

Golf course upgrades keep grounds ready all year round

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. This is the time of year when we start noticing the bigger swings (no pun intended) in weather, the clocks getting rolled back and our courses reaching their full playing potential following completion of summer projects. As we move into winter, many of the residents are returning to enjoy Florida weather and the lifestyle here in The Villages. Villages residents have the opportunity to experience and benefit from a variety of projects we completed this past summer. We are very excited to hear feedback regarding the changes and improvements made for the long-term enjoyment and sustainability of the courses.

This past summer we were able to recover, revitalize and renovate many areas on our executive courses. A reduction in the number of rounds played during the summer months provides us with a great opportunity to perform maintenance on the courses with limited inconvenience to the residents. The Villages is extremely unique and fortunate to have more than 324 holes of executive golf, which offers alternative golf courses to play on when maintenance is necessary. Closing courses for renovations, upgrades and general rest has ensured sustainable golf in our community. This past summer has been no different with renovations and continued upgrades. One of our accomplishments includes the renovations to



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the greens, tees, fairways and bunkers at De La Vista. Additionally, we have constructed a new practice green facility at Chula Vista and converted the existing area to a chipping facility, and have rebuilt the greens at Mira Mesa #9 and Hawks Bay #4. We also have worked on the development of a new green complex at Amberwood #5 to help us realize the true potential of a par 3 hole based on resident feedback and requests from the golfing community. These are just some of the many additions and improvements to perpetuate and sustain the courses now and into the future.

Remember, now is a time we depend on not only our maintenance contractors to ensure all our course conditions and new improvements are kept in order, but we also depend on our resident golfers. We need your help to maintain our courses during the cooler months when we do not have bi-weekly closures. There are several ways our residents can play a considerable part in our maintenance process.

During the upcoming fall and winter months with over-seeded greens, tees and

fairways, the ground is much softer and prone to more divots and ball marks. We as golf professionals in the industry can do a lot, but we need your cooperation to maintain the exceptional condition on the executive courses. Repairing ball marks, fixing divots, and raking bunkers are all part of good golf etiquette.

In your "Good Golf Guide," the executive courses are rated for difficulty on a scale of 1-4, with 1 being the friendliest and 4 being the most challenging. These ratings will help you pick your desired courses to play to meet your skill level and increase your enjoyment.

As your director of Executive Golf Maintenance, I want all of you to enjoy the courses over the winter holidays and for many years to come.

As always, feel free to introduce yourself 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 and tee time offices at the La Rena building.

And, feel free to contact me with any concerns or comments.

Have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving.

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