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Fairfield golf course adds beer garden

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FAIRFIELD — Miles of Golf in Fairfield has grown a new beer garden.

The Stockton Beer Garden, consists of an outdoor patio and a service window next to Miles of Golf's pro shop at 6400 Dixie Highway. In addition to a variety of craft beers, the new eatery will also serve a number of German food items, such as bratwurst and mettwurst, said Pete Smith, Miles of Golf's general manager.

Miles of Golf began in Ann Arbor, Mich., about 25 years ago, before expanding in 2013 to take the place of Fairfield Golf Center. Miles of Golf has three separate offerings. The golf course offers club fitting, a driving range and golf lessons. There is also the Fairfield Fun Center, which includes a miniature golf course and batting cages, and now the beer garden.

"There are trends in golf. There's this trend of golf and entertainment. We're always trying to cater toward the serious golfer, but that's a small population of the golf community," he said. "We're always looking for ways to make golf more exciting to appeal to a larger percentage of golfers."

That thinking started with the idea of getting golfers something to drink, and that idea evolved into the beer garden — something that might appeal to the casual golfer, or someone who doesn't golf at all, Smith said.

"We want it to be a place where anybody in the area can just come, have a place to sit and have a drink," he said.

Some of the beer is canned, but a couple of brands are also on tap, according to Smith, who added that several Cincinnati-based brews are available.

"It's been a little slow getting going, but that's how it is with anything starting up. But every day we see a little bit more," he said.

The Stockton Beer Garden is named for a "lost village" in the vicinity of Stockton and Seward Roads, according to those associated with the project.

When Miles of Golf came to Fairfield two years ago, "We had no idea what we had in store for us ... the fun center has just hit the ground running. It carried the property before we started. We made some improvements to the batting cages, resurfaced the putting green ... this year's been really good to us," Smith said.

The hours at the beer garden are noon to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and noon to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.