

O&E sponsors golf tournament

By DOUG FUNK

Now is the time for all good golfers — and maybe those who aren't so hot — to sign up for the annual Observer & Eccentric Golf Tournament.

Both men and women will have their days in the sun.

The men's 36-hole tournament will be contested Sept. 13-14. The women's 18-hole competition will be conducted Sept. 17.

Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course in Livonia will be the site of both tournaments.

Amateur golfers who live in the O&E circulation area — Plymouth, Canton, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Westland, Garden City, Rochester, Avon Township, Livonia, Redford, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Southfield and Troy — may enter.

Entry fee is \$25 for men, \$11 for women. Entry coupons are available in most editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and at Whispering Willows, which is located at 20500

Newburgh Road just south of Eight Mile Road.

As in years past, golfers will compete in divisions based on handicap in order to make the tournament more competitive. The effect is that several mid-tournament will be going on simultaneously.

The men's tournament, limited to 225, will be divided into four flights. Gary Whitener, golf professional at Whispering Willows and the tournament director, said that the flights will likely break down the following way:

- Championship Flight — scratch to eight handicap.
- Flight 1 — nine to 14 handicap.
- Flight 2 — 15 to 21 handicap.
- Flight 3 — 22-36 handicap.

There will be three flights in the women's competition based upon the following approximate scale, Whitener said:

- Championship Flight — scratch to 14 handicap.
- Flight 1 — 15-23 handicap.

• Flight 2 — 24-40 handicap.

Actual flight determinations will be made as the entries begin to come in and trends are established.

Medal (stroke) play will be followed. Gross (actual score) and net (score with handicap) champions will be crowned in all flights. Trophies and gift certificates will be awarded in all flights. Prize winners will be limited to one gift certificate.

High-school golfers may participate in the tournament without endangering

their eligibility, according to Vern Norris, executive director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Norris said that a golfer may enter two outside events once the season begins as long as he is representing himself and not the school.

A high-school golfer may not accept merchandise or a trophy with a value greater than \$5.

Both the men's and women's tournaments are co-sponsored by Whispering Willows Golf Course and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Take a look at the stars

Starry eyed isn't such a bad thing to be.

At least not at the public interpretive program "Night Sky in August," which takes place at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston.

Independence Oaks is on Sashabaw Road, 2 1/2 miles north of I-75.

The program, which starts at 8:30 p.m., is designed to help star gazers look for and learn about stars and their legends.

Kathleen Dougherty, an Oakland County Parks naturalist and the pro-

gram's coordinator, said that Jupiter, Saturn and Venus should be visible at this time of the year.

The constellations Northern Cross, Taurus, Gemini and Orion may also be seen, according to Dougherty.

There is a \$2 park entrance fee. The fee is \$3 for non-Oakland County residents.

"Bring insect repellent and dress for the weather," said Dougherty.

Pre-registration is necessary. Call 625-0877.

Men's Women's Open Golf Tournaments

Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course

MEN'S
36 holes medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13 and 14. Entry fee \$25 (green fees, trophies and prizes).

WOMEN'S
18 holes medal play: Wednesday, Sept. 17. Entry fee \$11 (green fees, basket of practice balls and trophies). Make checks payable to Gary Whitener, tournament director, and enclose with entry blank.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE **HANDICAP**

Men's entries close Sunday, Sept. 7, at 6 p.m. Call for starting times on Thursday, Sept. 11, after 12 noon (476-4493).

Women's entries close Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m. Call for starting times Monday, Sept. 15, after 5 p.m.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township.

Entries may be mailed to Tournament Director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20500 Newburgh, Livonia 48152.

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