

Sunday,
May 5, 2024

SHERIDAN PARK GOLF CLUB

News and Events Update



ON THE TEE

2024 - SHERIDAN PARK GOLF CLUB



SPRING PARTY - MAY 10th

The first event of the season, the Spring Party, will be held at the NOCO Pavilion on Friday, May 10th at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$20. Please sign up and pay in advance. If you plan to pay at the door, please notify the Club so we can have an accurate head count. This event, as with all future events, is BYOB.

EVENT SIGN UP PROCEDURE

Club members can sign up for events by either clicking on the online signup links or by signing up on sheets that will be in the locker room.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE MAY 5th

If you fail to pay your dues by April 30th, you will be marked as inactive in the GHIN System. Membership forms are available at: <https://www.sheridanparkgolfclub.com/Membership>

THE CLUB HAS A NEW TREASURER

Ed Hacherl has been elected by the Board to be the new Club Treasurer. We are grateful for Ed's participation on the Board.

SHERIDAN PARK GOLF CLUB 2024 EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday May 10th

Saturday, May 11th

Sunday, May 19th

Sunday, June 2nd

Sunday, June 9th

Saturday, June 29th

Sunday, June 30th

Saturday, July 20th

Sunday, July 21st

Sunday, August 4th

Saturday, August 10th

Sunday, August 11th

Saturday, September 14th

Saturday, September 21st

Saturday, September 28th

Friday, October 25th

Individual Presidents' Cup ([Signup Link](#))

Spring Party - 6:00PM - NOCO

2-Man Presidents' Cup 1st Round ([Signup Link](#))

4-Man Kick-off - Random by Handicap ([Signup Link](#))

Club Clash (Elma @ Sheridan)

Legends Memorial 2-Man Scramble ([Signup Link](#))

Senior Club Championship - Round 1 ([Signup Link](#))

Senior Club Championship - Round 2

Sheridan Member Ryder Cup - Day 1 ([Signup Link](#))

Sheridan Member Ryder Cup - Day 2

Club Championship - Round 1 ([Signup Link](#))

Club Championship - Round 2

Club Championship - Round 3

Director's Cup @ Sheridan

Memorial 4-Man Scramble ([Signup Link](#))

Nightmare 2-Man Scramble ([Signup Link](#))

Fall Party - 6:00PM - NOCO

WNY PUBLIC LINKS - 2024 SCHEDULE [\(SIGNUP SHEET LINK\)](#)

Bill Boyle Memorial <i>Players need not be from same club</i>	Two-man Best Ball A & B Flights	Saturday 5/18	Dande Farm
Charles Barton Team Championships <i>Players must be from same club</i>	Three (2-Man) Teams 9 Hole Scramble	Saturday 6/22	Hyde Park
AA, A, B, C Individual Championships	36 Hole Stroke Play AA, A, B, C flights	Saturday 7/13 Sunday 7/14	Sheridan Park
Senior Individual Championship <i>Age 50+</i>	18 Hole Stroke Play Flighted by age and HCP	Tuesday 7/23	Seneca Hickory Stick
Senior 2-Man Best Ball (50+) <i>Players need not be from same club</i>	Two Man Teams Best Ball Flighted by Avg. Age	Friday 8/16	Audubon G.C.
Two Man Scramble <i>Players need not be from same club</i>	A, B, C Flights	Saturday 8/24	Elma Meadows

USGA CHANGES FOR 2024

A NEW WAY TO HANDLE NINE-HOLE ROUNDS - the WHS now uses an “expected score” formula to take nine-hole scores and adjust them to 18-hole score differentials. That means 9 holes scores will immediately be converted to 18 holes scores differentials and will immediately be used to calculate your index. (No more waiting to two 9-hole scores to be combined)

POSTING SCORES WHEN YOU PLAY BETWEEN 10 & 17 HOLES - when a player plays between 10-17 holes, they are now required to post their scores for all holes played using the hole-by-hole option. This allows a Score Differential to be calculated based on the specific holes that were played, which is then combined with the player’s expected score for the number of holes not played. Please post everything using the Hole-by-Hole method.

YOUR SCORES WILL COUNT FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES AT MORE COURSES (INCLUDING 'EXECUTIVE COURSES') - the USGA has reduced the minimum yardage for a course to be included in the Course Rating system. This allows roughly 700 more par-3 courses to become part of the WHS system. If you're not sure, please try to post it!

ELMA @ SHERIDAN CLUB CLASH (6/2/24)

The signup sheet is up in the locker room. This is a one day, Ryder Cup format event against Elma Meadows Golf Club. This year it’s back at Sheridan. After last year’s loss, we’re looking to protect our dirt. You must sign up before playing your round. After your round you must post your GROSS score and put your member attested score card, marked “QUALIFIER” in the box by the showers! The top six qualifiers for each flight will be contacted to confirm they can play in the event. The low 6 qualifiers for each class will be notified by 5/28/24. Please don’t sign up if you can’t play on 6/2.

Monday,
April 22,
2024



THE SHERIDAN BIRDIE
SHERIDAN PARK GOLF CLUB



A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN 2024 is how the Club will run parties and after-tournament gatherings. The Board of Directors has done very significant research into the legal liability of serving alcohol at Club events. We’ve concluded that there could be very significant personal legal liability for Board Members if a Club member has an accident after being overserved, or overserving themselves, alcohol at a Club event. Because of this, the Board had several spirited debates and voted unanimously at our March meeting to change the way we do parties and post-tournament events to hopefully eliminate the liability of individuals on the Board. The Club will still purchase and serve food, but will no longer purchase alcohol for the Spring and Fall Parties or any post-tournament picnics we have in the park. Members who want to consume alcohol at these events will need to bring their own and will assume all legal liability of consuming that alcohol. **The Club fully intends to spend the same amount of money on parties and post-tournament gatherings, we are just changing the way alcohol is purchased and served to eliminate the legal liability for the Club and the Board of Directors.**

The Town is negotiating with what they believe is a far more ‘responsible’ vendor to take over the Concessions in the Clubhouse and we intend to do several post-tournaments events in the Clubhouse with the new concession vendor. This transfers the legal responsibility for serving alcohol to that vendor.

THE BUFFALO NEWS

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023



Man has recovered 20,000 golf balls to send to troops



Jeff Spriegel Sr. has become a devoted collector of golf balls, finding golf balls that have been abandoned by their owners after errant shots. Above, he uses a special tool to pluck a ball from a pond at Sheridan Park Golf Course in the Town of Tonawanda. At top, he displays one day's haul.

On a 'mission' to support Buffalo-based charity

STEPHEN T. WATSON

Buffalo News Staff Reporter

The average golfer greets an errant tee shot with the kind of phrase a family newspaper must replace with asterisks and ampersands. Jeff Spriegel Sr. cheerfully welcomes any wayward golf shot. Hooks. Slices. Flubs that splash into water hazards and mishits that skip into thick, rough. Spriegel embraces them all because without them he couldn't do something he loves nearly as much as playing the sport: Hunting for lost golf balls. The lanky Kenmore resident stalks Sheridan Park Golf Course in the Town of Tonawanda, collecting dozens of golf balls daily and 20,844 for the season. "Everybody makes bad shots," Spriegel said from a seat in the clubhouse. "Even the best golfers." He scoops up whatever he finds during his regular morning round before he returns for an afternoon collection effort focused on the most fruitful areas to search. Spriegel bags the balls and brings them home to clean them, dry them and pack them up in boxes that can fill much of his basement and garage. He does it all before, about once a month, ferrying the boxes downtown to volunteers from Bunkers in



DEREK GEE, BUFFALO NEWS

Jeff Spriegel Sr. searches for golf balls in the woods near the first tee on the Sheridan Park Golf Course in the Town of Tonawanda.

There's a competitive side to his scrounging, with friends egging him on to find more balls in a round or a day. "It's just a nice distraction for me and now it's got a mission, which is part of why I enjoy doing it so much," Spriegel said. Most of the time, Spriegel ferrets out balls from Sheridan Park, a challenging public layout off Sheridan Drive. Weather permitting, he plays seven mornings a week. Spriegel keeps an eye out for lost balls while waiting for his playing partners to hit. This usually turns up a couple dozen balls. After finishing 18 holes, Spriegel goes back for a solitary, dedicated search that focuses on the likeliest spots along the course. "You've got to be kind of like a mountain goat to get to some of the spots I go to get golf balls," he said. For example, at hole No. 1, Spriegel points out a sloping thicket of small trees and bushes on the left side of the fairway. He once found 89 balls in one day there. "So, 89 guys started their day with the hopes and dreams of a good round," Spriegel said, "And it's ruined instantly on the first shot!" Farther down the first hole, on the right, is a marshy area with shoulder-high reeds and grasses. On a chilly recent morning, Spriegel, wearing his signature orange hooded sweatshirt and baseball cap, stood along the edge, and reached in with an extendable ball retriever to pluck out first one ball and then another. He keeps a first-aid kit in his bag to help with the scratches and cuts he gets. Spriegel credits familiarity with how golfers play the course, clear vision and a willingness to spend hours at the task. He jokes that he can see one if just a pair of dimples on the ball are visible. For one ball he pulled out of a murky water hazard, Spriegel quipped, "That was probably a dimple and a half!" Spriegel is a prominent figure at Sheridan Park. Other players give used balls and clubs to him to donate to Bunkers in Baghdad and course employees fully support what he's doing, said Dallas Ford, a town recreation attendant. Spriegel sells some of his balls to friends and playing partners to help pay for supplies such as bleach, Magic Eraser cleaning pads and gloves. He reuses the bags golfers use to hold ice and cans of beer because, Spriegel said, they're perfect for retaining about 100 golf balls. Spriegel estimates he collected about 20,440 golf balls this season, as of Monday, with a one-day record of 784. Spriegel fills his car with bags of muddy balls before taking them out at home for cleaning. "It's sort of like that old show, 'Sanford and Son: where the dad had that car and there was all that junk,'" Kim Spriegel said. Before they're cleaned off in the basement sink, the balls have a distinctly unpleasant odor that Kim Spriegel compares to unwashed hockey equipment. Boxes of balls also take up a lot of room in her basement. But she said she's learned to accept the time her husband devotes to golf ball collecting. "I am happy he does it. I do occasionally feel almost a little jealous. "The golf balls are getting a lot of attention today and I don't feel good today," Kim Spriegel said, laughing. "He is dedicated to getting that job done!" That job is supporting Bunkers in Baghdad, the charity founded in 2008 by Joe Hanna, a lawyer and Goldberg Segalla partner. Hanna said he was inspired after seeing soldiers stationed in Iraq hitting golf balls on "60 Minutes" and, later, reading in Golf magazine that this is a favorite form of stress relief for them. Over 15 years, Bunkers in Baghdad has collected 14.8 million used golf balls and 1.5 million clubs and distributed them to military members and veterans in all 50 states and 79 countries. "We're just sending them a slice of home," Hanna said. Hanna highlighted the contributions of Dick Nelson, a legally blind veteran in Jamestown who has taken in, washed and donated about 300,000 balls and 25,000 clubs over the past dozen years - "He is phenomenal," Hanna said - along with Spriegel and other dedicated donors. This is a transition time of year for Spriegel, with most Buffalo-area courses shutting down for the season. But Spriegel doesn't let that stop him. He spends much of the winter in Largo, Fla., in a condo on a golf course. Yes, Spriegel said, "I do the same thing in Florida!" He snagged 14,000 balls during last year's snowbird sojourn. Between the roughly 250,000 balls he's collected up here, and 40,000 he's taken in down there, Spriegel is pushing 300,000 balls in all. It's something he can't imagine stopping. "I have a chiropractor, a massage therapist, a doctor, a urologist, an eye doctor," Spriegel said, "and I go to them, and I say, 'Let's start out by letting you know that your job is to keep me on the golf course!'"

Baghdad, a Buffalo-based charity that ships donated golf balls and equipment to service members and veterans worldwide. Of course, there are plenty of ways to support a worthy cause that don't require this much time and effort. Spriegel's wife said she understands why some might see his ball harvesting as a compulsion. "The collecting is just who he is - part of who he is," Kim Spriegel said. The 69-year-old has played golf since he was 9 years old, when it offered a chance to bond with his father, Clyde. "I had that undivided time with him," Spriegel said. He said his mother, Shirley, carded a hole in one at 79 and, more importantly, demonstrated the value of public service as an active volunteer. Spriegel, a retired school psychologist, said he can't remember ever buying new golf balls to use because he plays with what he finds or those he receives as a gift.

BRIGHTON TO BECOME A 12-HOLE COURSE ?

Wanna play ... 12? Tonawanda weighs cutting six holes from Brighton Park Golf Course. One of the Town of Tonawanda's public golf courses could be shrinking. Town officials are considering a plan to slice off six of Brighton Park Golf Course's 18 holes to make way for the development of single-family homes on this land. The proposal is still in the preliminary stages and hinges on Tonawanda's ability to create a new park at the former Cherry Farm landfill site along the town's waterfront, Supervisor Joseph Emminger told The Buffalo News. "They're both tied together," Emminger said. "Without the Cherry Farm we can't do Brighton." The idea of converting Brighton Park to a 12-hole course is likely to face opposition from many golfers, notably members of the clubs that play the course. It's a less-challenging layout than the town's other course, Sheridan Park Golf Course, which opened in 1933 and is widely considered one of the better public courses in the region. "We're looking to keep, obviously, Sheridan open," said Emminger, calling it "a premier public golf course in Western New York." Brighton is split by Brompton Road. The first three holes, and the back nine, are on the north side of Brompton. Holes 4 through 9 are on the south side of Brompton, between a U.S. Army Reserve Center and the town's outdoor driving range. The town is considering taking back the land that hosts those six holes and making it available for housing, Emminger said. Tonawanda officials are eyeing this property because the town has limited land available for new, larger-scale residential development. Emminger said many details need to be worked out and it's too soon to say how many homes could be constructed on the property. By the end of this year, the town could hire a firm to conduct testing to determine the extent of contamination, if any, from pesticides and other chemicals used to treat the grounds, he said. "If it comes back that it can be remediated reasonably, cost wise, our next step I imagine would be to start looking at doing an RFP, an RFQ, for qualified residential developers, home builders, who would develop the site," said Emminger, referring to the formal processes for soliciting interest from companies. The town also has the option of reshaping the remaining 12 holes at Brighton into an executive course of 18 shorter holes, Emminger said, though this could prove cost prohibitive. A number of 12-hole golf courses have opened around the country and in Canada in recent years, either through new construction or through the conversion of existing courses. They are aimed at golfers of all ages who don't have the time, interest or money to play a full 18-hole round. Legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus, for example, designed a 12-hole course as part of a signature golf park in the Red Ledges community in Heber City, Utah: "One part 'Golf,' one part 'Park,' and countless parts 'Fun,'" according to the [Red Ledges website](#). "I've got, definitely, mixed emotions about it because we kind of went through hell just getting rid of a swimming pool at Brighton Park," said Szarek, referring to the contentious debate over the project that is seeing the Brighton Pool replaced with a spray park as part of a major recreation expansion now underway at the park. Szarek said he wants to know what the effect of converting Brighton to 12 holes would have on course use and revenue and he plans to ask the men's, senior and women's clubs that play at Brighton for their views. "We're fortunate to have two, full-size golf courses in the town. I mean, just how many other towns in upstate New York have two golf courses? I get it," he said. "But when you start pulling back on things like that, whether it's a swimming pool or holes on a golf course, there's concerns." When a reporter informed Wzontek about the proposal Thursday, the news went over like a quadruple bogey. The News reached him as he played on a course outside Tampa, Fla., with a couple of buddies from the Brighton Park Golf Club. There will be a revolt," he said, predicting the reaction of club members. If the town is looking to shrink any of its golf courses, Wzontek said, it should cut Sheridan Park down to 12 holes. He said the most recent figures he received from the town several years ago showed Brighton Park had more rounds played than Sheridan Park. Both courses saw about 35,000 rounds played last season, with Sheridan Park getting more 18-hole rounds and Brighton Park seeing more nine-hole play, according to the town. Referring to Emminger and Szarek, Wzontek said, "Those guys want to get themselves unelected, try doing this." The town can't sell any land at Brighton Park to a developer without creating an offsetting amount of new parkland somewhere else, Emminger said. That would happen at a 55-acre former Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. dumping ground, on River Road just south of the South Grand Island Bridges. The town for decades has sought to reuse the landfill, which required extensive cleanup, as a recreational venue. A conceptual site plan unveiled in 1990 at a state Department of Environmental Conservation public hearing called for a boat-launching ramp, dry storage for boats, fishing areas, a band shell, an interpretive center, picnicking and recreational areas, parking areas and nature trails. The town today envisions similar amenities, such as a kayak launch and four-season pavilion, at the property, Emminger said. He said Tonawanda is close to an agreement with National Grid that would allow the town to take control of the Cherry Farm site, which is a capped landfill. National Grid declined to get into specifics. "National Grid and the Town of Tonawanda have had preliminary discussions about the Cherry Farm site. There is a great deal of work to be done and we will continue our conversations with the town on this project, spokesperson Jared Paventi said in an email. The supervisor said he has wanted to try to do something else with the six holes at Brighton for years but the problem was finding the offsetting parkland. "Cherry Farm was kind of like a dead issue up until very fairly recently, within the last nine months or so. So that was a dead issue," Emminger said. "But when Cherry Farm started to come together, I go, 'OK, it's time to resurrect this idea.' "

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CLUB, OR BECOME A SPONSOR, HAVE THEM EMAIL sheridanparkgolfclub@gmail.com OR CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER

BUFFALO DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

2024 EVENT SCHEDULE ([LINK](#))

BDGA Two-Man Scramble

Niagara Frontier Golf Club
May 6, 2024 (Entries Close May 1st)

BDGA Mid-Amateur Championship

Country Club of Buffalo
May 14 - 15, 2024 (Entries Close May 9th)

Erie County Amateur Championship

Elma Meadows Golf Course
July 13 - 14, 2024 (Entries Close: June 3rd)

BDGA Junior Match Play Championship

Sheridan Park GC
July 16 - 18, 2024 (Entries Close July 10th)

100th BDGA Individual Championship Qualifier -

Tri-County Country Club
July 29, 2024 (Entries Close: July 24th)

BDGA Junior Stroke Play Championship

Willowbrook Golf Club
July 30 - 31, 2024 (Entries Close: July 25th)

BDGA Match Play Championship

Crag Burn Golf Club
Aug 8 - 10, 2024 (Entries Close Aug 2nd)

BDGA Senior Amateur Championship

Moon Brook Country Club
Sep 23 - 24, 2024 (Entries Close 9/18)

101st BDGA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

PARK COUNTRY CLUB - AUGUST 15 - 17, 2024 - ENTRIES CLOSE: JULY 24th

2024 NYS MEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

WANAKAH COUNTRY CLUB - JULY 9, 10 & 11, 2024

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Click on links for more information



734 Sheridan Drive
Tonawanda, NY 14150
716-874-8907



175 Brompton Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
716-504-4745



2701 Elmwood Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217
(716) 874-8909



4 Locations - Amherst
Buffalo, Clarence
716-693-2077



Dine In or Take Out
864 Kenmore Ave
Buffalo, NY 14216
716-447-0502



3347 Delaware Ave.
Kenmore, NY. 14217
(716)-874-1133



41 Virginia Pl.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-887-2971



4 Locations - Tonawanda
Amherst - Grand Island
716-693-2077

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900 Brighton Road,
Tonawanda, NY 14150
716-832-3026



2910 Delaware Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217
716-332-6810



3020 Delaware Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217
716-926-6092



2862 Delaware Ave
Sheridan G.C.
Brighton G.C.



9 Locations !!!
1531 Military Rd.
Kenmore, NY 14217
(716) 877-1800



GENESIS JEEP DODGE RAM
FIAT HONDA HYUNDAI KIA
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Tonawanda, NY 14150
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3910 Maple Road
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Everything for the game.
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Kenmore, NY 14217
716-444-4906



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Building Supplies
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Lancaster, NY 14086
716-684-6060

PARAGON
Automotive
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522 Hinman Ave,
Buffalo, NY 14216
716 877 3451



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Kenmore, NY 14217
716-876-0945



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716-838-2233

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Re-Gripping, Lessons
716-461-9635

