

D.C. FIREFIGHTER ON PATROL AT THUNDERHEAD



The Monday Morning Seniors league at Thunderhead Bowl and Grill has a versatile cast of characters in its member base. Some have been in the league for quite a while, and others are veritable 'newbies' when it comes to kicking off the week at the bowling lanes. The "Have Fun" team's Linden Cohee is one the league's recent imports, with the 2022-2023 season being his 2nd year with the Taneytown senior squad.

Lindy currently resides in Carroll Vista and is a retired firefighter. He began his primary career in 1961 in the Washington, DC area at the fire house on North Capitol street in the northwest quadrant of the city (near the old 'Soldiers Home'). At that time, he was a resident of the Rockville, Maryland area. In the

early going, Cohee was put to the test physically, in which he worked a 72-hour week. After getting 'broken in' at his vocation, he eventually was transferred to the fire department on Lanier Place – not too far from the areas of Harvard Street, Columbia Road, and the area known today as the Woodley Park Zoo.

During the early part of his career progression, he was one of the officers in charge of ambulance rescues. Later, he was elevated to the manning of the department's fire boat, known as the "John Glenn Jr", which was a vessel with three engines whose duty was extinguishing fires. Cohee held a Coast Guard pilot's license, and thus he was one of the navigators of the boat. As the years progressed, Cohee soon was promoted to the position of Battalion Fire Chief.

Lindy also worked at the fire house on 8th and D streets in the Capitol Hill jurisdiction, which is renown with landmarks such as the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the Capitol building, and the Senate office buildings.

After twenty years in the fire department, Cohee was again elevated in grade to heading up the Water Search and Rescue program.

As a firefighter, Cohee's typical workday was a 24-hour shift, followed by days off until the next full-day rolled around in his rotation.

But being a fire fighter did allow for recreation time in connection with the department. Lindy would typically roll duckpins in the firemen's bowling league, which

convened at Suitland Bowl in the Silver Hill area of Maryland. Cohee was quite proficient at the game, officially carrying a high average of 132.79 for 96 games in the league known as the "DC Firefighters Emerald Society Platoon #4 and #3". Cohee retired from the fire department after 32 years, but continued to bowl in the firefighters league up through the 1996-1997 season. He has been constantly involved with bowling throughout the years, rolling at Mt. Rainier Lanes/Queenstown, alleys in the District of Columbia, Silver Spring, and in Walkersville.

After retiring from the fire department, Cohee has continued with another of his ongoing outlets for recreation, that being the sport of golf. Lindy and his wife have been playing the game for 57 years. He currently plays in a 9-hole golf league on Tuesdays, and an 18-hole league on Thursdays, and has had a number of rounds in which he shot in the low 90s. Cohee feels that chipping is the strong part of his game. Regarding vacations, the Cohees also have a summer place in Bethany Beach.

For the past 7 or 8 years, Lindy has delved into a new hobby of wood carving. His tools include a variety of carving knives, sandpapers, and paint/primer. Cohee enjoys using birds as his models, and has created an array of replicas of wrens, chickadees, hummingbirds, puffins, pelicans, woodpeckers, and cardinals (both male and female).

BOCCE, ANYONE?



A relaxed game of bocce ball



Players determining points scored in a bocce game

Bocce ball is a sport which originated in Italy, although many other nations play it as well. In bocce ball, sometimes called lawn bowling, players toss balls at a smaller target ball within the confines of a large court. The game is popular throughout Europe and in areas where there is a high concentration of Italian immigrants, including the United States.

Archaeological evidence suggests that some form of bocce ball has been played for centuries. Stone balls for lawn bowling have been found in Ancient Greek and Roman sites, along with frescos and paintings depicting people engaged in bocce ball games. The game has

remained popular for centuries because it is simple to learn, fun to play, and playable by all ages. Adults and children can play together if they like, while older Italians can often be found whiling away an afternoon on the bocce ball court.

The court used for bocce ball can measure up to 98 feet (30 meters) by 14 feet (4 meters), and can be dirt, lawn, or crushed gravel. Sizes of the court can vary depending on the area: some players use half courts, due to space restrictions. The players divide into teams which can have one to four members, and each team is assigned four balls. One team is given the opportunity to throw out the target ball, called a jack, pallina,

or boccino, depending on the geographic area. Each team takes turns tossing their balls at the targets, and the team with balls closest to the target at the end of the round wins.

There are a few sneaky things that players can do in bocce ball. Players are permitted to use their balls to knock the boccino closer to other balls, or knock balls out of the way. In some variants of the game, extra points are awarded to players who do this. Bocce courts which have raised edges can also be used by players to their advantage: they can ricochet balls off the side of the court for better positioning, or to knock balls out of the way.

A SET OF BOCCE BALLS

Bocce balls can range in size. Generally, in the USA, the balls are about the size of a candlepin ball. This particular set was made in Italy, and are a little bit small than a tennis ball



How to Build a Bocce Court

So you've finally decided to take the first step in making a bocce court. Building your own bocce court can be a very rewarding project. The best part of all is that when it is all said and done, you are left with your very own court to play whenever you want.

The first question that people generally ask is how big they should make the court. This depends on several factors including the size of your lawn and how much of that space you are willing to sacrifice for the great game of bocce. A good bocce court can be built with the dimensions 12' x 60'. However, if your yard has a lot of space you might consider building 13' x 91'. The reason for this is that this size court can accommodate all variations of bocce play. Walls on all four sides of the bocce court are a definite plus, although not required. If you decide to build walls, be sure to use strong materials that can withstand the impact of the bocce ball. Pressure treated wood or even cement can make great walls for your court. As for the surface of your bocce court, you'll want to make it as flat as possible. Using materials such as clay, limestone, decomposed granite dust, and oyster shell flour will get the job done. Here are detailed instructions on getting you started with your bocce court project:

Lay a 3-5" layer of crushed stone, e.g. pea gravel.

Incorporate 3" of crushed lime stone. This step is critical because it enforces adequate drainage of water.

Add 1-3" of tennis clay. This is the same clay that is used on tennis courts. Alternatively, you can use crushed oyster shells.

Smooth out the entire surfacing using a broom or garden rake. Make sure it is completely flat and all areas of the court are even (no hills or

bumps).

Sit back and wait for rain to come. This will allow your court to settle. If you would rather save time, you can also water your court manually. Inspect the court closely for impressions or slopes. Fill these spots in with more clay or crushed oyster shells (depending on which you used).

Tip: a small hole drilled into one of your walls will help you sweep out excess water and other debris.

Initially you will notice that the surface of your court will develop cracks. This is a good sign because it means the court is settling and will

prove to be resilient over a long period of time. Use a rolling device or a broom to get rid of the cracks. Over time these cracks will stop appearing. If you don't experience cracking, it may not be a good sign. It might mean that the foundation of your court is too sandy, and may require a lot of attention over time.

How to maintain your court: Just like maintaining a clay tennis court, spread around more clay or crushed oyster shells (depending on which you used) every once in a while. Brush the court so it stays level. The more often you play, the more that you will need to do this.



PUZZLE PAGE

BRAIN TEASERS - II

Thank you, Barbara, for providing these!

① SAND	② READING	③ ECNALG
④ CHAIR	⑤ LE VEL	⑥ GROUND FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET
⑦ ii ii ○ ○	⑧ DICE DICE	⑨ 1 3 5 7 9 WHELMING

Last Week's
Answers:

1. Sandbox
2. Reading between the lines
3. A backward glance
4. High chair
5. Split Level
6. Six feet underground
7. Circles under the eyes
8. A pair of dice, or "Paradise"
9. The odds are overwhelming

A PAIR OF "JUMBLES"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIWLT

ZORFE

WETING

PRAULB

Answer: "○○○○" ○○○○

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIVAL

GOYGS

UNBART

KROREB

Answer here: ○○○○ ○○○○

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

