

District continues multiple golf course renovation efforts

Goodbye summer, hello fall! I couldn't think of a better introduction for the first Our Place article following Labor Day.

As we all know, summer is quickly coming to an end. For our family, Labor Day weekend meant that we only have a short time to get our wonderful beach activities completed before we begin preparing for fall festivities. I personally look forward to the cooler, fall weather. It truly is one of my family's favorite times of the year. In a few short weeks, I can't help but think of the beginning of fall activities like camping, fishing, and football games.

Since we are not quite out of summer, I would like to highlight some of the current projects taking place on your District Executive Golf Courses.

For the month of September, we continue to stay on track despite the inclement weather that has produced large amounts of rain. The upgrades to De La Vista, one of our more seasoned courses, are 95% complete and include renovations to the tees, greens, fairways and bunkers.

Other renovation projects set for completion this summer include the resurfacing of the green complexes at Mira Mesa #9 and Hawks Bay #4. The newly-added Chula Vista and Mira Mesa practice green facility is growing in nicely with some minor details scheduled for completion this month.

One of our most challenging projects was the Amberwood #5 green renovations; the green area turned out beautiful and is starting the grow-in phase.

The summer is flying by quickly. We will continue to implement our plan for long



ERIC
VAN GORDER
COLUMNIST

term sustainability and successful growth for the remaining summer weeks and into fall.

During the upcoming fall months we have planned to begin the overseeding program. Our greens, tees and fairways are scheduled to be completed in October and November.

Please remember the ground is much softer during this time with the added water to establish the seed. These areas on your courses are more prone to divots and ball marks as compared to the summer growing season. Bermuda grass will lay flat during the fall, turn brownish and become hard as dormancy begins to occur.

These conditions will bring an old nemesis out of the closet—the challenge we have with divots and ball marks.

As many of you know, repairing divots and ball marks has been the topic of many conversations. Since we cannot close the courses in the fall and winter, they can be very unsightly.

However, in the end, these areas will become much more plush and vigorous as a result of the overseeding.

Repairing divots, fixing ball marks, placing rakes in the bunkers and using the cart paths all create no impact to the players, but help tremendously to keep your courses in excellent condition.

When checking into play, golfers can ask for current

conditions, look for signs that help direct and lead by example with your fellow golfers in etiquette. An extra set of eyes are very helpful when trying to manage all of our executive courses. We all are stakeholders so please share your observations.

If you are new to the golf experience and planning to make it one of your new lifestyle activities in your hometown, please take the opportunity to become educated about the expectations of playing this life-long game. We provide constant updated programs that include good golf school, golf instruction, printed information and other opportunities to prepare for this game.

Residents also have access to on-going updates with the monthly turf talks that are posted on the Golf Administration web page at golfthevillages.com and on the District site at districtgov.org.

When it comes to golf and the two million rounds being played yearly on these courses, it requires everyone to do their part to keep them enjoyable for years to come.

As always please feel free to introduce yourself if you see me on the courses. My contact information is posted at every VCDD Executive starter building. Please contact me with any concerns or comments, as I welcome the correspondence with the residents regarding your executive golf courses.

Until next time, see you on the courses!

Eric Van Gorder is director of executive golf maintenance. He can be reached at 753-3396 or eric.vangorder@districtgov.org.