



Village Works with USGA for Nightly U.S. Opens Experience

Tuesday, May 27, 2014



The Village of Pinehurst may be beautifully quaint and small in square miles, but it is no stranger to doing things on a large scale. It overflows with century-old historical moments, but this Sandhills golf mecca is making international golfing history in June in a big way.

While acclaimed Pinehurst No. 2 will understandably be in the world spotlight for hosting the first-ever back-to-back U.S. Open Championships for men and women golfers, within a quick block away, the charming Village of Pinehurst will present an exciting variety of events designed to entertain visitors and residents alike.

The U.S. Open will be held during the week of June 9th, followed by the U.S. Women's Open Championship beginning the week of June 16th.

The Village and the United States Golf Association (USGA) have diligently worked together to provide fun, interactive and memorable experiences for community guests and residents of the area.

The USGA has chosen an "Open for All" program series, according to Daniel B. Burton, USGA Vice President and Championship Committee chairman. He sees this as the opportunity to share these remarkable championships beyond the ticket gates for everyone, most especially the community.

In order to include everyone, "Beyond the Gates" will start with a video series called "The U.S. Open: Drive to Pinehurst." The three segments will feature North Carolina-based amateur golfers

and can be seen on www.usopen.com in the weeks leading up to the championships.

The USGA will continue its successful “U.S. Open Experience” for two weeks in Tufts Park in the center of the Village of Pinehurst. These special events, planned in conjunction with a Village committee headed up by Pat Corso, Executive Director of Partners in Progress, will offer free admission to the public. These unique activities will include live musical



performances, roundtable discussions, golf films, local cuisine and interactive golf experiences to showcase the local community and its love for the game of golf. All visitors are welcome.

“Since the Village formed its U.S. Opens Special Events Committee in 2012, we have remained focused on showcasing the Village to our guests with the hope that one day they will return for another visit or eventually make Pinehurst their home,” says Assistant Village Manager Natalie Dean. “With the involvement of several talented and dedicated individuals, our committee has worked hand in hand with the USGA every step of the way to make sure the U.S. Open Experience is something that creates a lasting favorable impression of our community on our guests.”

U.S. Open Experience festivities will begin in the early evenings at the conclusion of daily practice or championship play, from June 10th to June 22nd.

At 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10th, a public screening of the new USGA film about the late Payne Stewart’s 1999 U.S. Open victory will kick off the Village activities in the Tufts Park area of the Village Green. Entitled *The 1999 U.S. Open: One Moment in Time*, the video will focus on Stewart, who will be honored with the Bob Jones Award, the USGA’s highest honor, personifying sportsmanship, integrity and respect for golf. PGA Tour professional Peter Jacobsen will give opening remarks with music from his band, “Jake and the Flounders.” The live awards ceremony for the Bob Jones Award will be live-streamed beginning at 5:00 p.m. on www.usga.org.



A Tribute to the Military is planned for Wednesday, June 11th and will feature music from the 82nd Airborne All-American Chorus, as well as FORCECOM bands, The Loose Cannons (pop) and Freedom's Choice (jazz). Beginning at 7:30 p.m., this event will pay tribute to all active-duty and retired military commanders. High ranking military officials are expected as well as Miss North Carolina, Johna Edmonds.

Local iconic golf writers will hold a round-table discussion on Thursday, June 12th. The evening's festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. and will also feature two films from the U.S. Open Film Series, along with a panel discussion with Jaime Diaz, Jim Dodson, Jim Moriarty and Bill Fields.

The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina, will introduce the outstanding North Carolina Symphony for a special U.S. Open performance on Friday night, June 13th. The seating of guests will begin at 8:30 p.m.



On Saturday evening, June 14th, a Mass Pipe Band Parade will be held in the Village beginning at 8:30 p.m.

More than 6,000 volunteers will be recognized on Monday, June 16th with a bar-b-q and music by the Liquid Pleasure band.

Wednesday, June 18th has been designated as Family Night, featuring a Kids' Skills Challenge. Mark Roling will be on hand at 6:00 p.m. to welcome folks in the Village for Drive/Chip/Putt stations, followed by "The Greatest Game Ever Played" film.

Two additional USGA films will be shown on Thursday, June 19th starting at 8:30 p.m. A question and answer period is on the schedule with Mike Trostel, USGA Senior Historian, and Lee Pace, golf writer/historian. They will discuss anecdotes and facts related to both films.

Another Mass Pipe Band Parade will be back on Friday, June 20th at 8:30 p.m.



In a much-anticipated Village/U.S. Open entertainment finale, the Carolina Philharmonic will perform on Saturday, June 21st. The seating of guests will begin at 8:30 p.m. and the Carolina Philharmonic will be welcomed by Village of Pinehurst Mayor Nancy Fiorillo.

“The Village is pleased to be working with the USGA to put together an exciting line-up of activities to showcase our beautiful community,” said Fiorillo. “We encourage our residents, their guests and spectators from around the world to experience the Village at its best.”

Food vendors will be in the Village each night featuring non-alcoholic beverages, water, local cuisine and ice cream. Events will be completed by 11:00 p.m. each night in accordance with Village ordinances. Beer and wine will be available for sale at local restaurants, bars and pubs.

Village Manager Andy Wilkison appreciates the endless amount of cooperative planning and many hours of preparation by the Village committee and the USGA. He thinks showcasing the Village of Pinehurst in conjunction with the “U.S. Open Experience” will be well-received.

“The Village of Pinehurst will enjoy its greatest exposure ever due to this partnership with the USGA,” he said, “but it wouldn't have happened without the leadership of Mayor Fiorillo, Pat Corso, Peter Stilwell and Natalie Dean.”

When two U.S. Opens comes to town, it does take a village. And this Village is enthusiastically welcoming its newest visitors with open arms and historical ambience.