

Press Release

Caddie & Leadership Academy of SE WI

May 2th, 2015

---Kenosha County Executive, Jim Kreuser is pleased to announce that the golf course at Kenosha County's Petrifying Springs (Pets) will be the home of The Caddie & Leadership Academy for the summer of 2015.

"Pets" has never had a caddie program; however, Kenosha County Parks System and the Caddie Academy will encourage the use of caddies at Pets through a unique incentive — by having the Academy pay their entire base fee. The only out-of-pocket cost for the golfer is an optional tip.

Phil Poletti, the Caddie Academy founder and board member said *"We were thrilled with Jim Kreuser's openness to the concept of exposing the youth of our community to the wonderful game of golf thru summer caddie jobs at such a historic place as Pets"*. The initiative received a major boost when the PGA of America, the Wisconsin State Golf Association and the Western Golf Association threw its financial support behind the program by providing up to \$25,000 in grants to the Caddie Academy Foundation. Poletti added *"Jim immediately recognized that Pets would be a great host location for the program and has been incredibly helpful in making sure the program clears all the hurdles that de-railed the concept last summer at Kenosha City's Muni Park nine-hole course."*

The program is designed to provide young men and women the opportunity to learn life lessons through exposure to the game of golf — and the value of a strong work ethic, social interaction and perseverance. In addition, the Academy will help the WSGA and Western Golf Association identify potential candidates for the Evans Caddie Scholarship program.

The Evans Scholarship is one of the flagship programs of the Western Golf Association (WGA) who partner with the WSGA in sponsoring the Evans Scholars' chapter house at Marquette and UW-Madison. Through Par Club contributions to the Western Golf Association (WGA) and other fund raising initiatives, donors fully fund the year-to-year scholarship costs. The WGA awards approximately 200 new scholarships annually with about 12-15 of those scholarships going to deserving caddies in WI.

The goal for the Caddie Academy in 2015 is to attract 20-25 caddies age 14-16 this spring, with the program starting about Mid June and continuing into Mid-August. The base fee of \$15 (for 9 holes) and \$30 (for 18 holes) will be paid through Academy funds, supplemented by optional tips from golfers. Golfers will be asked to fill out an evaluation to help the caddie improve.

Inexperienced caddies will be required to go through training sessions starting May 30th before officially starting in the Academy program. The golf course at "Pets" will be used for those training sessions, which will be conducted by the Director, volunteers and Caddie Academy Board Members.

Jim Bunch, past president of the WGA, is obviously a big proponent of programs that encourage the use of caddies.

“Golfers who have never used a caddie, then do it, they find it’s the best way to play the game,” Bunch said recently. “When they have a caddie, they get it. And they’re helping kids in the process.”

The flagship of Kenosha County Parks, Petrifying Springs is the oldest and largest park in the system. Abundant trees and a rolling landscape add beauty and challenge to this delightful 18-hole, 5979 yard golf course. “Pets” offers a classic golf course and clubhouse with an exceptional golf experience. Having caddies available for a portion of the summer will greatly enhance the golfers experience at Pets.

For more information about this program; please see the following website;

<http://caddieacademy.org/>