

# O&E golf site will be a challenge

By DOUG FUNKE

Whispering Willows Golf Course, site of the 10th annual Observer & Eccentric Open Tournaments next month, will be an excellent test of ability even though it is a municipal rather than a private facility.

That's the word from Dave Montgomery, head greenskeeper at the Livonia course.

Montgomery and his staff of three full-time assistants and six seasonal employees are now in the process of grooming the 6,265-yard par-71 layout (5,772 yards, par 71 for women) for the upcoming tournaments.

Whispering Willows is different from most municipal courses in that at Wil-

son the course, six holes in which woods come into play and five holes in which water must be avoided.

Unlike some courses, which are dotted before a tournament to make the test more challenging, nothing radical is planned for the O&E Tournaments, said Montgomery.

"The pin placements will be more challenging, but other than that, the course will play standard," he said.

The course seems unusually green considering the relative lack of rain. The fairways have been mowed more this summer than in years past, said Montgomery.

Fifteen tons of fertilizer will also have been spread around the course by the end of summer.

Montgomery, a golfer himself, said that several holes will offer challenges to the best of competitors.

"Number 11 (380 yards, par four) was on Jim Price's TV program last year," said Montgomery. "There are traps in back of the green, water in front and woods on both sides."

"There are good par threes—six (217 yards) and 14 (265 yards)—and seven (485 yards) is a good par five," continued Montgomery.

"It's a fairly long drive out of the woods on the seventh hole to the fairway and there are three traps around the green."

Medium-length, narrow chutes face drivers on the second and 11th tees. Those two fairways form a V.

There are several holes, though, on which even novice golfers have a chance to do well—the wide, 460-yard, par-five first and the 125-yard, par-three 16th. Both are good birdie holes. Upwards of 80 entries have been

received so far for the tournaments. The men will complete Sept. 9 and 10 and the women will take to the course Sept. 12.

Entry fee is \$24 for men and \$10 for women. The field will be divided into flights based on handicap. Medal (stroke) play will prevail.

Entry deadline for men is Sept. 5 and for women Sept. 7.

All amateur golfers who are residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton,

Redford, Westland, Garden City, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township may enter.

You can register by mailing the entry coupon which appears in most editions of the O&E to Whispering Willows, Willows, or by registering in person at the course, on Newburgh between Seven and Eight Mile.

## Southfield tennis tourney concludes

The Southfield Parks and Recreation Department's Tennis Tournament was completed last week, as 74 entries competed in eight divisions.

Winners in the all-singles events tournament included Mike Betman, who defeated Eric Dobryn, 6-0, 6-2, in the boys' 14 and under division.

Megan Foster captured the girls' 14 and under division, beating Mary Freedman, 6-1, 6-1.

In boys' 16 and under play, Scott Kalt defeated Randy Kazdan, 6-2, 6-3.

Boys' 18 and under play, Yael Schlick took the girls' 16 and under with a 6-0, 7-5, win over Monica Stuck.

Winners in the senior divisions were Garrett

Szekiewicz in the men's 19-29 division, beating Keith Kapera, 6-3, 6-4. In women's 19-29 division play, Debbie Goldstein won out over Sampa Dutta, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6, in one of the closest matches of the tourney.

The men's 30-44 year division also ended with a tight match, as Paul Wheeler came from behind to defeat Leonard Bayer, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6.

Toni Hoover was forced to go three sets before she was finally able to put away Sandra Beyer, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6.

Trophies were awarded to finalists in all eight divisions.

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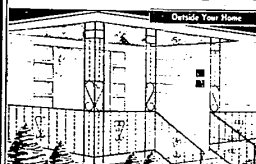
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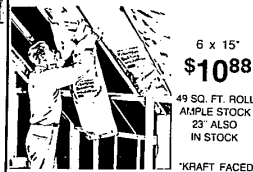
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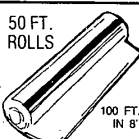


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