



NEWS RELEASE

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Red Oaks Golf Course Pro Shop named for former Oakland County Parks official
Pecky D. Lewis, Jr. was longest serving Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission

MADISON HEIGHTS, MI – April 22, 2024 – Oakland County Parks (OCP) has renamed the Red Oaks Golf Course Pro Shop after Pecky D. Lewis, Jr., the longest serving Chair of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

A plaque dedication ceremony was held at the Madison Heights golf course on April 19, where Lewis was honored for his more than 33 years of service. The ceremony was attended by many members of his family, friends and former colleagues.

“Pecky Lewis brought the definition of public service to a very high level,” J. David VanderVeen, Vice Chair and Executive Committee Member of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, said. “Dedicating the Red Oaks Pro Shop in Pecky’s name is altogether appropriate.”

Lewis began serving as a Parks Commissioner in September 1981, and was elected Chair of the Parks Commission from 1993-2010. He was appointed chairperson emeritus in 2011 and retired in March 2015.

Lewis died in July 2023. The legacy he left behind was making the parks more accessible to people of all abilities, which resulted in an increased quality of life for Oakland County residents.

During his tenure, OCP opened several facilities, including Catalpa Oaks, Highland Oaks, Lyon Oaks and Rose Oaks county parks, Lyon Oaks Golf Course and three dog parks at Lyon Oaks, Orion Oaks and Red Oaks. Lewis also oversaw the expansion of Wint Nature Center, creation of Red Oaks Waterpark and installation of Michigan’s first refrigerated toboggan run, “The Fridge,” at Waterford Oaks County Park.

There were also numerous campground renovations, park expansions, facility improvements and property acquisitions made under his leadership.

“Anyone who loves parks in Oakland County owes a debt of gratitude to Pecky Lewis. His contributions to advancing recreation in our communities is enormous and his legacy is all around us,” Parks Director Chris Ward said.

For his accomplishments, Lewis received the Outstanding Public Official Award from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials in 2011 and was inducted into

the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Hall of Fame in 2015.

Dedicating the Pecky D. Lewis, Jr. Pro Shop forever recognizes his unwavering commitment to the parks system and will continue to serve as a daily reminder of the impact access to high quality park trails and recreation programs has on the health, wellness and connectivity of communities.

Red Oaks Golf Course, designed by Jerry Matthews, is a 9-hole, par 31 course, great for beginners yet challenging for experienced golfers. It offers simultaneous play of both traditional golf and FootGolf, which uses a soccer ball and follows rules similar to golf.

For more information about Oakland County Parks, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://www.oaklandcountyparks.com). Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

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Oakland County Parks has renamed the Red Oaks Golf Course Pro Shop after Pecky D. Lewis, Jr. Attending the April 19 plaque dedication ceremony were, from left to right, Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chair David Woodward; Board of Commissioners and Parks Commissioner Ann Erickson Gault; Lewis family members David Lewis, Sue Halliday, Vivian Lewis, Gary Halliday and Pete Halliday; Board of Commissioners and Parks Executive Committee Member Yolanda Smith Charles; Parks Vice Chair J. David VanderVeen; and Oakland County Water Resources and Parks Commissioner Jim Nash. Photo courtesy of Oakland County Parks.