

Galvin's News and Views from *Lake of the Ozarks*

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News from around the Lake.....

Lake courses named among state's best

Three Lake of the Ozarks golf courses are named among the top 25 in the state by members of the Missouri Golf Association. Porto Cima Golf Course has been voted the No. 1 course in Missouri.

"Every course enjoys recognition and we are particularly honored that this acknowledgement comes from the most dedicated golfers in Missouri," said Jon M. Crane, Porto Cima Director of Golf.

Since 1905, The Missouri Golf Association and its member courses have been devoted to advancing the game of golf in all corners of Missouri by facilitating the USGA handicapping system, rating and measuring golf courses throughout the state, and conducting several statewide championships each year. A recent poll of association members (online at <http://www.mogolf.org>) ranked the top 25 courses in the state, with Porto Cima topping the list. *Continued page 2*

Lake courses named among state's best

Continued from page 1.

Porto Cima is the only waterfront Jack Nicklaus Signature course in Missouri and features five sets of tees, generous landing areas and seven holes that play beside or over the Lake of The Ozarks. Founded in 2000, The Club at Porto Cima—roughly translated "Hillside by the Harbor"—is part of The Lodge of Four Seasons ownership's desire to create the finest golf, residential and boat community in the Midwest.

"From the day Porto Cima opened, we have strived to provide our members with a challenging course in a beautiful setting. In being rated the best in Missouri, it's clear that we are headed in the right direction," said Lodge of Four Seasons owner, Peter Brown. "We appreciate the accolade and look forward to hitting them straight in 2011."

Old Kinderhook checked in at No. 5 in the poll. The Tom Weiskopf signature course provides challenges for experienced and more novice players. Old Kinderhook features dramatic valleys, waterfalls, challenging hazards and scenic views.

Old Kinderhook Executive Director Bob Renken says the MGA poll is not one to take lightly and that the staff was excited with the course's placement.

"It's good. I think there are a lot of different lists out there, but this one is one that doesn't rely on any advertising criteria. It's a poll taken from the golfers," Renken said. Old Kinderhook was one of two public courses in the top five, finishing only behind Branson Creek among public courses.

The Lake of the Ozarks had three courses among the 25 as chosen by players. "It just shows that the lake area is really, truly a golf destination. We've got some great products down here," Renken said.

Osage National in Lake Ozark rounded out the lake's representation at No. 20 in the statewide poll. Three nine-hole courses (two designed by Arnold Palmer) give players at Osage National freedom of choice between the Links, the River, and the Mountain. Members of Arnie's Army are encouraged to book tee times in advance. Jan 22, 2011. Rance Burger. lakenewsonline.com

Course Rankings

Missouri Golf Association poll

1. The Club at Porto Cima, Sunrise Beach*
2. Branson Creek Golf Course, Hollister*
3. Dalhousie Golf Club, Cape Girardeau*
4. Bellerive Country Club, St Louis
5. The Club at Old Kinderhook, Camdenton*
6. Old Warson Country Club, St Louis
7. Hickory Hills Country Club, Springfield*
8. Payne Stewart Golf Club, Branson*
9. Boone Valley Golf Club, Augusta*
10. Jefferson City Country Club*
11. The Country Club of St Albans
12. The Club at Old Hawthorne, Columbia
13. Norwood Hills Country Club, St Louis
14. Rivercut Golf Course, Springfield*
15. Meadowbrook Country Club, Ballwin
16. Highland Springs Country Club, Springfield
17. Twin Oaks Country Club, Springfield*
18. Persimmon Woods Golf Club, Weldon Spring
19. St Louis Country Club
20. Osage National Golf Course, Lake Ozark*
21. Silo Ridge Golf & Country Club, Bolivar*
22. Fox Run Golf Club, Eureka
23. WingHaven Country Club, O'Fallon*
24. Blue Hills Country Club, Kansas City
25. Meadow Lake Acres Country Club, New Bloomfield*

*Site of a 2011 MGA scheduled event
Response rate for survey: 40.8 percent

Groundbreaking for new Route 242 to be held Tuesday

MILLER/CAMDEN COUNTIES - State and local officials will gather on Tuesday, Jan. 18, to celebrate the beginning of a project to construct a new four-lane highway connecting U.S. 54 in Miller County to the Lake of the Ozarks Community Bridge toll facility on Route MM in Camden County. The new roadway will be known as Route 242.

The groundbreaking will be held in the parking lot of Paul's Supermarket, located at 2107 Bagnell Dam Blvd. in Lake Ozark at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend the event.

Bloomsdale Excavating Company, Inc. of Bloomsdale, Mo. was awarded the construction contract after submitting the low bid of \$8,337,512.67. The project is being paid for by the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Missouri Department of Transportation.

If the weather permits, work on the nearly two-mile long project will start this month and take about a year to complete. The roadway will include a raised center median, as well as curb and gutter for drainage. An eight-foot-wide sidewalk will be constructed on the north side of the roadway. Jan 16, 2011. lakenexpo.com

Hammons' reps reaffirm intent

Although they didn't say when, representatives of John Q. Hammons Hotels and Resorts, have reaffirmed their intent to build the Chateau at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Months of speculation without any word from the development group came to an end this week during a private meeting between the chief executive officer and general counsel of JQH and the mayor of Osage Beach. The development group reassured Osage Beach Mayor Penny Lyons that they have very intention of building in Osage Beach. It's a matter of timing and waiting for better economic conditions.

Lyons made the announcement on Thursday. Lyons has remained optimistic that despite changes in the company's management and direction in recent months, and the failing health of John Q. Hammons, the project would still become a reality. "On that day, which will come every one of us will know this project was absolutely worth the fight and worth the wait," Lyons said.

Lyons met with Jacquie Dowdy, the new chief executive officer of John Q. Hammons Hotels and Resorts and Justin Harris, senior vice president and general counsel. They came to Osage Beach to discuss the future of the John Q. Hammons Hotel at the Grand Glaize Bridge in Osage Beach.

Dowdy informed Lyons that she and the Hammons Company remain committed to John Q. Hammons' dream of building the hotel and convention center in Osage Beach.

Construction will begin when economic conditions improve enough to make such a significant project feasible, Dowdy told Lyons. "The Hammons company still intends to build a Chateau at the Lake of the Ozarks which I know will be a great addition to our city and a major destination point for tourists and local citizens alike," Lyons said. "I really appreciate Ms. Dowdy and Mr. Harris taking the time to visit us and updating us on this project. I am confident that when the John Q. Hammons Chateau at the Lake of the Ozarks opens, it will be the wonderful, state of the art facility Mr. Hammons had in mind when he first dreamed of a hotel overlooking the Grand Glaize Bridge." ...

The project has been under discussion for more than seven years. Hammons had planned to build the hotel in conjunction with the construction of the Osage Beach Expressway. He said the highway improvements were what convinced him it was the right time to make the move to the lake. Jan 28, 2011. *Lakenewsonline.com*

Attorney General Koster suggests regional sewer district

Of the dozen recommendations that Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster made to improve Lake of the Ozarks water quality, five involved water studies and surveys. While Koster encouraged lake area governments to move toward establishing a regional sewer district that would surround the lake, he recommended that several baseline studies be conducted to determine what, if any, contaminants posed the greatest threat to water quality.

Koster is interested in improving the E. coli monitoring system at the public beaches at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, where unusually high bacteria levels caused beach closures last summer.

"We are not proposing that we go immediately to the solution. We are proposing that we learn more about what is causing these E. coli spikes," Koster said. "Then we're able to address it in a way that everybody is not dealing with anecdotal evidence, we're dealing with scientific evidence." Local environmentalists supported the idea of conducting more research.

"It's time that we do start this study. We don't know where it's going to end. Bottom line—our place in the mix—is it going to be good for the lake and is it going to be good for the average citizen at the lake?" Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance Executive Director Donna Swall said.

Koster's staff recommended realtime monitoring of bacteria levels at the state park beaches. The process requires computerized buoys and would involve a three-year baseline study at an estimated cost of \$450,000. Under the current system, water samples collected on Monday can lead to beach closures on Friday if the Monday sample tests high for E. coli.

The attorney general says the technology is available to hasten the testing process. "By adding computerized buoys to coves in front of the lake's public beaches, we can collect realtime data that will tell us within hours, not days, whether a public health concern exists and whether a beach should therefore be closed," Koster said. *Continued page 4*

Attorney General Koster suggests regional sewer district Continued from page 3.

The report also recommends microbial source tracking—DNA analysis—to determine the sources of bacteriological contamination. The process could cost an estimated \$500,000 annually. “I believe that there is now wide consensus that on-site sewage disposal systems, septic systems, are the most significant threat to protecting water quality at the Lake of the Ozarks,” Koster said. Koster noted that stricter regulations enacted in 1996 helped reduce the risk of a septic system contaminating the lake water, but that most of the systems surrounding the shoreline were installed before 1996.

After Koster unveiled his 12 recommendations at his Jefferson City office on Tuesday, Tri-County Lodging Association Executive Director Jim Divincen questioned Koster’s assertion that septic systems were the leading cause of contamination at the state park beaches. “It seems like we’re painting a picture that the lake isn’t clean,” Divincen said before citing Ameren Missouri-funded tests in 2010 that showed the lowest E. coli levels in the four-year testing program. “The perception is because of the beach situation that the Lake of the Ozarks isn’t clean, when in fact, at a 3.8 (colonies per 100 ml) geometric mean it’s one of the cleanest—if not the cleanest—body of water in the state of Missouri.”

Divincen believes the Missouri Department of Natural Resources should investigate methods of keeping Canadian geese away from the swimming beaches. “Where we need our help, sir, is on the public beaches where the geometric means have averaged higher especially as it relates to migratory birds, which we’ve had a problem with,” Divincen told Koster.

“The issue of microbial testing will yield an answer as to whether or not these E. coli spikes are being caused by geese and deer runoff, or are they being caused by leeching sewer systems? If they’re being caused by deer and geese runoff, that’s still serious. We still have to test it, we have to know when it’s occurring, we have to tell people who might otherwise be swimming in the lake,” Koster responded. “If, on the other hand, (E. coli) is coming from—some substantial portion of it is coming from leeching septic systems that predate the 1996 law and are failing systems that were put in in the 1940’s, 50’s, and 60’s, then I think shame on us. It’s our responsibility.”

AG’s scientific recommendations

- University of Missouri-Extension should conduct a survey to determine the number of on-site sewage disposal (septic) systems are located around the perimeter of the lake.
- The Missouri Department of Natural Resources should conduct microbial source tracking, a scientific study that uses DNA finger printing to determine what types of life leave E. coli and other fecal bacteria in water.
- Ameren Missouri should continue funding bacteriological testing programs after its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-ordered commitment runs out in 2012.
- DNR, with help from the Department of Health and Senior Services, should establish a new health advisory system for state park public beaches.
- DNR should use computerized buoys to provide realtime E. coli level data at state park public beaches.

Jan 28, 2011. Rance Burger, *Lakewestonline.com*

Get ready to go green with St. Pat’s parade on the water

The Lake West Chamber of Commerce presents the 20th annual St. Pat's Parade on the Water. This annual event lets boat enthusiasts break the wakes in March for a ride across the lake's west side. Watchers often find a spot on land and watch as the green-themed decor passes.

This year's on-the-water parade sets sail Saturday, March 12 at 11 a.m. The starting point is in Sunrise Beach at Ozark Bar B Que on State Road TT-75. By water, it's the 10.5 mile marker. Parade travelers will make their way up the Gravois Arm of the lake. Stopping points are located at Richard Knoggin's, Coconuts and Jolly Rogers.

Those wishing to participate in the on-the-water parade may register by contacting the Lake West Chamber of Commerce. Forms are available to download online at www.lakewestchamber.com. Long sleeved T-shirts are available for \$15. Prizes will be awarded for the best decorated boats and crew. Drawing are also awarding restaurant gift certificates. Join parade goers for the after parter at El Capitan Mexian Grill at 5:30 p.m. For more information about the parade on the water, contact the Lake West Chamber of Commerce at 573-374-5500. Jan 28, 2011. *Lakewestonline.com*

UPCOMING EVENTS



February

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO
LMAO Comedy Night at H. Toads	Feb 5	Lake Ozark, MO	573-365-5620
Superbowl Party at Captain Rons	Feb 6	Sunrise Beach, MO	573-374-5852
Valentine's Day at Camden on the Lake	Feb 12 - 14	Lake Ozark, MO	573-365-5620
Renew your wedding vows at Bridal Cave (reservations required)	Feb 13	Camdenton, MO	573-346-2676
Westminster Bow Wow Charity Gala	Feb 15	Laurie, MO	573-280-2161
Pub Crawl Osage Beach and Lake Ozark 17 establishments	Feb 19	Lake of the Ozarks	www.lakeareapubcrawl.com
WinterFest - Totally 80's Dance Party Tan-Tar-A	Feb 19	Osage Beach, MO	573-348-2794
2nd Silver Cup Chef's Challenge Seven Springs Winery	Feb 19	Linn Creek, MO	573-317-0100
16th Polar Bear Plunge & Strut to benefit MO Special Olympics	Feb 26	Osage Beach, MO	1-800-846-2682
10th Annual Home & Garden Expo Lodge of Four Seasons	Feb 26 - 27	Lake Ozark, MO	573-964-1008
2nd Annual Silver Cup Chef's Challenge Finals	Feb 28	Linn Creek, MO	573-317-0100
Liverpool Legends a Beatles Tribute band show	Mar 4 - 5	Osage Beach, MO	573-348-1599
St. Patrick's Parade on the Water Westside/Gravois Arm	Mar 12	Laurie, MO	573-374-5500
27th St. Patrick's Day Parade on Bagnell Dam Strip	Mar 12	Lake Ozark, MO	573-280-5477

Date set for annual Mardi Gras Pub Crawl

The 10th annual Mardi Gras Pub Crawl is around the corner. Held Feb. 19 in Lake Ozark and Osage Beach, there are 18 participating bars and 18 buses that will take you around to venues. Hear great live bands, get drink and food specials and take part in the largest pub crawl the Lake area has to offer. Many establishments will be selling T-shirts, mardi gras beads and other party favors.

More information can be found at www.lakepubcrawl.com where you can also register for e-mail updates. Search "Friends of Lake Area Pub Crawl" on Facebook to stay up-to-date on information.

Bus transportation to participating hotels along Business 54 and Hwy. 54 is being offered. Pickup will occur between 3-4 p.m. and drop off will take place between 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Resort at Port Arrowhead, Relax Inn, Town and Country, Inn at the Grand Glaize, Golden Door (no bus), Quails Next, Comfort Inn, Country Club Hotel & Spa, Baymont Inn

* Drop off and pick up at each location except where noted.

Participating bars, restaurants

Arris Pizza
 Bootleggers
 Casablanca
 Chevy's
 Chicago Brothers Pizza
 City Grill - The Blue Room
 Greg's Landing
 Inn at Grand Glaize
 J.J. Twigs
 Li'l Rizzo's
 Lucky's
 Mexicali Blues
 Pickled Pete's
 Shady's at the Lake
 Sports Pub
 Tailgate Party
 Tirebiters
 Wobbly Boots

Bus transportation between event locations from 4 p.m.-2:30 a.m. is \$5. Jan 15, 2011. Lakewebonline.com

High Pointe TIF: Best Buy puts indefinite hold on expansion

Dierbergs, City of Osage Beach to negotiate adjusted redevelopment plan for public review beginning Feb. 1

A month after securing approval of a tax increment finance district for the redevelopment of the High Pointe Shopping Center, Dierbergs Markets has lost a key player. Best Buy has placed an "indefinite hold" on any expansion plans, according to a press release issued today by the City of Osage Beach.

Dierbergs and the city have agreed, "To seek appropriate adjustments to the TIF redevelopment plan to address this development," the release stated.

Dierbergs hoisted Best Buy's name in presentations for months leading to a 4-2 vote of the Board of Aldermen on Dec. 16, 2010, to approve \$5.1 million in TIF reimbursement for the project.

The prospect of Best Buy being part of the project played a significant role in the vote of alderman John Olivarri in favor of the TIF. Olivarri is now chairman of the TIF Commission.

Aldermen Steve Kahrs, Lois Farmer and David Gasper also consented after hearing a majority of comments from the public in favor of the Dierbergs development.

Speakers from the public in favor of the redevelopment emphasized the positive aspects of competition, the need for jobs, increased tax revenue for the city and the eyesore the High Pointe property has become. Many residents, originally from St. Louis, were personally familiar with the grocer.

Alderman Kevin Rucker, who voted "no," has questioned the capacity of Osage Beach to support an additional grocery store and cautioned of cannibalizing revenue from a TIF already extended to Prewitt's Point, which includes Hy-Vee. Grocery stores along Highway 54/Osage Beach Parkway include Paul's Supermarket, Wal-Mart, Target, Hy-Vee and another Paul's Supermarket off of Business 54 in Lake Ozark.

Outspoken after the approval of the TIF, alderman Ron Schmitt said, "Competition is not fair when it is not on a level playing field." Schmitt expressed his belief that the city does not have to provide public funding to a business to purchase and develop what he called, "A prime piece of real estate." The High Point Shopping Center is currently a leveled parking lot located on Osage Beach Parkway across from the Premium Outlet Mall.

Opposition to the TIF from the local business community, most notably from developer Gary Prewitt, built up in the weeks leading to the unanimous favorable recommendation from the TIF Commission on Dec. 1 and subsequent approval of the deal by aldermen Dec. 16.

In hopes of persuading the board, an open letter from Prewitt and other local business professionals was hand delivered to City Hall on Dec. 15, 2010.

The letter called the inevitable adoption of the proposed TIF Plan, "terrible public policy... financially unnecessary and legally deficient."

As the TIF proposal flew through a unanimous vote of the TIF Commission previous to coming before aldermen, a financial consultant to the city advised that Dierbergs projected a modest rate of return sufficient to retire debt from the proposed redevelopment. The consultant further clarified Dierbergs' apparent willingness to move forward with or without a formal commitment from Best Buy.

Now that Best Buy has been pulled from the table, the adjusted redevelopment plan will be available for review by Feb. 1. The TIF Commission will meet next on March 2. jan 14, 2011. JB Simpson. Lakeexpo.com