

January 23, 2025

Golf Course News From the Superintendent

January has been cold, especially this week it feels more like up North than sunny Southwest Florida. With almost ten inches of snow in Northern Florida and cold weather advisories as far South



as Charlotte County it is no wonder why everyone is bundled up. This January is on track to be one of the coldest ones ever. Our warm season Bermuda grass does not respond well to this cold weather. When nighttime temperatures fall below 65 degrees plant growth starts to slow, and when temperatures dip into the 30's and 40's it starts to go dormant. This creates a big challenge



for our maintenance team, with no growth comes no recovery; so if it seem like divots are multiplying and wear from traffic is mounting you would be correct. This wear and tear on the course cannot heal without active plant growth; no amount of fertilizer and water will encourage the plant to grown until temperatures rise and the sunny days return.

You can help limit the wear and tear on the course though until the weather improves; fill your divots level not mounded up to offer a fair lie to the players behind you, limit cart traffic by driving up the middle of the hole and walking to your ball instead of zigzagging across and all around to each shot and keep all four wheels on the cart path when ever possible.

If you travel in and out of Worthington's main entrance, you may have notice piles of dirt in the center median. This is due to a mainline break under the road at the intersection of Bonita Grande Drive and Trade Center Way. The islands from our



main entrance North to Bonita Beach Road are irrigated and maintained by Worthington. This irrigation piping is original and has started to have more frequent failures due to its age. Because of the road and other utilities, the pipes are

about four feet deep and require a substantial amount of excavation. It also requires a large hole to be able to pull the long lengths of damaged pipe out of the sleeve underneath the road. Because of the limited space and the amount of excavation the left lane will now be closed in the work area for North bound traffic twenty-four hours a day until work is completed. Please use extra caution and slow down when leaving Worthington on Bonita Grand Drive. This repair will take about another seven to ten days to complete depending on materials.