

# Summer is the time for lots of improvements on executive golf courses

“Looking up is the biggest alibi ever invented to explain a terrible shot. By the time you look up, you’ve already made the mistake that caused the bad shot.”

– Harvey Penick

June represents the start of summer! Memorial Day just passed and our kids are out of school for the summer. My family has been planning activities for some time now to make sure it is the best summer possible for all of us.

As my wife and I research kid-friendly summer activities, we try to plan a balanced summer with family fun at the beach as well as camping outdoors. Balancing summer activities means squeezing everything we can into three months for the most family satisfaction, which sometimes proves to be challenging when you have three children.

Each child has something different they need, like or want to do, but all of us have been able to find a happy medium that mom and dad can plan, time-manage and budget.

When looking at my family’s planned summer activities, I find myself comparing the same type of scenario mentioned above with our executive golf courses. We have our younger and older courses with a couple of courses in between, just like my kids.

They all have to be accommodated with a summer plan that benefits each and provides a happy medium for all. The plan must be implemented within a budget specified and approved by all to get the most cost-effective results for everyone’s satisfaction.

Unlike summer planning with the family, in which every effort is made to avoid the



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summer rains, the golf course maintenance staff has a tendency to plan and wish for rain at anytime. As we move into our summer with executive golf, I am optimistic because of the recent weather predictions that our typical rain pattern of late afternoon showers is forecasted for June.

We look forward to these showers in conjunction with the June transition season from spring to summer. The transitions we will see this month in The Villages will be in color for the overseeded areas on the golf courses. The areas will begin fading from a dark green color and returning to our traditional Bermuda emerald green once reestablishment occurs.

Please be patient, as this transition will cause some minor bumps and discoloration in your playing areas throughout the month. Rest assured it will be short-lived.

A quick glimpse at the upcoming summer improvements in the executive golf department include the continued upgrades to amenities and renovations of course playing surface areas.

On one of the more seasoned courses, De La Vista, built in 1995, we are in the process of a large-scale renovation. The renovations occurring this summer were made possible in part by proper planning last summer with the addition of the new irrigation system. These planned summer

changes will help us appreciate another 20 years of sustainable playing conditions.

De La Vista might be the biggest upgrade in town currently, but this summer we have a plate full of upgrades for other courses as well. Here are a couple of additional projects everyone should be watching for:

- Amberwood No. 5 green will be reconstructed and moved.

- Chula Vista and Mira Mesa will get a new practice green area.

- Mira Mesa No. 9 and Hawks Bay No. 4 will have the greens resurfaced.

- Last but not least, El Diablo will get new sand additions.

We also have many great, less noticeable happenings going on all summer long on your executive courses. Although smaller by comparison, they prove to be just as important to ensure consistent playability all year long.

Visit our District website at [districtgov.org](http://districtgov.org) and check out the Capital Improvement Plan, budget information, Turf Talks and my favorite – the “What’s Happening” section. Other valuable information can be found at [golfthevillages.com](http://golfthevillages.com), which regularly features posts about course updates.

As with any department in the District, our long-term goal for the executive golf department is to continue to plan, maintain and improve conditions throughout the year for our residents. However, for golf, the summer months are the most conducive time to grow grass and prepare for sustainable conditions for the rest of the year.

Like my family, our

department staff plans all year long, but summer is the time we all get to truly see

the impact and results. This ensures the Van Gorders have some great family memories and that Villagers have sustainable, perpetual golfing opportunities today, tomorrow and the future.

Please feel free to introduce yourself as you see me on the courses. My contact information is posted at every executive golf, starter building, and I welcome the correspondence with the residents

regarding your Executive Golf courses.

I hope all of you reading have a great and safe summer. Until my next Our Place article (which just happens to be at the end of summer), I

will see you on the greens.

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