



May 2020 Newsletter

We're all eager to get back . . .

We are all anxious to get back to our “normal” lives, although we know that will be what a lot of people like to call “the new normal.”

And for a lot of us, that “normal” involves getting together with our friends and playing a round of golf.

There has been a lot of discussion on whether golf is “essential” and people on both sides of the issue make valid arguments.

Here is what **Frank Johnson**, who along with **Jimmy Stewart**, operates Fairgrounds, Tayman Park in Healdsburg, Ukiah Muni and McInnis Park in San Rafael, had to say to our golfers.

Dear Treasured Fairgrounds GC Members and Guests

It has been more than six Monday's since we closed Fairgrounds Golf Course and we all began practicing sheltering at home and social distancing. For most of us this has been a challenging, life-changing turn of events ,but according to our Governor it is slowing the spread of the virus and bringing us closer to the day we can all resume our lives. How and when is the question!

We have been busy at Fairgrounds as this time has allowed us to work on some projects that we have wanted to complete and excited to show you our work when you return. At least we will feel that we accomplished something during this time. It has also allowed us to bring a few more employees back to work. The small team we have here is keeping everything going so we are ready to re-launch

We have an amazing team here for you. This reminds us that we're all connected like never before. We're called upon to be our best selves, with patience, understanding, compassion. On behalf of all of us at Fairgrounds GC, we're committed to being your partner and persevering together in all the days and years ahead.

As we go forward, we'll be sure to keep you updated and know that we always value your questions, ideas and feedback. Please reach out if you have any questions for us.





Around the Track

This old Marine will be remembered . . .

Fairgrounds GC lost a treasured friend recently when we said good-bye to **Billy Mitchell**

It was obvious the past few months that Billy was having a tough time, getting to the course as well as playing 9 holes. But he never complained, always greeting our pro shop staff with a big smile and a warm greeting.

According to his obituary, Mitchell went to war as a teenage Marine and was badly wounded in the deadly battle for Iwo Jima. Then he came home to Sonoma County and after a time launched a five-decade career as a teacher regarded as a bright, hardy and light-hearted local hero.

*“All his life, Mitchell would maintain that the true heroes of World War II were the warriors who, like the older brother he adored, sacrificed all and did **not** come home.*

When he retired from Santa Rosa Junior College as a part-time math instructor in 2017, Mitchell was 90 years old and had survived being shot on the battlefield, two bouts of cancer, coronary bypass surgery and congestive heart failure. All through it, he delighted in sharing a joke and picking up his harmonica to play “You Are My Sunshine” or “The Marine Corps Hymn.”

*Mitchell, who was married 60 years to fellow teacher and Italian-American community leader **Jeanette Mancini Mitchell**, died Feb. 20. He was 93.*

Mitchell was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on Oct. 8, 1926, and grew up mostly in nearby Peoria. He told a reporter with SRJC’s student newspaper, The Oak Leaf, that at age 17 he wasn’t doing much in high school and he yearned to follow the lead of his brother, Robert G. “Bob” Mitchell, and join America’s fight against Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan and the Axis.”

Billy is just one of the reasons we like to come to work each day, to see friendly, familiar faces, nice people. He and a lot of other Fairgrounds regulars each have their stories to tell and we are all better off hearing them.

If you want to comment on anything, email me at bmeadows4sports@aol.com



