

**May 6, 2009**

**News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

The Heart of the Ozarks Junior Golf Foundation (HOJGF) and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board will hold a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m., Friday, May 8, for the new Betty Allison Family Golf Center, 1825 E. Norton Road. To celebrate the new improvements, three days of free golf rounds for the whole family this Mother's Day weekend also will be offered. The Betty Allison Family Golf Center is located within the campus of the Park Board's Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Course at Glenstone Avenue and Interstate 44.

The Betty Allison Family Golf Center project includes a 2,100-square ft. building with a multipurpose room, with surround glass windows overlooking the golf course; public restrooms; tables and chairs for seating for groups; humorous golf murals along the ceiling; a countertop and display area; utility room; and new landscaping. The facility can be rented out for birthday parties and other group functions. Call (417) 833-9962 for information.

To mark this occasion, three days of free golf for all ages at the par-three, nine-hole Betty Allison Golf Course at Oscar Blom is being offered by HOJGF and the Park Board. No tee times necessary. Golf club rental is available in the Stewart Golf Course Pro Shop. Call for details at (417) 833-9962. Dates include:

- 2 – 9 p.m., Friday, May 8;
- 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, May 9; and
- 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., Sunday, May 10

The original Oscar Blom Golf Course opened on May 2, 1959 to the public. A full renovation of the course was completed in 2005 and made possible through the efforts of HOJGF and the Betty Allison family. The course is designed for all ages and abilities. The 50-year anniversary of the course will be marked with longtime area golf professional and Ozarks Golf Hall of Famer Sam Reynolds hitting a ceremonial first golf ball onto the course with local junior boy and girl golfers, who are all products of the Foundation's free instruction and facilities. Reynolds, age 79, was one of four local golf professionals to mark the original opening of the course in 1959 with the same gesture.

At a cost of \$365,000, the new Golf Center was funded completely by private donations from the HOJGF, with major support from the Betty Allison family. To date, the HOJGF has provided more than \$1.1 million in improvements to the site.

Construction was led by Adam Pyle Construction. The architect for the project was Rob Haik with H-Design Group. The murals along both sides of the ceiling were painted by local artist Bertie Rader.

For more information, media contact: Shawn Freeman, Bill and Payne Stewart GC Professional, (417) 833-9962; or Rick Grayson, HOJGF President, (417) 823-7888.