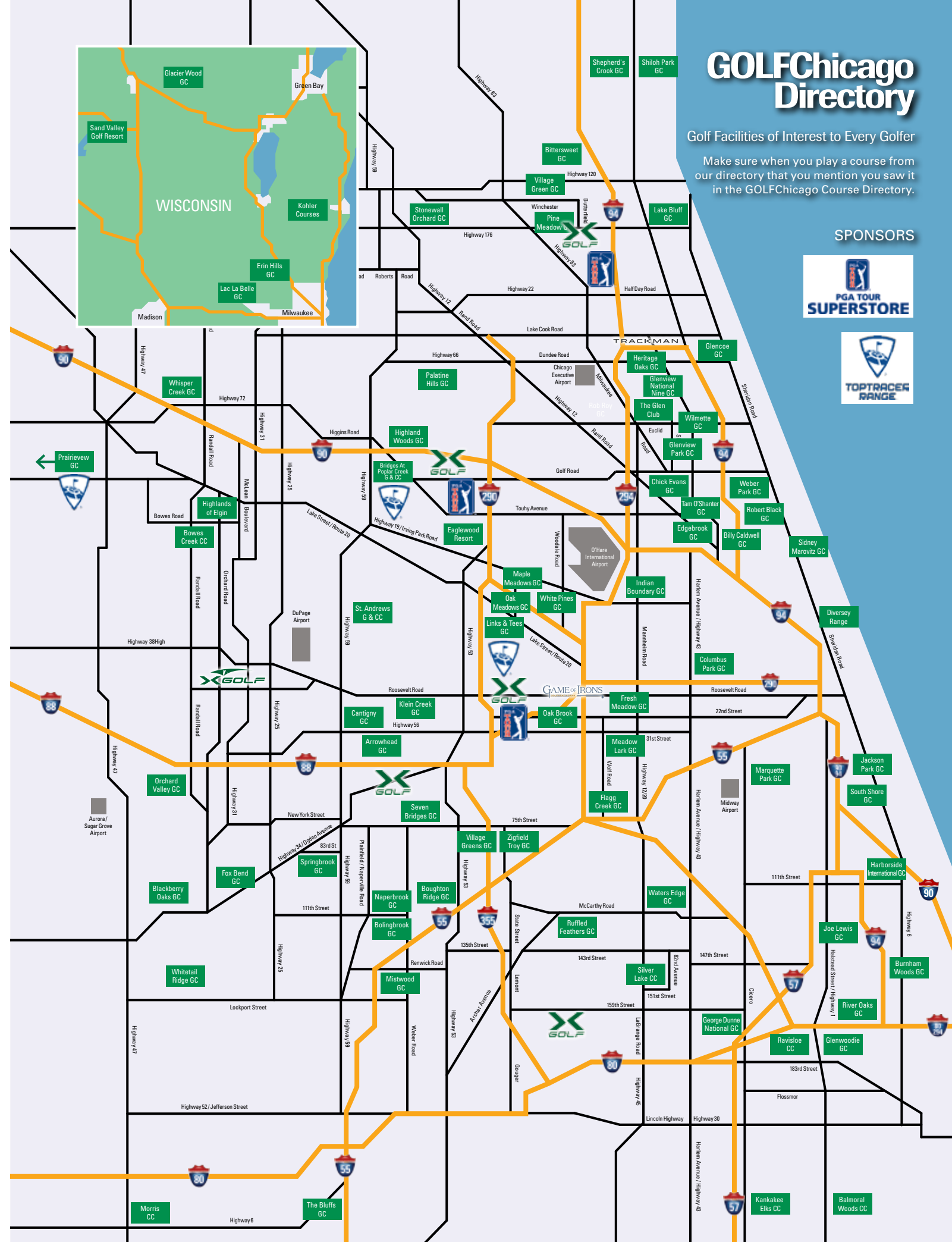
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Wheaton, IL 60189
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708-672-7448
26732 S. Balmoral Woods Dr.
Crete, IL 60417
balmoralwoods.com

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Bittersweet Golf Club

847-855-9031
875 Almond Rd.
Gurnee, IL 60031
bittersweetgolf.com

Easily accessible from I-294, Bittersweet tests the shot-making savvy of avid golfers and provides a fair but fun challenge for casual players. The stunning landscape features mature oaks, vibrant wetlands, wildflower meadows, and abundant wildlife. Private-club conditions, including some of the smoothest greens around, make this public course a north suburban must-play. Amenities include a grass-tee driving range, a short-game practice facility, and a fabulous 19th hole. Golf instruction is available onsite. Book tee times online or call us to speak with our friendly, knowledgeable staff.



The Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888
24355 W. Bluff Rd.
Channahon, IL 60410
heritagebluffs.com

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630-810-5330
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Wood Dale, IL 60191
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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. 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.

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12294 Archer Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60439
coghillgolf.com

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- Rated in "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" by *Golf Digest*
- 2020 GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation



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, and 2021 Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers. Visit Pearce'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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Suite 104
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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.



Glencoe Golf Club

847-835-0250
621 Westley Rd.
Glencoe, IL 60022
glencoeclub.com

The Glencoe Golf Club features an 18-hole, par-72 course located 30 minutes from Chicago on the beautiful North Shore. The course is an Audubon Certified, tree-lined classic that offers a great escape from the city. The GGC boasts finely manicured greens, a new cart fleet with GPS, an all-grass tee practice range, and beverage cart service.

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Glenwoodie Golf Club

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

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- Full Service Bar and Grille, and Outdoor Patio
- Electric Cart Fleet
- Lighted Practice Range
- PGA Professional Staff



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.



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.



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.



Palatine Hills Golf Club

847-359-4020
512 W. Northwest Hwy.
Palatine, IL 60067
palatinehills.org

Palatine Hills is a 6,800-yard, par-72 course with six sets of tees, providing an enjoyable yet challenging experience for all golfers. Our layout will require you to use all the clubs in your bag. We also host various CDGA events and state qualifiers.

"The Hills Short Game Practice Area" offers private use of a green complex to improve your short game shots up to 75 yards.

For tee times and information visit palatinehills.org



PGA TOUR Superstore

1017 Butterfield Rd.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
1319 E. Golf Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
295 Center Dr.
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

pgatoursuperstore.com

PGA TOUR Superstore carries the largest selection of golf clubs, clothing, footwear, and accessories for your game. With the most advanced technology for club fitting, we also offer the Fitting Van Experience which is a TOUR caliber assessment. With three Chicagoland locations, come see why nothing compares to PGA TOUR Superstore.



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.



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 that is well worth a short drive west out to Bryon, Ill. (south of Rockford). With challenging greens, dramatic bunkering, and supreme conditioning, the course will test the skills and nerves of every golfer. PrairieView is also home to PrairieFire Golf & Grill, a year-round Toptracer Range® with heated bays, lounge seating, and great food and drink selections.



Kankakee Elks Country Club

815-937-9547
2283 Bittersweet Dr.
Saint Anne, IL 60964
elksgolf627.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.



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.



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



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 ten-acre driving range, separate lesson tee, and practice putting greens. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio. Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and 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.



Springbrook Golf Course

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

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. 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.



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.



Sub 70 Golf

877-267-7093
202 Lucas St.
Sycamore, IL 60178
sub70.com

Sub 70 is a golf equipment and apparel company based in Sycamore, Illinois. We produce high quality golf equipment and apparel, and use a direct-to-consumer distribution model to offer everything at an affordable price. Fittings are offered at the Sycamore location and a there is a full 60 day guarantee on all purchases. Sub 70 Golf is the #1 rated golf equipment company in customer satisfaction.





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!



White Pines Golf Club

630-554-3939
500 W. Jefferson
Bensenville, Ill. 60106
whitepinesgolf.com

The White Pines Golf Club's two 18-hole championship courses, situated on more than 260 acres, has 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.



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 Per-simmon 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 sun-sets around!



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 is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2022, and it 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.



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X-Golf Glenview

224-432-0022
2847 Pfingsten Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
xgolfglenview.com

X-Golf's state of the art indoor golf simulators offer players unparalleled accuracy and realism through a combination of camera systems, infrared lasers, impact sensors, and advanced gaming software. Our dedicated kiosks offer visitors the ultimate golfing entertainment experience with virtual reality gaming, food and beverages, competitions, leagues, golf lessons, memberships, and more.

X-Golf's relaxed, welcoming atmosphere makes it perfect for players of all ages and all skill levels. X-Golf is ideal for work events, birthday parties, corporate functions, bucks nights, and ladies nights.



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.



X-Golf Orland Park

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

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



X-Golf Schaumburg

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

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility.

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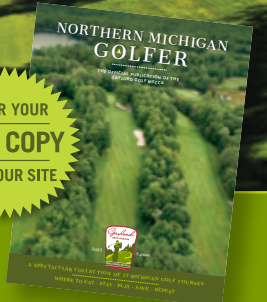
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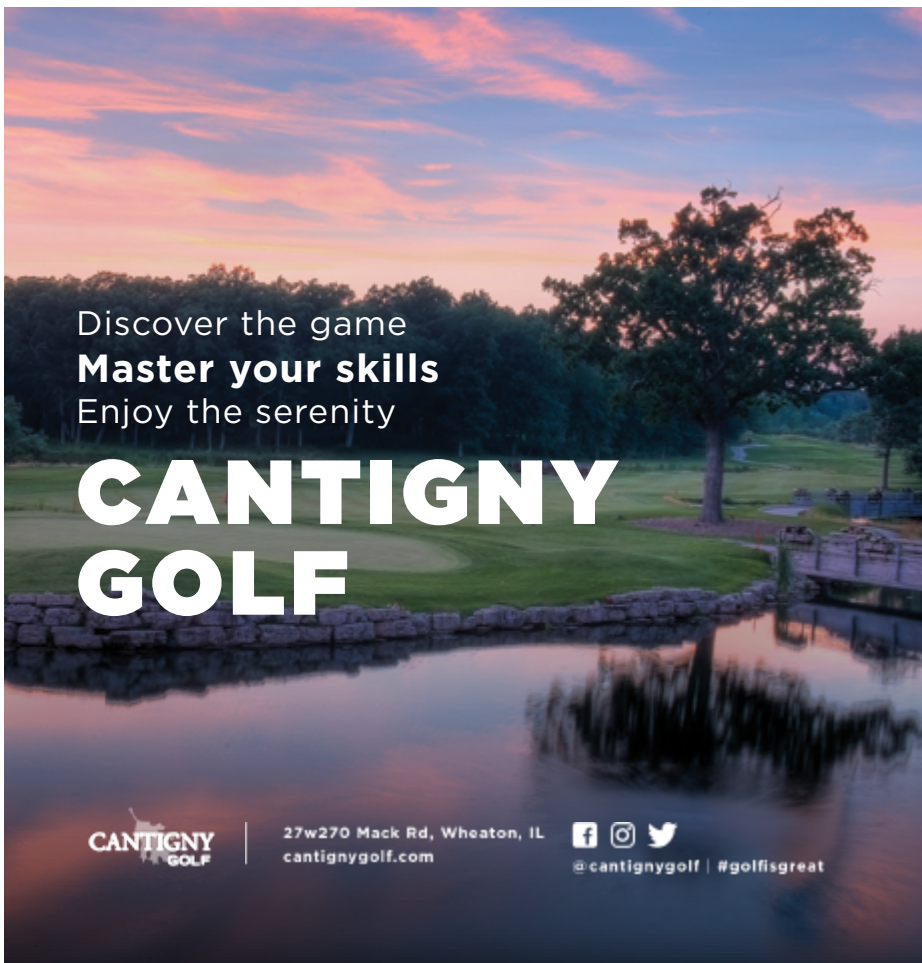
Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Our combined collection of thirty-six holes between the Highlands of Elgin and Bowes Creek Country Club provides golfers with an adventure through a variety of unique golf holes in beautiful settings.



BOWESCREEKCC.COM



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Master your skills
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27w270 Mack Rd, Wheaton, IL
cantignygolf.com



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Lac La Belle

continued from page 22

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

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

No visit to Lac La Belle is complete without a visit to the clubhouse's mini museum honoring the club's historic roots. Enjoy photos, artifacts, and news clippings of the early U.S. Open champions Smith and Anderson. According to Morse, the museum is still a work in progress, with items honoring the course's legacy being continuously sourced and placed on display.

Beyond the museum, the clubhouse is home to the Rivalry Pub, a bar and restaurant which recognizes the competition between the two aforementioned early U.S. Open champions. On Fridays, the club hosts a spectacular fish fry that also features a putting competition on an amazing practice green. "Our assistant pro oversees a 15-hole putting challenge that includes prizes for the winner," said Morse.

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

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Before Super Mex Got His Cape

It was either 1988 or 1989. I had ridden up from Washington, D.C., where I was working as a newspaper reporter, to play in a shotgun scramble sponsored by a Pittsburgh bar. I had bunged my putter to the frame of my BMW road bike for the trip.

The putter was a bit of theatrical flash for my Pittsburgh teammates, but I was running late. From the tee of the third hole, which bordered the parking lot, they saw me roll in and hollered to hurry it up. I hopped off the bike, grabbed the driver from a rental set my brother had gotten and banged off a drive, a worm burner. And off we went.

We had a grand time, with lots of yucks. During the luncheon, I hit the john. Coming out was a local guy who was the spitting image of Lee Trevino. I said as much to him as we passed one another and he stopped dead, turned, and stared me down as if I had just delivered a terrible racial slur. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought likening a guy to a six-time major winner would be an insult.

But this was rural southwestern Pennsylvania where to some, apparently, Super Mex wasn't so super.

Years later, as editor of the statewide golf magazine in New Mexico, where I live now, I came to learn more about Trevino, who had a unique and enduring connection to the area. In addition to his two U.S. Open wins, two British Open victories, and two PGA championships — 29 PGA Tour wins overall — Trevino had notched wins at the 1966 and 1972 New Mexico Open.

I later learned that Trevino donated his 1972 New Mexico Open winnings to the New Mexico chapter of the Southwest Section of the PGA of America. The money helped the New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas, pros defray the cost forming their own group — the Sun Country PGA Section.

Soon, more tidbits about Trevino's connection to New Mexico emerged. He was on hand for the 1979 opening of a course in Elephant Butte, N.M., and he designed one nine of the [now-defunct] 27-hole Rio Rancho [N.M.] Country Club outside of Albuquerque.

It wasn't until I came to know one of the freelance writers at the magazine did I realize the full extent of Trevino's connection to New Mexico and El Paso. The late Guy Wimberly, a longtime local pro, explained how a small group of guys in West Texas and New Mexico helped Trevino get admitted to the PGA Tour.

In the 1960s, Trevino wasn't yet the trailblazing Mexican-American icon he would become. He was an assistant working at an El Paso driving range whose chief duty was picking the range at night.

Before long, his golf game led to his recruitment into a money game organized by El Paso and Las Cruces-area cotton and chile farmers. His mentors tried to pass their ringer off as a Mexican farm worker, a tractor driver. Their cover story lasted until Trevino's first tee shot.

Among the game's regulars were Guy's brother, Herb Wimberly, who later would become the New Mexico State University golf coach, and Bill Eschenbrenner, an El Paso pro. The two men, plus others, suggested Trevino had the game to make it on tour.

The problem, however, was Trevino's boss at the driving range. He wouldn't write a letter of reference to the PGA of America — which ran the PGA Tour at the time — attesting to Trevino's character. It was a letter that Trevino needed to gain admission to the PGA Tour. And the answer from his boss was a firm no.

Whether it was racism or Trevino's penchant for gambling that was behind the refusal is unclear. Locals only remember that the pro told anyone who asked that he didn't think Trevino would make a good PGA professional.

To help Trevino, Eschenbrenner hired him as an outside services worker at the El Paso club he ran at the time. At one point, Raymond Floyd flew in for a match that had been arranged at the club. As Trevino unloaded Floyd's bag, Floyd asked who he'd be playing. "Me," Trevino said. Super-Mex won the match and his legend began to grow.

Eschenbrenner, Herb Wimberly, and a few others petitioned the PGA on Trevino's behalf making the case for him to join the PGA Tour. After a lot of letter writing and some bureaucratic smoke and mirrors, Trevino was admitted to the PGA Tour.

The entirety of the story explained Trevino's long-term affinity for New Mexico and El Paso. To this day, pros in the region say that if Eschenbrenner, now a member of the Texas and PGA of America golf halls of fame, were to pick up the phone to ask Trevino to get on a plane and play someone sight unseen, Super Mex would be there.

So much has changed in golf since the bad old days when men like the El Paso driving range pro held sway, and even since the guy in Pennsylvania did his double take. I still get the whiff and occasional nose-full of racism, even in a state where Hispanics have lived almost 200 years before the American revolution. But golf has indeed been making progress. ●

Dan Vukelich, a former Chicagoan and a member of the Golf Writers Association of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America, lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

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