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Amica to sponsor Golf Expo

The Feb. 13-14 event will be held at the R.I. Convention Center

By RUSS OLIVO

LINCOLN - Amica Insurance announced Tuesday it will once again be the primary sponsor of the Southern New England Golf Expo, a vital new fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence.

The Expo raised over \$30,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs for the first time last year with myriad features designed to appeal to golfers of all ages and skill levels. But this year's installment, on Feb. 13 and 14 at the Rhode Island Convention Center, will take place on an even larger scale.

"This year's event, I can guarantee, is even going to be bigger and better than last year," said Vince Burks, Amica's senior assistant vice president for corporate communications. "We're so proud to have the opportunity to be partnering up with an organization that does so much good in the community."

Burks joined company executives in announcing their support for the Expo in the Tobey Amphitheater, including Amica CEO Robert A. DiMuccio; Robert P. Brooks, president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence Board of Governors; and Expo Producer Jim Hagan, the retired president of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and the former vice president of Tupperware in North Smithfield.

Whether it's swim lessons, help with homework after school, or just a safe place to hang out with friends, DiMuccio said the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence "provides some of the most important things a child needs."

"What a great thing," he said, "to be able to provide help in some of the neighborhoods in Providence that need it most."

The Amica executives also expressed thanks to the Expo's other major sponsor, Cox Communications, and a host of other corporate sponsors, including Fidelity Investments, Webster Bank, CVS/Caremark Charity Classic, Ocean State Golf,

Citadel Communications, AAA of Southern New England, ABC-6, Washington Trust, News Channel 5, the Golf Channel, New England Cable News and the Rhode Island Media Group, which includes The Call, The Times of Pawtucket and 10 other newspapers in the state.

The credit for inventing the Expo, however, went to Hagan, a onetime state senator from Woonsocket and North Smithfield who may be best known today as the host of Rhode Island Public Television's "A Lively Experiment," a weekly issues forum.

"People say, 'What happens at a golf expo?' It's a family affair that everyone can enjoy," says Hagan.

As Hagan explains, the event is a blend of trade show, recreational event and technique clinic for golf enthusiasts. It will feature about 70 retail booths dedicated to golfing and related enterprise spread across 45,000 square feet of space in the convention center. The biggest merchandisers on hand will be the Rhode Island Professional Golf Association Store and Joe & Leigh's Discount Golf Shop. The event will feature the top gear in the business, including brands like Callaway, Titleist, Nike Golf and TaylorMade - "manufacturing partners" with Amica in sponsoring the event.

There will also be an assortment of Myrtle Beach vacation giveaways, prizes and fun events, like the Amica Chipping Challenge, the Bridgestone Golf Ball Challenge, the Putt for Dough Contest and the Callaway Long Ball Hitting Contest. Families can enjoy a nine-hole round of mini-golf with their children, while the single-minded golf enthusiast can undergo a professional "swing analysis" or spend time on the 10-bay indoor driving range. There will also be "Tune Up with a Pro" sessions for group audiences at the Amica Seminar Stage.

By mid-February, the diehards probably don't need much excuse to take in an indoor sample of their springtime passion, but just in case you were thinking of staying home,



Photo/Ernest A. Brown

James Hagan, producer of the 2nd annual Southern New England Golf Expo, announces plans for the upcoming event, which will be held February 13-14 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Amica Insurance will be the presenting sponsor for the second straight year, which will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence.

the Southern New England Golf Expo packs in some added incentive: The first 500 people who show up will get a free sleeve of Bridgestone golf balls, and every participant will get a free subscription to either "Golf Digest" or "Golf World." Either of the magazine subscriptions is more than enough to make up for the \$9 admission fee - \$7 for AAA members.

But Expo organizers say that without a doubt, one of the most powerful draws of the event is the opportunity to get a free golf lesson from a professional. A dozen RIPGA pros will be on hand full-time to share their secrets with amateurs dedicated to improving their play. The specter of the golf-obsessed lining up to collect their tips from the pros last year was so over-

whelming that Burks remembers it like it was yesterday.

"Literally, people had pads out while they were listening to the pros and they were jotting down things they could do to improve their games," said Burks. "I have some great images and some very fond memories."

Hagan and other Expo backers say the enthusiastic reception to the affair is proof that golf is an important driver of the local economy that's worthy of promoting. But they also say it's important to remember that the Expo is designed to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence - an organization that needs the help now more than ever. Like other non-profits and community-based groups, the Boys &

Girls Clubs of Providence is fighting to overcome rollbacks in government support.

"They like all other Boys & Girls Clubs in the state have really been hurt," says Hagan. "They're looking for things to help them raise revenue to support the good things they do in the community. It's a struggle."

A partner in the law firm of Adler Pollock & Sheehan, the president of the Boys & Girls Club's governing board - Brooks - says he learned some of the most important lessons of his life as a youngster in the Olneyville Boys Club. It wasn't just about learning to swim or play tennis, says Brooks, but what it means to be a leader, a team player, and how to make personal decisions that respect self-worth - lessons that are vital to children growing up in Providence's most distressed neighborhoods.

"It wasn't until I was older that I realized the club was giving me more than just a place to have fun," says Brooks, who got involved with the organization as "a way to give something back."

But Nicole Dufresne, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence, says the organization's ability to maintain services at traditional levels has been jeopardized by government cutbacks.

The organization, which provides programs either directly or in partnership with other non-profits to nearly 8,000 children, has lost some \$3 million in support from the state in recent years. The cuts have forced the agency to rethink how it delivers services and pioneer new revenue streams.

"Traditional revenue sources have declined for non-profits across the country, and we knew we had to find new ways of raising funds for our clubs," said Dufresne. "The outpouring of corporate and community support for the Southern New England Golf Expo has been amazing, and we are extremely grateful to Amica Insurance and all of our supporters who will help make this event a success."

Milk Fund 2009

Great job, everyone!

Why do I say that? Because you all proved that despite the poor economy, questionable city finances and blizzards, your generosity is unparalleled. We raised over \$79,000 this past December to help our neighbors. We had some new events that from what I can tell were pretty successful. We did not have a roast, basically because we couldn't figure out who to roast. By the way, if anyone wants to volunteer to be roasted next year, let me know. We had a major snowstorm on the first Sunday in recent history that Kay's opened and we still had a successful event. Just goes to show you, people will go through pretty much anything for a good sandwich.

When I volunteered to be this year's Chairman, it seemed like everyone I met said the same thing, "I hope you know what you are getting yourself into." Well let's see, I got to hang out with a bunch of really great people, I got to eat a lot of really great food, I got to drink a lot of really great beverages and I got to meet Peter Tork (I wanted to be a Monkee when I was a kid - still do). Doesn't sound like a bad way to spend some time to me.

Everyone tends to focus on the Chairman during the Milk Fund Appeal, but keep in mind I had the benefit of great people running events. Folks like: Sue Tessier-MacKenzie (who takes every opportunity to remind me she holds the record for the most money raised for the Milk Fund); Suzanne Joyal and Pam LaBreche, my friends from Rotary; Bill Yasick, who not only ran an event but his company Superior Marble and Granite made a large donation; Noel Pincince, who organized the Little Tot's photo contest; Jennifer Jolicoeur, who ran two events and whose company Athena's Home Novelties made a large donation; Carol Berube, who contacted me to offer to distribute and collect milk bottles; Bill Schneck, who did a great job with Goodfellow's Day; and of course Gary Lapierre and Katrina Therien, who not only ran the two most successful events (the Dynamite party and Gator's pub) but ran around handing out paper milk bottles and then collecting the donations with Bill Schneck. Although, as I understand it, most of the places they went to served alcohol, so there may have been an ulterior motive for their volunteering.

I also want to thank Yvette Ayotte, who had the toughest job of anyone: she volunteered to



Barry Mechanic

help me run two events and had to hang out with me those nights. On the other hand I had the easiest job, because I got to hang out with her. Finally, thank you to all you brave souls who stood out in the cold on Goodfellow's Day to accost motorists and pedestrians alike. Fortunately, the snow

held off until the next day. Let's also not forget Dave Richards, who definitely worked harder than I did!

Also, a big thank you goes out to all of the businesses and organizations that hosted events, donated money from sales or both: River Falls, Chan's, Kay's, The Vintage, Uncle Ronnie's Red Tavern, Cercle Laurier, Par-X, Vino's, The Cakery, TIPC Cupcakes, Pizzarelli's, Piette Jewelers, Roger's Flowers, Pepin Lumber, It's My Health and Athena's Home Novelties. All of them deserve your support; they are truly good neighbors!

What I am trying to point out here is that a fundraising effort like this is only successful when a team of people works together and a community embraces it. That is what happened this year and has happened every year since 1932 - and I hope for many more to come.

I keep getting asked if I would Chair it again; I'd be happy to, for as long as I can and of course for as long as the Board of Milk Fund Inc. and the community want me to.

So, if you folks feel that would be a good thing, you have to do your part! Get every person you know to subscribe to The Call and if they own a business, to advertise in it and Neighbors! That way I can stay employed here and therefore can continue to Chair the Appeal. Fair enough?

In all seriousness, it was an honor. Thank you all for making the 2009 Milk Fund Appeal a success and I look forward to next year. In fact, we have already started the process. Most of this year's event Chairs have volunteered to do so again next year and are already thinking of ways to make them even better and the Par-X breakfast is already scheduled for Sunday, December 12, 2010 - make sure to mark it on your calendar. I will let you know more as the rest of the events unfold.

Glocester Police Chief Hainsworth steps down to take job with MADD

By SANDY MCGEE

GLOCESTER - Chief Jamie A. Hainsworth is retiring from the Glocester Police Department after 31 years to become a victim advocate for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Hainsworth, who served as police chief for the past 11 years, announced his retirement last week. He will begin serving as a victim advocate for the Rhode Island chapter of MADD next month.

"It has been a wonderful career, a wonderful job and a great experience," said Hainsworth on his retirement. "I'm going to miss a lot of the people I see everyday."

Hainsworth began working at the Glocester Police Department part-time in 1979 before joining full-time in January 1980. In the past 31 years, he has served as dispatcher, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and chief of police.

Hainsworth said his new position with MADD will allow him to continue to help victims in need.

"Part of my job is similar to working with MADD, working with victims that need assistance," Hainsworth said. "Helping them, that's the most fulfilling part of my job."

The Glocester police chief will serve in an advocacy role for victims of drunk driving.

"We were thrilled to have someone of his caliber accepting a position with MADD," said retired State Police Col. Steve Pare and chairman of the board for MADD Rhode Island. "He said he loved helping people. This gives him the opportunity to continue to work with people and help vic-

tims."

"We are pleased to have the chief on board, and look forward to having his assistance in working towards MADD's ongoing and challenging mission in the elimination of drunk driving," said Gabrielle M. Abbate, executive director of MADD Rhode Island.

The police chief said he wishes the best for the police department after his retirement.

"Hopefully, it will be a nice, smooth transition," Hainsworth said. "A lot of great people work here. The citizens of Glocester are a caring people. I'm sure they'll pick the right person for the job."

Kevin Walsh, president of the Glocester Town Council, said that he was disappointed to see Hainsworth retire.

"We are happy that he found something that he liked," Walsh said. "He's been involved with MADD for a long time. It'll be tough filling his position."

Employment ads seeking a new police chief were posted Sunday.

The Town Council has not decided if they will form a search committee or conduct the hiring process themselves, Walsh said.

The next police chief will receive no increase in the current salary, which is around \$72,000, according to the Town Council president. Hainsworth will receive an annual salary of about \$40,000 from MADD RI.

Walsh said the Town Council will review resumes received and choose candidates based on "technical qualifications and years on the job."

As police chief, Hainsworth

oversaw all activities of the police department and its 14 officers, five dispatchers and animal control officers. He also developed policies and procedures; developed a yearly budget; and acted as public safety director.

During his 31 years of service, Hainsworth established and oversaw the Regional Juvenile Hearing Board for the towns of Glocester and Foster; helped update dispatch technology; established and assigned a school resource officer for Ponaganset High School; updated the records management system; and installed a live scanning system for the department.

A graduate of Scituate High School, Hainsworth began work as a clerk at the Scituate Police Department before joining the Glocester Police Department.

He attended Bryant College and graduated from Roger Williams University, where he received a bachelor's degree in administration of justice.

He also graduated from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy in 1982 and from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., in 1995.

Hainsworth has completed several law enforcement training courses, including the University of Rhode Island Crime Lab, Criminalistics Training; New England Institute of Command Training at Babson College; and the U.S. National Fire Academy, Arson Investigation. He has also completed training with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Hainsworth resides in Glocester with his wife, Charlene.