

Golf course news and notes

By Todd Mathews

Golf Course Superintendent

- A liriopae (monkey grass) transplant project has begun at the golf course. The staff will be harvesting and transplanting liriopae in vacant mulch areas. Filling these vacant areas will reduce mulch usage, which in turn will reduce material costs and labor.
- The irrigation connection under Dunbar Road continues to pay unexpected dividends. The connection has been used numerous times to date during irrigation emergencies such as pump problems on the front 9, foot valve problems on the intake, and a lack of water in Lake Hiawatha. A new use for the connection has recently been discovered. It was used to pressurize the front 9 system after the back 9 system was pressurized. In years past, charging the front 9 system was a labor intensive, all day chore. By using the pressure from the back 9 system, charging the front system took about 30 minutes to complete.
- The golf staff has several small projects planned as soon as the ground dries up a little. The golf course has been plagued by several heavy rainfalls, leaving the soil saturated. Hopefully drier weather will come along and allow work to begin on projects such as: Enlarging #5 green tee, adding irrigation to #7 red tee, drainage work in front of #2 tee and behind #1 green, bunker edging, sodding projects, and many other small projects too numerous to mention.
- Natural areas on the course will be expanded slightly this spring in an effort to reduce costs. These areas will help decrease expenses such as fuel, labor, fertilize, and weed control.
- Another cost reduction project on the agenda is the elimination of 4 bunkers on the course. Bunkers that do not come into play frequently such as the bunker behind #12 green, the bunker behind #13 green, the bunker left of #16 green, and the practice bunker are going to be eliminated in an effort to reduce maintenance.
- Greens aerification is scheduled for March 21st and 22nd, weather permitting. The greens usually take a while to heal in the spring because the soil temperatures aren't very high. The greens can take up to 2 weeks to heal in early spring whereas healing could occur in as little as 4 days if aerification were to occur in May, when the greens are growing vigorously.