

# Meadows Monthly

### Meadows Farms Golf Course

Home of the Longest Hole in the USA (841 yard Par 6)

We have a lot of awesome tournaments coming up at The Farm. One we are extremely proud of is Germanna Community College's golf tournament to support their education foundation. The foundation gives away hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in scholarships for local youth so they can fulfill their dreams of attending college. Make sure to sign up for one of our great tournaments today.

20 GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COLLEGE
TOURNAMENT

## TEAM RECRUITMENT CHALLENGE

\$500 PRIZE TO THE PERSONS
FROM THE EAST & THE
WEST WHO RECRUIT
THE MOST TEAMS

Please make sure to have your name listed as the referral to qualify for prize on both sides. Minimum of 3 enrolled teams to win cash prizes. Need not be a foundation member.

#### EAST

Fredericksburg Stafford Spotsylvania King George Caroline

#### WEST

Culpeper Madison Orange

## SPONSORSHIP RECRUITMENT

\$1000 PRIZE

TO THE PERSON
WHO RECRUITS
THE MOST
SPONSORSHIPS

9.14.18

AT THE NEW & IMPROVED
MEADOWS FARM GOLF CLUB
4300 FLAT RUN ROAD, LOCUST GROVE

7:30 A.M. REGISTRATION 9 A.M. SHOTGUN START

\* Please make sure to have your name listed as the referral to qualify for prize. Minimum of 3 sponsorships to win

www.germanna.edu/educational-foundation/

# September

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# **Upcoming Events:**

October 2018

Sgt. Mac Tournament

**Southern Lane Open** 

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP** 

HKS Chuck Means Tournament

## Being a good player does not make you a good golfer



For the purpose of this article, consider the following definitions of good players and good golfers. Good players have low handicaps, usually hit the ball a mile, and occasionally post very low scores. Good golfers fill divots, repair ball marks, and practice good etiquette each and every time they are on the course. Anyone who has ever worked in golf course maintenance will verify that, unfortunately, the two terms are not mutually inclusive. In fact, good players often are the least likely to be considerate of the games of lesser mortals.

This is not to say that all good players are bad golfers. In fact, practicing good etiquette on the course seems to be slipping across the board regardless of handicap. And the timing could not be worse. All but the wealthiest courses are finding it harder to make a profit these days, with large increases in fuel, fertilizer, and labor. Since labor almost always represents the largest budget item, it typically is the first to be targeted when budget reductions are necessary. When forced to choose, most courses with reduced available labor place a higher priority on agronomic necessities than the niceties of completing tasks that good golfers normally do for themselves. Unless we can somehow encourage players to become better golfers, the overall quality of many courses will decline rapidly during tough economic times.

For those who wish to become better golfers, here are the ways you can help your course the most.

#### Filling divots

Golfers often ask if they should replace their divot, fill it with whatever has been provided in the divot buckets, or just leave it for the crew. The best option is to fill the divot with the material provided by the maintenance staff. Typically, this is straight sand, although occasionally a sand/seed mixture is used by courses using cool-season turfgrasses. Replacing a divot is the second-best option, assuming the divot is deep enough to include a significant amount of soil. Without the soil, the divot quickly dries out and is pulled back out of the ground during the next mowing.

Do – Fill divot holes with the material provided by the maintenance staff.

Don't - Overfill the hole, which results in a sand mound that can dull or damage the mowing units.

#### **Ball marks**

Few aspects of etiquette generate more discussion than the fixing of ball marks (at least now that most courses no longer allow spiked shoes) and even superintendents disagree on the best method of ball mark repair. The inability to agree on a single best method stems from the fact that ball marks are not all the same. On soft greens, a shot that descends from a very steep angle produces a deep, almost circular ball mark. On the same green, a shot that comes in low and hard will produce an elongated tearing of the green, and it often removes a plug of grass and soil. Ball marks on soft greens take time to repair properly. Compacted soil needs to be lifted gently and the raised sides of the ball mark need to be gently pushed back toward the center. The elongated mark needs to be kneaded back together by pushing in from the sides, stretching the turf rather than tearing it. Replacing removed turf seldom accomplishes much so it is best to leave it out.

In contrast, very firm greens can resist ball marks so well that they can be hard to find at all. On such greens the marks will be slight indentations that require a minimum of effort to repair. These marks can be repaired with a very slight lifting to restore smoothness.

Do – Restore surface smoothness by gently pushing from the sides and, in some cases, gently lifting the compressed area.

Don't – Aggressively twist (like that so often used by pros on national television), which does more harm than good.

#### **Bunkers**

Among the first rules of etiquette taught to young players are to rake the bunker smooth of footprints and repair divots after the shot. Unfortunately, either through laziness or disdain, many players refuse to extend this courtesy to their fellow golfers. Shoving sand around with your foot or the clubhead is no substitute for raking.

However, for those who are willing to rake, it is important to do the job correctly. Avoid pulling sand down the bunker face when raking. Doing so results in very shallow sand on the face, leading to exposed soil which is easily erodible. Also, many bunkers are constructed with liners or lining material installed on the slopes to reduce the problems of sand erosion. These liners should always be covered with at least 2 to 3 inches of sand.

It is equally important to avoid pulling sand out of the bunker and onto the adjacent turf. Piles of sand around the bunker edges can cause serious damage to mowing equipment. Sand raked out of the bunker will also result in a poorly defined bunker edge, making it difficult to determine whether the ball is in or out of the hazard.

Although most players are concerned only with how the ball got into the bunker and how they are going to get it out, good golfers know that it is important to consider how to get themselves in and out of the bunker as well. Climbing in and out of the steep side of a bunker can cause significant damage to liners and the sod on the bunker face. Entry and exit should always be from the low side.

Do – Push sand up the bunker face and enter and exit from the low side of the bunker.

Don't – Climb out of the high side of the bunker, which causes damage to liners and grass faces.

#### **Carts**

Nothing causes more damage to golf courses than the improper use of golf carts. Superintendents expend many labor-hours repairing this damage and trying to prevent it in the first place. The problems are many, and most could easily be prevented with common sense. One of the most common is players driving their carts on the banks of tees and the banks and approaches of greens. Driving too close to the greens is particularly troublesome, since the wear and tear on the turf in this area directly affects playing quality. These areas are frequently irrigated and therefore more susceptible to damage. Ropes, signs, and painted lines are all too frequently ignored by players who are too lazy to walk from the path to the green.

Unthinking cart drivers frequently pull two wheels off the path, presumably to make room for other carts to pass. Since they invariably do this next to greens and tees, it is no coincidence that ruts are commonplace in these areas immediately adjacent to the path. Although this is a great practice if you have a flat on the highway, it is unnecessary on the golf course. Seldom will someone need to pass a parked cart. Should a marshal, drink cart, or maintenance vehicle need to get by, they can easily pull off the path and around the parked cart.

Do – Avoid wet areas, stay off green and tee banks, and follow all directional signs, ropes, and lines.

Don't – Pull half off the path, as it is unnecessary and causes damage to high visibility areas.

#### **Ropes**

Ropes are a necessary evil on every course that receives heavy play. No superintendent enjoys putting ropes up. They are constant maintenance headaches. Unfortunately, they are the most effective means of directing cart traffic and protecting areas of the course that are prone to damage.

Many golfers step on the ropes rather than over them – presumably in an effort not to trip. Unfortunately, this practice pulls out the stakes that the ropes are attached to, leaving the rope lying on the ground. Someone on the maintenance staff then needs to fix the stakes and retighten the rope. Superintendents can help avoid this problem by installing ropes closer to the ground, making them easier for golfers to step over. Installing the rope approximately 6 inches high deters most carts and reduces the likelihood of tripping. Ropes also should be installed with gaps for walkers pulling carts.

Do – Pay attention to ropes and the areas they are intended to protect.

Don't – Don't step on the rope – step over it.

The Small Things Make a Big Difference

There are many other small things golfers can do to help their course play and look better, and in the process free up the maintenance staff for more essential work.

Picking up broken tees helps prevent damage to costly mower reels.

Not overfilling trash containers prevents trash from blowing across the course.

Replacing a sign or rope stake that has been knocked down keeps the course looking neat and helps prevent damage.

If a leak is spotted, let a maintenance staff worker know about it so it can be fixed before turf damage occurs from traffic through the area.

Lose the herd mentality when driving your cart – avoid following the same path of the carts before you.

Avoid taking divots on your practice swings.

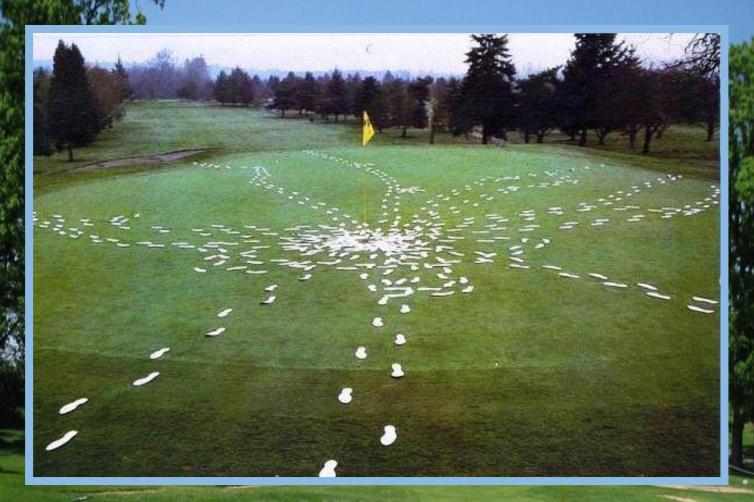
Chip to the chipping green — not the practice putting green.

When practicing putting, avoid standing in one place for extended periods — doing so can cause damage to the green.

Put bunker rakes where the superintendent has directed them to be placed.

#### Conclusion

Part of the inspiration for this article stems from a group of men with whom I am fortunate enough to play golf regularly. Not only are these men good players, they are outstanding golfers. It is a real pleasure to watch these men work their way around the course during a round. They don't just avoid damaging the course; they improve it in the process of enjoying their round! They leave the course better than they found it. And contrary to what you might think, none of this results in slow play. Imagine your course receiving 30,000 rounds per year from golfers like these fellows.



This image shows traffic from 6 golfers on a green, imagine 200 golfers. Please spare a thought for our course staff and how hard they work to give you the best playing conditions the weather will let them. Please remember to help them out by always repairing your ball marks, fill divots and rake bunkers. This will make everyone's experience more enjoyable.

#### Finding Control off the tee.

#### Distance without control is not worth much.

When you're hitting an approach shot, the yardage to the green immediately points you to a particular club. From 150 yards, you might think, *That's my 6-iron*. From 180, *Gimme the 5-wood.* You base those selections on the thousands of shots you've hit with those clubs. Better yet, think in terms of averages. Maybe you've crushed a few 7-irons 150—or even did it routinely 20 years ago—but the way you hit it now *on average* is the info you should use.

If you're like most golfers, that logic disappears when you get on the tee of a par 4 or 5. Your main concern becomes hitting the ball as far as you can, and that means taking a rip with the driver. Maybe you'll opt for a fairway wood or hybrid, but when you do, I bet you try to hit those clubs all-out, too. The only thing worse than spraying one with a driver is taking a safer club and doing the same.

The good news is, if you're savvy enough to leave the driver in the bag sometimes, you're halfway there. Now you just have to get yourself to play the club you pick to the distance you normally hit it. If your 3-hybrid goes 190 yards, try to hit it 190 yards—not 250.

To stay smooth, it's good to have a reminder. Hold your finish until the ball lands. If it's tough for you to stay in balance, you're swinging too hard. Remember why you picked that club: You don't need driver

distance; you need control.

#### PICK YOUR TARGET, COMMIT TO IT, AND PLAY YOUR NORMAL SHOT WITH THAT CLUB.

Here's a good image to use when you're playing for position off the tee: Pretend you're on a par 3. Picture the driving zone as a green. Most fairways are wider than most greens, so if you "hit the green," you're on the short grass. At the very least, you'll avoid big misses.

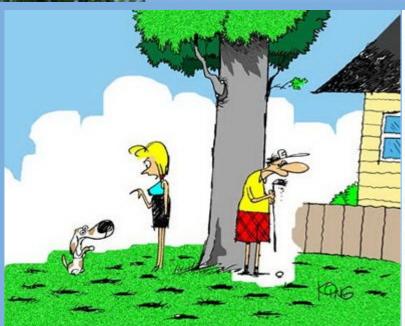
So pick your target, commit to it, and play your normal shot with *that* club. Trust me, you'll have a lot more fun playing this game from the fairway.

#### **BEWARE THE MYTH OF THE HYBRID**

With a hybrid, most amateurs try to sweep the ball. The club might look like a fairway wood, but you should play it like a middle iron. That means striking down on the ball and even taking a little divot. Here's a drill I use with my students. Hit some hybrid shots where you start with the clubhead a couple inches off the ground (*below*). You'll instinctively hit down and through the ball to catch it solid—and you'll groove the right impact.

**Butch Harmon** 

# **ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**



"Bad dog! Dig up my lawn again and I'll have you neutered!"



Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?

Eventually, sir.









"He drives for show and cheats for dough!"

# **Meadows Farms Golf Course**

Format : Individual Stroke play

Entry: Gross: \$50.00 Includes

\$40.00 Prize Money

\$10.00 Skins (\$5.00 Per day)

Must have a valid Advantage Card, Twilight, or Full Membership card to play in the Championship.

You can purchase an

Advantage Card and become eligible for this event.



Practice Round: <u>Friday</u> Oct. 12th after 12:00 PM

ADV Card—\$25.00

Saturday & Sunday: round Oct. 13th and 14th

ADV Card-35.00/Day

Saturday: Island to Waterfall

Tee Times start: 8:00 AM

Championship Flight, Men's Flight, Senior Flight, and

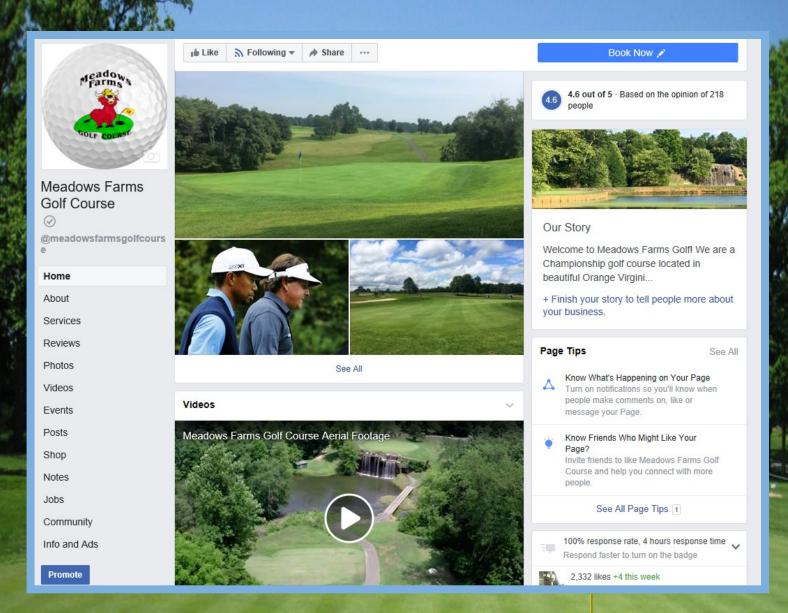
Women's Flight

Sunday: Island To Longest

Tee Times Start: 8:00 AM Senior Flight, Men's Flight, Champion-ship Flight, and Women's Flight

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

0ct. 13th & 14th



# Follow us on Facebook

You will enjoy following us on Facebook with up to date happenings in the world of golf and at your own Meadows Farms Golf Course. Upcoming tournaments are posted as well as information about things that happen out on the course, (Hole in ones) with members and with guests. We have shown pictures of the course after some of our big rains and we have shown pictures of the course and its great shape after our great maintenance staff does their thing each and every day. Take time to find us, like us, and see all the exciting things going on here at the



Date: September 8, 2018 Time: 8:00 Tee Time Start Course: Waterfall to Island

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per person or \$50.00 team \*Green Fee and Cart Fee

Format: Waterfall 1-6: Scramble Waterfall 7-9: Island 1-3: Best Ball

Island 4-9: Alternate Shot

Scramble Format:

Each player will tee off from assigned tee box. Both players will determine their best tee shot and will play from that position. The process will repeat until the ball is holed. \*Reminder – Once the first ball has been holed on the putting green, the score must be counted for that ball.

**Best Ball Format:** 

Each player will play their own ball from tee to green. Each player will count all strokes taken to get the ball into the hole. The player on the team with the lowest score on the hole will record their score for the best ball score... \*Reminder – If you can't score better than your partner, please pick up for the pace of play.

Alternate Shot:

The team will develop an order of play starting on Island 4. The team members will alternate all shots from the start of Island 4 through Island 9. Example: Player A holes the putt on Island 8, Player B will hit the tee shot on Island 9. The is a true alternate shot. Players will play the tee ball as it lies from tee to green until the ball is holed.

Tournament Rules and Tees:

A team may consist of two people of any gender. Each player will be designated to play from a stipulated tee box for the round. Each tee box will be determined by age or gender.

White Tees: Men & Juniors – Age 13 to 64

Gold Tees: Men & Juniors – Men 65-79 Juniors 10-13

Red Tees: Women All Ages

Sign Up:

Sign up NOW! We will be going on a tee time start. We will be blocking off a limited number of tee times for the event and expect to fill up quick due to the format being played. Official signup sheet is in the pro shop or call 540-854-9890.

Winners & Prizes:

The overall low gross score will be considered the Callaway Cup Champions! This team will have their picture displayed in the Pro Shop for one year. The winning team will get to select the liquor to be places in the winner's decanter for the following year.

Prize Breakdown:

We will pay gift cards the overall winners ½ of the overall prize money.

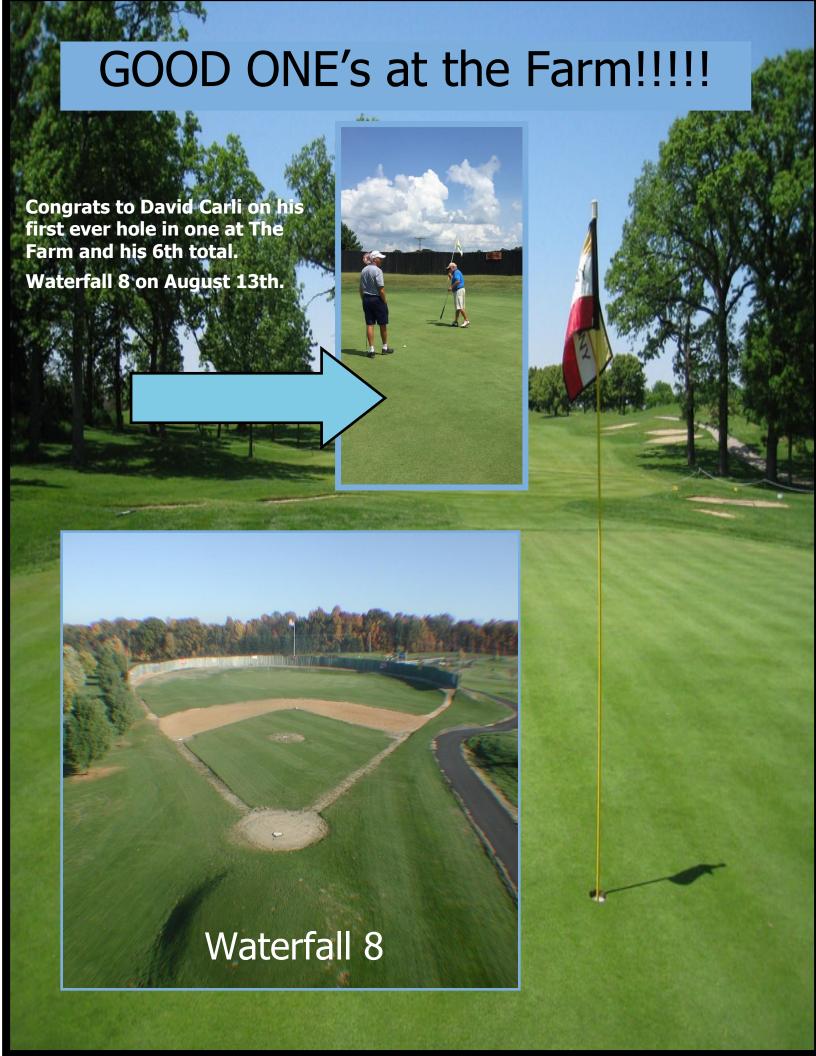
We will pay gift cards through the field splitting the remaining prize money in positions. This means we pay 1st, 5th, 10th, etc..... based on participation of teams.

Entry Fee Distribution:

Entry fee will cover the cost of the decanter and two cups that will stay and be displayed in the Pro Shop. Entry fee will also cover the liquor to be purchased for the cup the following year.

The format change through the round will have a Ryder Cup feel and is the ultimate 2 Person Team Challenge. Find a partner





## **Scotts Corner**

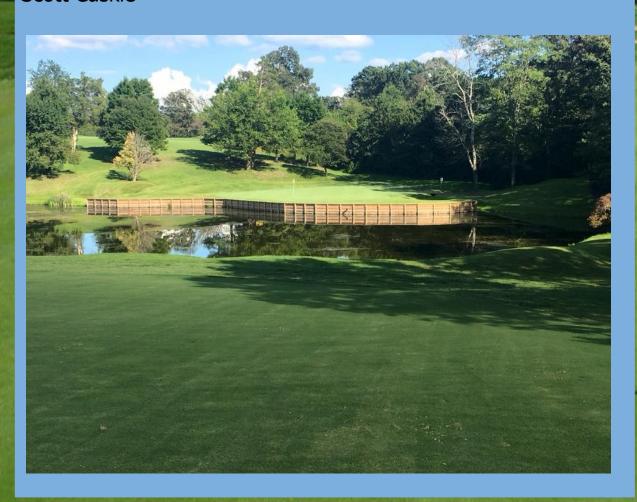
Fixing ball marks is extremely important in keeping the greens nice! We hope you help us in fixing and telling others also!

NEVER replace loose pieces of turf on the greens, you must repair the pitch mark. The loose piece of grass will just die and does not help the process.

Other than a regular round of golf, practicing on the golf course with more strokes added than normal is like having dozens of free players that cause needless wear and tear. This can justify increases in the rates for chemicals to keep up with the wear and tear without income from green fees.

Thanks for playing Meadows,

Scott Caskie

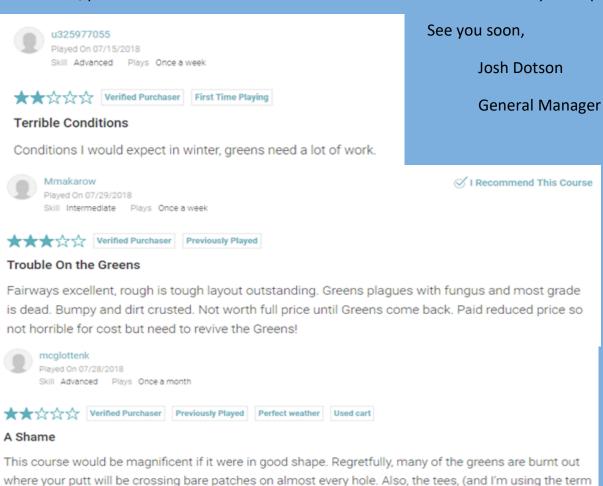


## Notes from Josh

We are so excited the fall is finally coming to The Farm. Our staff has been working tirelessly to make sure YOUR golf course is in the best shape possible. We hope you have enjoyed playing at Meadows so far this year. Sadly, this has been by far the worst year in the turf grass business in the last 50. An unseasonably cold winter, combined with a swamping spring resulted in turf loss never seen before.

We have been blessed to say the least. Scott Caskie, our superintendent, and our grounds crew have done an incredible job. I could not thank them enough for how much work they have put in to this course this season. If you have had a chance to play here, and not another local course, you have not been able to see how hard of a year it has been.

I have taken some reviews from **other** courses and posted them below. These are not to make fun of or slander other courses, these are to show you how much adversity golf courses have had to deal with this year, and how well Meadows has weathered the storm. If you have enjoyed playing our course, please take the time to write us a review and tell a friend about your experiences here.



That being said, the people were extremely nice & helpful and it was obvious that they are trying. However,

generously), were a mixture of mud, crabgrass and sand.

we will not be back until we hear that the course has been improved.



**September 22** 

## 10th ANNUAL

# ORANGE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

# **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 (RAIN OR SHINE)

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 0730 - SHOTGUN START AT 0900** 

4300 FLAT RUN ROAD LOCUST GROVE, VA 22508

INDIVIDUALS \$70.00 - FOURSOMES \$280.00
FEE INCLUDES GOLF/CART, BREAKFAST, AND LUNCH FOR EACH PLAYER

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE FORMAT
COMPLIMENTARY DOOR PRIZES GIVEN AWAY AT LUNCH
50/50 RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWN AND GIVEN AWAY AT LUNCH
MULLIGANS & RED TEES WILL BE SOLD AT REGISTRATION
MULLIGANS & RED TEES \$5.00 EACH (LIMIT TWO EACH PER PLAYER)

AWARDS/PRIZES (1st-2nd) FOR BEST OVERALL TEAM PLAY

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
MIKE YANCEY @ 540.661.2778
www.orangevfc.com OR EMAIL: golf@orangevfc.com





## SAVE THE DATE

16th Annual Tony Fogliani Memorial Golf Tournament

Benefiting the Orange County Free Clinic Sunday, September 16, 2018



Meadows Farms Golf Course 4300 Flat Run Rd., Locust Grove, VA For sponsorship or registration information, please call (540) 672-3530

Merged with former "Tee Up for Health Care" tournament

# SEPTEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
League	Ladies Day	Tuesday Goofers	Ladies Day	4:00 League	Orange Volunteer	Callaway Cup
		6:00 League	5:00 League		Fire Department	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
League	Ladies Day	Tuesday Goofers	Ladies Day	4:00 League	Germanna	
		6:00 League	5:00 League		Foundation	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
League	Ladies Day	Tuesday Goofers	Ladies Day	4:00 League	Edge Christian	Virginia Referee
Orange Free Clinic		6:00 League	5:00 League		Camp	Association
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
League	Ladies Day	Tuesday Goofers	Ladies Day	4:00 League		
		6:00 League	5:00 League			
30						

# OCTOBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Ladies Day	<b>2</b> Tuesday Goofers 6:00 League	3 Ladies Day 5:00 League	<b>4</b> 4:00 League	5 Kappa Sigma Sgt. Mac	6
<b>7</b> League	8 Ladies Day	9 Tuesday Goofers 6:00 League	10 Ladies Day 5:00 League	11 4:00 League	12	13 Club Championship & Southern lane
<b>14</b> Club Championship	15 Ladies Day	16 Tuesday Goofers 6:00 League	17 Ladies Day 5:00 League	<b>18</b> 4:00 League	19	20 HKS Chuck Means Open
<b>21</b> League	22 Ladies Day	<b>23</b> Tuesday Goofers 6:00 League	24 Ladies Day 5:00 League	<b>25</b> 4:00 League	26	27
<b>28</b> League	29 Ladies Day	30 Tuesday Goofers 6:00 League	31 Ladies Day 5:00 League			