

Niners

By CATHY LOFFINK

Attend our holiday happy hour



LOFFINK

Leaves, leaves and more leaves! Part of the beauty of Charbonneau is in fall when all the trees begin to change color. The course looks spectacular during this period. Yet beauty comes at a cost. In some cases, it might mean a cabinet full of makeup and wrinkle cream purchased over the past years. In this case the cost is less tangible, though inconvenient. With the Charbonneau golf courses having more than 2,500 trees, the beauty of the changing color of the leaves becomes fleeting and the grounds begin to have a blanket of leaves where the beauty is transformed into a beast to be reckoned with. For the course maintenance crew, it means more labor and more time for leaf removal. For the golfer it is an unwanted inconvenience.

It is an unrealistic expectation to believe the maintenance crew would be able to have the greens, tee boxes, fairways and rough cleared of leaves for all the rounds of golf. Add in the days with rain and wind, the challenge is greater and the leaves are mushier. So, it is now for the golfers to take charge.



Margaret Duarte finding her ball.
(COURTESY PHOTO: ELLEN NEWBORN)

Of course, the first step is to never let your ball land in the rough and, if you are in the fairway, aim for the clear spot empty of leaves. Better yet, get a hole in one. For most of us these scenarios don't happen, especially in November/winter play. To compensate for the elusive ball that is hit in the cover of leaves, golfers have been known to take a rake with them to uncover it or kick all the leaves hoping the ball will pop out. For Niner Margaret Duarte, it means carrying a

handy blower is the norm. She can be seen quickly uncovering her ball without it moving an inch, and then foraging on to complete the hole. You go girl! Maybe this will be the up-and-coming golf present for the golfer who has everything.

As the distribution of this Villager issue is occurring, the holidays are in full swing. The special day of thankfulness has just passed, and we now move on to the festivities celebrated in the month of December. For the Niners this will mean our Annual Holiday Happy Hour. It is nearing quickly, Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 3-5 p.m. in the Clubhouse Dining Room, so be sure to sign up. 2025 and 2026 members are invited. Do you know of anyone who may be interested in learning more about our club? Be sure to bring them as guests. As a consideration of all those who are experiencing food insecurity, at this event we will be accepting financial donations for the Wilsonville Community Sharing food bank in lieu of a gift exchange. If you are unable to attend the event yet would like to donate, please contact info@ladiesninersgolf.com and one of the board members will be in touch with you.

Next month our Niner Winter Events will begin, so be sure to check your emails for the latest news.

In closing, the Niners would like to extend our best wishes to the community to have a happy and joyful holiday season.

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