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Macomb County to host inaugural glow run April 16

BY SARAH WOJCIK
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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — With the rising popularity of 5K races, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel said he wanted to offer a unique twist and an extra draw by providing runners with a nighttime glow run at a golf course.

After six months of preparation, officials announced that the Run the Creek Night Glow 5K Run/Walk will be held at Cherry Creek Golf Course in Shelby Township at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 16. A half-mile fun run for kids will precede the event at 7:45 p.m.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Special Olympics Michigan's Area 14, which encompasses all of Macomb County.

Michael Ward, race co-director, said the idea for a nighttime glow run was born in August at an awards ceremony celebrating Shelby Township residents, where Ward received a quality-of-life award for organizing several annual charity fun runs in the township.

Ward said Hackel proposed the idea of another 5K, but he wanted to add something that would draw people and possibly make it an annual staple in the community.

"Nobody's done anything like this before in the dark on a golf course," Ward said. "Jean and I are really excited because it's another big fundraiser for the kids."

Jean Lambert, race co-director and Special Olympics Michigan regional coordinator,

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Photo by Sarah Wojcik

From left to right, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, race co-director Michael Ward and Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis enact a mock relay race during a press conference at the Cherry Creek Banquet Center Feb. 22 for the upcoming glow run. Race co-director Jean Lambert looks on.

Glow run

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said she has organized races before, but never a glow race.

“We had to investigate and find some items for a night run. This is the first (in Macomb County), so it’s been kind of fun,” Lambert said. “We’re excited, and hopefully we get a good turnout.”

She said each participant will receive a lightweight flashlight that also has a glow function and doubles as a pen, as well as a glow-in-the-dark finisher’s medal.

Lambert also found color-changing glow tubes that will delineate the path for runners in the dark. In areas near water or turns, she said volunteers will direct runners by waving the glow tubes.

Erle Webber, general manager of Cherry Creek Golf Course, said the run will take place entirely on the golf course’s turf, utilizing almost the entire front nine holes.

Lambert said participants will have pizza and cookies after the event.

“It’s a beautiful venue and a great cause — the Special Olympics for the kids,” Hackel said. “This is something that will repeat, if done well the first time. It’s going to be an incredible event to be at.”

Hackel, an avid runner, said he looks forward to the creative costumes that runners will come up with.

Special Olympics Michigan aims to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intel-

lectual disabilities.

There are currently 1,867 athletes in Area 14, according to Special Olympics Michigan.

The cost of the 5K run/walk is \$25 through April 12 and \$30 after April 12. The cost of the half-mile fun run for kids is \$5 or \$10 with a shirt.

For more information, email jean.lambert@cmich.edu, call Michael Ward at (586) 484-5523 or visit www.eastsideracingcompany.com for online registration. Day-of registration for the event will begin at 7 p.m.

Cherry Creek Golf Course is located at 52000 Cherry Creek

Drive, near 24 Mile Road and Van Dyke Avenue.

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.



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