

Agronomy a big part of keeping golf courses in tip-top shape



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Agronomy. Let that roll off your tongue several times. That's it, keep repeating it during your morning routine so you will sound like a happy farmer, soil scientist or golfing connoisseur.

Being the golfing connoisseur I have become over my career, my daily ritual from the time I wake up begins with this word in my head in some sort of manner. It is as familiar as saying "good morning" to the wife and kids every day.

All joking aside, agronomy is used quite often in my daily vocabulary, whether it is with the residents I encounter on my daily course rides or during presentations in the community.

Agronomy is the science of soil management and crop production, or scientific agriculture. For those of you who have mastered the pronunciation and understand the application, no other explanation is needed. For those of you who question how it applies to your daily lives, I will provide a little more detail.

This month we have started the budget preparation for fiscal year 2015-16. When I review and prepare the budget each year, I look at maintaining the existing infrastructure as well as future needs.

Some of the factors that go into preparing the budget

include past accomplishments, new technology, resident feedback and long-term sustainability. As with everything, when planning for these future budget dollars there is always the proverbial monkey wrench thrown in that all your research didn't plan for.

As your director of executive golf maintenance, I have the distinguished honor of dealing with a senior partner known as Mother Nature who often is the monkey wrench when it comes to being prepared in the agronomical field.

Even though we know how unreliable weather predictions can be, our budgets have been spot on with our community and agronomy needs in the past years.

I have to continue to plan accordingly, work the plan efficiently and spend wisely the entrusted amounts that I am asking for based on long-term sustainability while balancing the agronomy aspect with my senior partner.

Over the past four years, the executive golf maintenance budget process has become more streamlined due to the enhancements implemented, agronomy modifications and Mother Nature's cooperation.

Extra! Extra!

Village Community Development District No. 4 will host its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. March 12 in the Americana Room at Mulberry Grove Recreation Center. This is an opportunity for residents of VCDD No. 4 to see their elected officials in action. Residents will be able to ask questions during an extended question and answer session. For information, contact Jennifer McQueary, district clerk, at 751-3939 or jennifer.mcqueary@districtgov.org.

These all-encompassing factors have awarded your executive golf courses with improved course conditions and player satisfaction.

With Mother Nature continuing to supply much-needed rain, we are right on track for the FY2015-16 budget to continue allowing us to perform the necessary agronomy enhancements.

I want all of you to enjoy the courses for many years to come. As a community of partners, we can make this happen.

As always, I welcome you to stop and talk to me about agronomy or budgets when you see me on the courses. My contact information is posted at every VCDD executive starter building.

The Good Golf Guide can be picked up at your local Villages pro shop or at the tee time office at the La Reina building in Spanish Springs.

Remember: "My Playing Partner is at Florida's Friendliest Hometown!"

Until next time, see you on the greens.

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