

Riverdays Rumble set for Sept. 1

Posted by Bob Allan on August 18th, 2012

Disc golf scramble to take place at Northend Riverside Park

BIG RAPIDS — Chris Vallette saw a need that had to be filled.

With the Riverdays Festival very successful and plenty of people in town, Vallette saw an opportunity to try to add an event where there seems to be a lull in the schedule.

Welcome to the Riverdays Rumble Disc Golf Tournament to be held at Northend Riverside Park in Big Rapids. Proceeds go directly to the Salvation Army.

It is not, however, your ordinary disc golf tournament.

Instead of a tournament on individual performance, it is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. The event will take place on Sept. 1 at noon.

“The reason I wanted to try (a scramble) is I wanted it to be friendly for those who don’t play and get more interest,” Vallette said.

There are several events during the Riverdays festival, including the Big Bad Wolf Adventure that will take place in the morning of Sept. 1. Vallette saw an opportunity to piggyback an event for the afternoon and one of the reasons for coming up with the event.

“Couple of things came into play,” he said.

“First, the Salvation Army was looking for a summer fundraiser. It’s a downtime for us, it’s our slowest giving time of the year. Second, we had a huge opportunity to fill a role in the afternoon at Riverdays. Third reason, we have a fantastic facility that not many people know anything about. We have an awesome opportunity to showcase it.”

There will be a beginners division, with an entry fee of \$10 per person or \$40 per team. There also will be an intermediate division with an entry fee of \$50 per team and a professional division, costing \$60 per team.

Those in the professional division can win prize money, while contestants in the beginners and intermediate divisions can win prizes and packages.

Participants will be on the honor system to what division they should compete.

Vallette is expecting anywhere from 45 to 60 players to take part.

“It is something totally fun to do and supplementing a great organization,” he said. “Money will stay local and I think it will be a great addition to an outstanding festival.”

Registration begins at 10 a.m. on Sept. 1, followed by what Vallette calls “Disc Golf 101” — an opportunity to learn everything about the sport from how to throw the disc to the rules at 11 a.m.

Tee off is scheduled for noon in a shotgun format.

Snyder’s will provide lunch afterwards for all participants and live music will be provided by David Yonker Band.

“It’s not going to be a huge fundraiser, but supplemental,” Vallette said. “The full \$10 will be a Salvation Army donation.”

The Salvation Army provides emergency assistance for families in Mecosta, Osceola, Lake and Newaygo counties, as well as offering emergency housing and food vouchers to local pantries.