

# Play ball!

## Dome complex gives winter relief to summer sportsters

By Rich Swanson  
staff writer

For those summer sports enthusiasts suffering from the doldrums of winter, the Oasis Golf Center in Plymouth Township has come up with an idea that may just ease some of the pain.

A huge indoor golf and softball dome will soon be erected at the golf center, located at Five Mile Road (just east of Haggerty). It will service avid golfers and die-hard softballers itching for the greener pastures of spring.

The dome, scheduled to open the end of this month, is a free-floating vinyl structure measuring 70 feet in height. It will house an indoor driving range complete with 38 tees as well as a regulation softball diamond.

"We can hardly wait." Dome manager Dorothy Johnson said. "We are very near to having it up and going. There has been tremendous interest. I think it will be highly successful."

THE PROJECT is the brainchild of Detroit Michael A. Thompson, an English engineer who has operated similar ventures in England and Sweden. The Oasis dome will be only the fourth of its kind in the United States. The first was developed in Madison Heights followed by projects in Minnesota and New York.

Golfers will be able to drive the ball 80 yards before it is gobbed up by an inside net, placed to protect the dome. They will aim at a target placed at the middle of the semi-circular peak designed structure.

"It's for golfers who are not concerned with distance but with the purity of their swing," Johnson said. "It will permit golfing to be continuous for the entire season — to develop and improve a player's stroke."

"It's great for golfers who want to sharpen up their game before going on vacation," she added. "We thought it would be nice to accommodate golfers in the winter as well as the other seasons."

The dome is an air-supported structure made of a specially designed lightweight material developed by Environmental Structures Inc., a Cleveland-based company.

DEVELOPED AT A cost of more than \$500,000, the dome allows for the maintenance of grass indoors so that golf and softball activities are enhanced by the natural turf.

"The golf dome has become popular for golfers as a hedge against inclement weather," Johnson said. "Golfers are quite comfortable in normal golfing attire even in the foulest of weather."

Golfers will be able to take advantage of the dome from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, from November until the end of April. Golfers will pay a fee on a time basis and will be able to hit an unlimited number of balls during that period.

A professional staff will also offer a complete range of services, including lessons and clinics.

After 8 p.m., the golf dome will become a softball dome.

More than 50 teams are expected to participate in leagues set up by softball director Joe Paglino, a former player in the Chicago White Sox system.

"THESE ARE AVID softball players," Johnson said. "There is no way they can play during the winter months. The dome affords them that opportunity."

The diamond will be set up so that the players get the same action they would on an outdoor diamond. The only differences are that play is indoors and home runs will not be automatic, because of the net.

Each team will play once a week including playoffs at season's end.

The Ohio company is scheduled to put the dome in place in a matter of days, which, ironically, depends on the weather. Because the dome has to be blown up, ideal conditions must exist. "The main concern is heavy wind," Johnson said.

The domed area will be adjacent to the Oasis Golf Center clubhouse and will enclose a part of the existing outdoor driving range (an additional 60 tees).

The golf center, which began operating more than 20 years ago as a small driving range, also has a miniature golf course, a par-3 golf course and a pro shop, which will be open year-round.

Come spring, the dome will be deflated and stored. But next winter, there could be a lot of people who spell relief: GOLFDOME.

Now at Standard Federal Savings:

# One-Year Money Market Certificate with

## Special Bonus INTEREST

# 13.00%

ANNUAL INTEREST RATE  
FOR THE FIRST MONTH

With our new One-Year Money Market Certificate, you earn a 13.00% annual interest rate for the first month and a 9.75% annual interest rate for the remaining 11 months, for an effective annual yield of 10.01%. Lock up these high interest rates NOW for a full year!

Minimum deposit: \$2,500.

## ALSO AVAILABLE: 7-DAY TO 10-YEAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATE.

Now you can choose your own term from Standard Federal Savings. Interest rates vary depending on the term of the certificate, but the interest rate established at the time the account is opened remains in effect for the full term.

Minimum deposit:

7 Days through 1 Year: \$2,500

13 Months to 10 Years: \$500

Interest is compounded upon reinvestment at maturity only and Federal regulations require a substantial interest penalty for early withdrawals from certificate accounts.



2401 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48064  
313-643-9600



## Why the high scores?

The critics who are in the vast minority claim that the present wave of high scoring is the result of tampering with the lanes. They boller loud and long that the lanes are being "blocked" and the ball is helped on the way to the pins.

Little or no thought is given to the fact that modern equipment has been the main reason for the battering of the pins in the present wave.

What has happened to bowling has happened in other sports over the years. There was a time, for instance, when Frank "Home Run" Baker of the Philadelphia Athletics was the home run king, with 11 circuit blows. The baseball officials then introduced the lively ball and the offense improved and the sport drew more and more fans to the stands.

It was the same with football. The old, egg-shaped ball that was made for the kickers was changed to a pointed ball that could be passed. The entire game changed. It was much the same in golf, where the size of the ball and the cups were enlarged and the steel shaft made its appearance.

Sure, there were critics and some violations, such as the spit ball. Some pitchers had a file inserted in their belts so as to rough up the ball and help their pitching.

## in the pocket by W. W. Edgar

But now that the same new products are aiding bowling, critics are hollering. They forget that high scores has helped to make the game popular — even with the women.

THERE WAS a close race for scoring honors at Merri-Bowl over the holiday. When it ended, Jan Elliott, in the ladies' classic, landed on top with a 693 series. This was three pins more than Tom Koebe, who posted a 680, with a 260 middle game.

WOODLAND LANES: Two more members were inducted into the 700 club when Tim Henry blasted a 714 series in the trio league and Craig Demeio added a 708.

BEL-AIRE: High scoring continued in the classic, with four barrier-breaking series. Tom Leonard, with the help of a 299 game, was the leader with 753. Behind him came Jim Keppin with 750, Jeff Hepper with 734 and Bob Arnold with 718.

## ANTIQUES



## PETS

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN



Oakland County  
644-1070  
Wayne County  
591-0900  
Rochester/Avon  
852-3222



HOMES  
THAT  
ARE  
FOR SALE  
Call for details  
classified  
ads

**Special Sale**  
**Never Wax Floors by Mannington**

**Only Mannington JT88 floors have Never-wax protection.**  
**And we've got them on sale now!**

Only Mannington Never-wax floors have protection so tough they never need wax or vinyl dressings. Mannington Never-wax. Never never-wax. Never more wear resistant. Never more stain resistant. And never more beautiful.

**\$9.95** from **\$12.95**

**A. R. KRAMER**

LIVONIA  
22000 LECHE RD. (at 22nd St.)  
Open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Phone 223-8200

PLYMOUTH  
22311 Andover Rd. (at 22nd St.)  
Open Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sundays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Phone 464-3262

Known for  
Quality Installation  
Since 1925