



## **FWWGA**

### **2024 Spring Newsletter**

*Founded in 1931, Fort Wayne Women's Golf Association exists to promote interest in women's golf and to establish a spirit of good sportsmanship among its members.*

Welcome to the 94th season of FWWGA!  
More new things are sprouting this spring!

***All are invited to register membership and pay their 2024 dues (\$25) on-line. Those who wish to play in the first Interclub event at Chestnut Hills, Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> may also register on-line. See "Back to the Future" on page 2.***

- Making Dreams Come True
- Back to the Future
- 2023 Champions
- 94<sup>th</sup> City Tournament at Brookwood
- 2024 Season Schedule
- Volunteers Needed

*Yes, we continue to envision where we want to be in 2030 and are doing what is necessary to make dreams come true.*

Please read on, join FWWGA, and share this newsletter with your golfing friends!

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## **MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE**

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**"The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them. If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough."**

*Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 24th President of Liberia 2006-2018, first elected female head of state in Africa*

The times are challenging. It's easy to be swept up in discouragement and fear as we manage our lives *and* get exposed to a multitude of matters via the media and other sources. The strong relationships developed throughout life and the beautiful sport of golf can be a place of refuge, release, and renewal - when we participate and persevere 'in the game'.

In life and in golf, when 'game over' seems a real possibility, an encouraging word or shot can spur us on to the finish. The opposite is also true. When 'this game is easy' and everything appears sunny, a discouraging word or shot can rattle us and cause us to quit or feel like doing so.

All of us have dreams for our loved ones, our country, our world, our golf games, groups, ourselves, and so on. We must never give up on them. We must believe that dreams are achievable and do the next right thing to the best of our knowledge and ability. We need to meditate on and practice that which uplifts. We need to listen to and learn from each other, take steps together into the unknown, stand beside one another, support one another, and remain united in what is common to all of us: the desire for peace, prosperity, and goodness over all. We need one another. In the midst of the inevitable difficulties in life and in golf, let's continue to help each other make dreams come true and be examples in spirit to all.

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## Back to the Future

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Speaking of making dreams come true and being examples in spirit, let's imagine for a minute. The year is 1930 and there are only a handful of courses in Fort Wayne - Brookwood, Elks CC, Fairview, Foster Park, FWCC, and ORCC. A few of the golfing women have a dream to hold the first Women's City Golf Tournament. A golf club is willing to host and there are women who want to play. The dreamers want it to be a success and a tradition that will grow interest in women's golf and outlast them for generations to come. Could it expand into something more they wonder? Anything is possible, so they go for it. And they do it with willing volunteers, and the financial and administrative means available (newspaper, radio, telephone, written invitations, manual records, and manual scorekeeping).

Now, let's go 'back to the future.' Its 2024 ... 94 years later ... the dream is a reality. 93 City Tournaments have taken place at 14 different golf courses and women from various golf clubs have been playing throughout the season via Interclub for a long time. (Does anyone know the year Interclub began?) All is accomplished with willing volunteers, players, hospitable golf courses, and the financial and administrative means available.

So what's different and new in 2024? Not much for about 90 or more FWWGA members who are already familiar with it. What may be new to some began in 2022 when Brian Straley of FWGA welcomed Lori Stinson of FWWGA and offered to share FWGA's Blue Golf resource to coordinate the 92<sup>nd</sup> FWWGA City Tournament at Chestnut Hills. All participants paid their entry fees / dues on-line and registered for the Tournament. Pairings and results appeared on-line, too. Yes, there were some bumps and hiccups but things went reasonably well and Blue Golf was utilized again in 2023 for the 93<sup>rd</sup> City Tournament at Orchard Ridge. There were a few more matters to smooth out but trial and error proved a good teacher to those who gave it a shot.

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## Back to the Future continued

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In light of the above two years' experience and after exploring additional capabilities, the FWWGA Board unanimously voted "Yes" to expand collaboration with FWGA and Blue Golf in 2024. The expansion will include \$25 dues payment / membership registration on-line for all members and Interclub Event registration on-line. Live scoring is also an option and will be tested prior to the City Tournament. This decision was made in favor of our members and the future of FWWGA. It brings the association into the present utilizing available financial and current administrative means. Members will enjoy an interactive website experience and administrative activities will be streamlined, all of which is not possible with the current website. There will now be one place to house and go to for all things related to FWWGA.

Positive patience, perseverance and support will be required as we encounter the learning curve together and fine-tune the website, but it will be worth the effort as we continue to recognize our accomplishments and begin to plan for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2030. Every FWWGA member is valued. Together we will learn and grow as we transition 'back to the future.' We can do it, just like the women of 1930 did. Look where we are today, FWWGA! Pretty sure those 1930 dreamers would be pleased and cheering us on. "Wow, you can do what? What we would've given to have what you've got now! Thanks for keeping our dream alive."

Think about it, and please join us in the dream.

*Links and instructions for on-line membership registration/dues payment and Interclub registration will arrive via separate email. It's really quite simple and, if needed, please ask your Club Rep or a Board member for help. We're here for you and we want everyone to be part of the dream.*

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## 2023 Champions

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### 93<sup>rd</sup> City Tournament @ Orchard Ridge

City Champion: Sarah Frazier  
City Champion Runner-Up: Cassidy Ayres  
First Flight Champion: Olivia Render  
Second Flight Champion: Isabelle Brunner  
Senior City Champion: Susan Ekdahl  
Senior Champion Runner-Up: Joleen Gottwald  
Senior First Flight Champion: Kathi Honig  
Senior Second Flight Champion: Linda Griffith  
Super Senior Champion: Jackie Raftree  
Super Senior Runner-Up: Jody Ault  
Junior Champion: Olivia Stronczek  
Low Putts Championship: Sarah Frazier  
Low Putts Senior: Joleen Gottwald  
Marcy Griffin Spirit Award: Jannie Wyatt  
**2023 Interclub Traveling Trophy Champions**  
Coyote Creek Golf Club

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### 94<sup>th</sup> City Tournament - July 14, 15

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FWWGA will present the 94<sup>th</sup> Women's City Tournament at fan favorite Brookwood Golf Club on July 14-15, 2024. Lori Stinson and the Tournament Committee, made up of returning and new members, are busy working on details for early promotion to competitors, volunteers, and sponsors. Let's all do our part in talking about and participating in the Tournament. Keep an eye out for information on-line and via email.

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### 2024 Officers, Coordinators

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Tami Hoffman, President  
Lori Stinson, Vice President / City Tournament Director  
Barb Shaffer, Secretary  
Karen Kirby, Treasurer  
Jannie Wyatt, Past President  
Darla Davis, Traveling Trophy Director  
Becky Gepfert, Interclub Pairings Coordinator  
Michelle Smith, Social Media Coordinator

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## 2024 Season Schedule

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May 3 – Chestnut Hills\*  
May 17 – Eel River  
May 31 – Coyote Creek  
June 14 – Colonial Oaks  
June 28 – Brookwood  
July 14, 15 – City Tournament, Brookwood  
July 26 – Cobblestone  
August 9 – Autumn Ridge  
August 23 – Whispering Creek  
September 6 – Cherry Hill\*  
September 20 – Riverbend Season Finale

\*Traveling Trophy competition begins/concludes.  
*Register for all events on-line via [www.fwga.com](http://www.fwga.com).  
Links and instructions provided via separate email.*

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### Volunteers Needed

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- 3 or 4 women plan and execute the "Solheim Spirit Cup" Season Finale at Riverbend on September 20. Lots of fun last year!
- 2 or 3 women work with local graphic artist for a refresh of the FWWGA logo, on- or off-season.
- 2 or 3 women review FWWGA Constitution & Bylaws, off-season. We'll make it fun!
- 2 or 3 women enjoy historical research and dream about FWWGA's 100th Anniversary, on- or off-season.
- 1 or 2 women plan a few social / educational events, on- or off-season.

**Contact a Board member for more information.**

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### 2024 Club Reps

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Autumn Ridge and Cherry Hill – Lydia McDuffee  
Brookwood – Becky Gepfert  
Chestnut Hills – Tami Hoffman  
Colonial Oaks – Becky Whitman  
Coyote Creek – Liz Hill and Anne Pape  
Eel River – Nan Morris; FWCC – Kathi Honig;  
FW Parks – Jodi Jump; ORCC – Sue Langas;  
PVCC – Joyce Gradley; Riverbend – Mary McMaken;  
Sycamore Hills – Karen Kirby; Juniors – Robin Pease