

## An Important Message Regarding The Coakley-Russo Memorial Golf Course

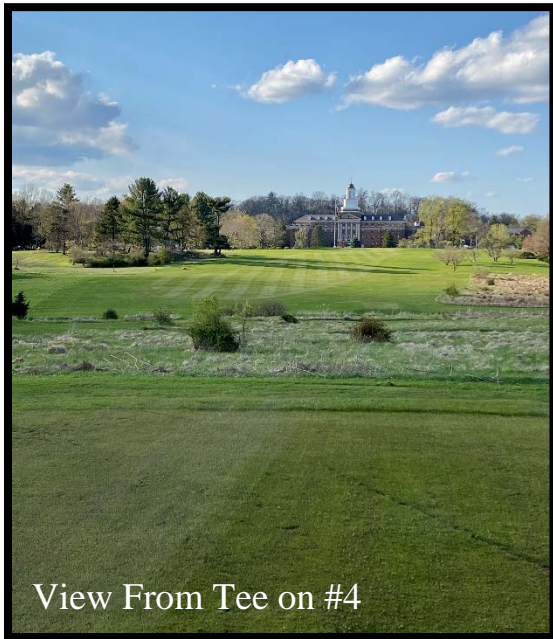
April 17, 2020

We hope you are safe and healthy during these unprecedented times as the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 has deeply impacted all our lives.

The Bernards Township Department of Parks & Recreation and the Golf Advisory Committee (GAC) have been working hard on various course improvements, many of which began prior to the stay-at-home order and continue in the face of this health crisis. The GAC recently held a meeting to discuss membership, opening day and management of the course throughout this time.

### Membership Deadlines

We have extended the early payment rate deadline from April 30 to May 31, 2020. If you have not yet purchased your membership for this season, you have additional time to decide. Not sure if you are ready to renew? Upon course opening, we hope to once again announce dates for potential members to “Try the Course” before purchasing. This is a great way to experience the course improvements first-hand before renewal.



View From Tee on #4

At this time membership fees remain constant; however, we will continually evaluate membership fees relative to opening day and the overall length of the season. Many questions you may have regrettably cannot be answered at this time (i.e. re-registration fees for 2021, proration, credits). We appreciate all who have renewed their membership thus far and encourage others to do so when they feel comfortable. The Coakley-Russo Memorial Golf Course, with nine-holes and over 3,000 yards of play, is among the Township’s top local assets. And with all the changes being made to improve the playing conditions, we

intend to ensure it stays that way. This walkable course enables you clear your mind, enjoy a beautiful landscape, and benefit from exercise.

We understand that some may wish to request a membership cancellation under the current circumstances. Full refunds, minus a \$10 processing fee, will be issued if a cancellation request is received in writing prior to opening day for the season. If you would like to cancel, email [golf@bernards.org](mailto:golf@bernards.org).

### Opening Day Postponement

Opening day is currently postponed to May 15, 2020. Over the last few weeks, we have all experienced long-anticipated plans being changed or cancelled due to circumstances outside of our control. Your health and safety, and that of the Coakley-Russo staff, is our top priority. We will continuously evaluate our targeted

opening day in accordance with local, state and federal guidelines and will work to open the course as soon as it is deemed feasible.

### **Operational Changes for Staff & Member Safety**

Once we are open, you will notice several operational changes put in place for the safety of our staff, members and guests. These changes may include the elimination of cash handling, contactless service, reduction of water coolers and ball washers on the course and more frequent cleaning of surfaces. More information will be shared as procedures are finalized.

### **Improvements and Maintenance in Preparation for Opening**

Our Course Superintendent, Matt Sullivan of Shearon Golf, began course opening preparations in early March. Regular maintenance continues to take place even though we are closed to golfers. Greens and tees have been aerated and seeded and sod has been placed in areas disturbed by the storm drain project on hole 3 and

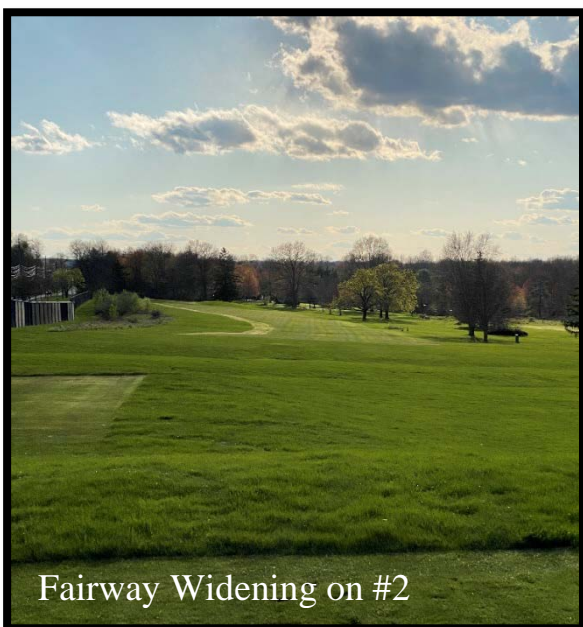


Green Recapture on #5

on several greens (see next page). Two large trees have been removed, one on the right of #2 by the tee shot landing zone and the second by the #3 forward tee box. Other improvements made to the course include the widening of fairways, adding approach shot pitching areas, on cutting grass lower behind #5 and #9, and realigning tee boxes. Repair work on holes 2 and 3 was completed and the holes will be playable when the course opens, which is a great accomplishment as it required the coordination of the federal, county and local governments.

### **Advice and Assistance from Experts in the Golf Industry**

We are proud of the fact that famed golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr. designed the Coakley Russo



Fairway Widening on #2

Memorial Golf Course, which first opened on Memorial Day in 1947. This winter, Bryce Swanson, Sr. Architect at Rees Jones Golf Course Design, toured the course and subsequently provided a plan to recapture greens shapes, widen fairways and approaches, adjust mowing patterns and realign tee boxes. Rees Jones, Inc. was also instrumental in obtaining green sod from a local golf course to assist in the repair our greens which were damaged last year. We also secured consultation services regarding golf course maintenance and care from a local private course superintendent. We strongly feel the advice from these experts will help us improve the playing conditions and flow of the course for our members.



Logo #1

### **New Course Logos**

We are excited to announce the addition of two new course logos! With the assistance of Chandler Withington, Current Head Golf Professional at Hazeltine National Golf Club (and former Basking Ridge Resident & Member of the Ridge Golf Team), we created a simple CR1947 logo and a Coakley Russo American Flag Logo. Both will be used on new scorecards, apparel and course publications in the future.



Logo #2

### **Driving Range**

We have been working in conjunction with the Veterans Administration to amend our current lease agreement for operation of the golf course to include the on-site former MAVERIC Driving Range. We hope to have some good news to share with you soon.

As you can see, we remain committed to improving the Coakley-Russo Memorial Golf Course. We believe our “hidden gem” is of great value to our community given the course history, location, cost, average 2-hour time to play and recent enhancements. We will continue providing updates as warranted and offer our best wishes to all during these unparalleled times.

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Best regards,

The Bernards Township Golf Advisory Committee  
& Department of Parks & Recreation