



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

January 2009

**Official publication
of the
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club**

**Visit our website
at
www.smgc.org**

Thursday Tournament at Woodley Lakes

The Thursday tournament in January will be played at Woodley Lakes on January 22. The tee times will fill up fast so sign up now. The price is right at \$35.00. Don't forget to bring your putty knife so you can scrape the @%*#\$ off your golf shoes. Sign up online and pay by credit card at smgc.org or use the coupon on page 8. Call **Gene Vano** at **(818) 703-0749** if you want to play.

2009 SMGC

Stimulus Package

The Board of Directors voted to reduce the renewal fee for 2009 to \$75. We know times are hard and we are trying to do our part. For brand new members the new fee is \$85. Please advise your friends and relations about our reduced rates.

For those of you who have paid higher fees we will allow you a credit for the overpayment in any of our tournaments. There will be no cash refund.

Happy New Year from your Board.

Sunday Tournament at Buenaventura

This months Sunday tournament will be played at Buenaventura January 25. The price is \$65 and includes cart and prize fund. Sign up online and pay by credit card at smgc.org or call **Gene Vano** at **(818) 703-0749** if you want to play.

Golf, Corned Beef & Cabbage St. Pat's Party, March 26

Come and get it, a whole day of golf and an evening of corned beef and cabbage, beer or soft drinks and prizes. Our entertainment chairman Allen Weiss promises to provide outstanding Irish entertainment. It's the first big social event on SMGC's 2009 Master Calendar and it's going to be laughs and gags non-stop....a humdinger you won't want to miss.

The tab for golf, sweeps and the best corned beef and cabbage this side of Dublin.....the works, is \$50, honest! When you sign in at the February Hansen Dam tournament, sign up for the St. Pat's Golf Shindig & Party, March 26. Sign up online and pay by credit card at smgc.org or call **Gene Vano** at **(818) 703-0749** if you want to play.



CAN'T POST?

Many Club members have been deleted from the rolls because they failed to renew their memberships before the mid December deadline. If you are unable to post your scores, chances are good that's the reason.

If you have paid your renewal dues, you will come back on line at the February update. Your Handicap Committee recommends that you preserve your scorecards and post your scores after your membership is reinstated.

POST AT THE RANGE

There's a new posting computer at the Driving Range shop! It's convenient following a round at the new Balboa...and it's available until closing time at 10 pm!

HOLES- IN-ONE

If you have knowledge of a hole-in-one by a member of the SMGC please contact **Leonard Zambito** by email at leonardzambito@hotmail.com or by phone at (818) 761-3846.

Dated material -- Periodical

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

Reading the Rules of Golf is a bit like reading the Internal Revenue Code—tough sledding and requiring a good night's sleep before and after. The Rules are a favorite of insomniacs because reading them puts them to sleep quicker than any pill.

But the Rules should be studied by those who presume to play in golf competitions and don't particularly want to risk penalties that range from added strokes or losses of holes to the "death penalty:" disqualification.

Some say it's not real golf unless you follow every rule to the letter. Others disregard clear rules or don't even attempt to learn them until after they run afoul of one during a competition and pay an expensive penalty, yet think of themselves as golfers, and the game they play as "golf."

Sticklers and purists are aware that the rules of Match Play and Stroke Play are different and know exactly how they differ. In fact, the rules are so different and potentially conflicting that the USGA strongly recommends against combining the two formats in the same competition! Others are vaguely aware that the rules differ but don't concern themselves with the differences until they violate them in a competition, that is.

Stroke play rules require the ball to be holed out every time, yet in the interest of moving the course along in casual play, we routinely concede one-footers (even The Gapwedge rarely misses a one-footer), so at least insofar as that rule goes, many of us violate it with alacrity, although hopefully not in competitions.

As members of a USGA-sanctioned golf club, we should always follow the rules as closely as possible, not because the Golf God could smite us (although it's been known to happen), but because the handicap system needs to assume we're all playing the same game.

Having said all that, everybody knows that not every golfer joins a club and maintains an official USGA handicap. For them, playing can provide plenty of enjoyment even if they never compete in tournaments. So these folks can concoct their own rules which might bear scant resemblance to the Rules of Golf provided by the USGA. Is it wrong that they refer to their activity as "golf?" Of course not!

Golf is a big tent. Within it one finds hackers, flailers, experts, rule followers, rule breakers, men, women, children, young, old, the serious, the casual, the obsessive, the athletic, couch potatoes and you-name-it. But in The Gapwedge's humble opinion, the game we all play is indeed golf.

Every one of us is trying to do the same thing: get the ball into the hole in as few strokes as possible. That objective never changes no matter how many of golf's sacred rules might be broken in the process.

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| The Board meets at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month. | | |

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METAL SPIKES ARE OUT IN SMGC TOURNAMENTS

Your Board of Directors voted to ban the use of metal spikes at all future men's club tournaments and match play events played at Balboa and Encino. Only soft spikes or spikeless golf shoes will be permitted.

This action was taken to help eliminate damaging scrape and scratch marks on Sepulveda's delicate greens. Such notice will appear on our website, future issues of The Eagle and tournament instruction sheets.

A motion, sponsored by Handicap Chair Stu Olster, was made and the Golf Advisory Committee unanimously passed the motion and Golf Manager, James Ward, stated the ban would immediately be implemented.

DECEMBER SCORE BOARD

**SUNDAY
OLIVAS LINKS**

**TOURNAMENT
DECEMBER 14**

There were 4 winning teams in the Honey Pot. Johnston/Fortune 56, Fortune/Vano 58, Olteanu/Vano 58, Johnston/Vano 59. Each team gets \$40. The Honey Pot target score was 59. Everyone at 59 or better shares.

Low Gross

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 76 Wayne Johnston | \$85 |
| 78 Robert Marlow | \$30 |
| 78 Arde Nozari | \$30 |
| 78 Chris Denove | \$30 |
| 79 Rich Nance | \$10 |

Low Net

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| 64 Bruce Fortune | \$85 |
| 69 Gene Vano | \$35 |
| 69 George Olteanu | \$35 |
| 71 Virgil Budhu | \$20 |
| 72 Michael Teague | \$10 |
| 72 Leo Levin | \$10 |
| 72 Ahmad Keliddari | \$10 |

Gross Skins \$50 each

| |
|-------------------|
| 6 John Hammil |
| 8 Daniel Melillo |
| 12 Wayne Johnston |
| 13 John Hammil |
| 14 Alan Miller |
| 16 Arde Nozari |

Net Skins \$37 each

| |
|-------------------|
| 6 John Hammil |
| 9 Bruce Fortune |
| 11 Chris Denove |
| 12 Wayne Johnston |
| 13 John Hammil |
| 14 Alan Miller |
| 15 Gene Vano |
| 16 Arde Nozari |
| 18 Leo Levin |

Closest to the Pin \$40 each

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| 5 Hadi Morshed | 14'1" |
| 8 Daniel Melillo | 6'2" |
| 13 John Hammil | 15'1" |
| 17 Chris Denove | 13'5" |

Prize Money

All tournament place winnings are paid in gift certificates redeemable in the Encino/Balboa Pro Shop.

TEE/CUP Chips

By Irv Chernov
Eagle-Eyed Editor

Thumbing through any of the well-known golf magazines can be hazardous to your game!

Article after article, written by the most famous names on the Tour, offer tips to help you improve your game. One will swear that your left elbow is the key to a great swing; another tells you not to worry about moving your head during the swing; yet another says a great swing requires a shorter backswing.

I'm not denying that these work for the writers. I'm just doubting if they'll work for you or me. Are we the same height and weight as these players? Do we possess the same strength? Is our timing identical? Do we spend hundreds of hours on the practice tee as they do?

I think not. But here, at the risk of offering a fool-proof golf tip, is what I think: Sepulveda is home to some very fine teaching professionals. You can find them at the range or in the Ready Golf pro shop. You've read their columns here in The Eagle for many years.

Hey, guys! If your game needs some help from tee through green set up a lesson date with any of them. You know for a fact that it's always easy to spot what the "other guy" is doing wrong. Ever stop to think that you're one of the "other guys" to your golfing buddies?

You may honestly believe you know what you're doing wrong. Many times, you're probably right. But why not get a professional "check-up?" January is a perfect month to do it. Start the year off with a lesson or two or three...and breeze through the New Year!

Have Your Say and Win Some Golf Balls!

Got a gripe? A question? A comment about the game or the Club? The Players Forum on the SMGC website offers members the opportunity to get it out in the open for all to read and comment on. Only one problem: we haven't been using it to its full potential.

So, The Board has opted to resort to bribery in order to beef up usage of this valuable communications tool.

Every month, the writer of the Forum "message of the month" will win two sleeves of ProV1s! Members of the Board of Directors will judge each month's entries, and present the winners with their Titleist prizes.

Can't think of a topic? How about rules, etiquette, pace of play, golf carts, course conditions... you get the idea. Just about everything and anything (within reason) that has to do with the game we all love. Click on the Forum page and put in your two cents worth!

Book a Tee Time

If you have a Los Angeles city reservation card you can now book a tee time online 24/7 for any of the 13 City of Los Angeles courses. This is a new program the city is providing. Go to www.golf.lacity.org and try it out.

Remember you must have a golf reservation card to use this service. You can also call any city course and make a same day tee time without a reservation card, this is based on availability.

HANDICAP CHATTER

By STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman

USGA Handicap Rules require that we post our “adjusted gross scores.” Some novices think this means their *net scores* (*gross score minus handicap*). If this were the case, many of us would be scratch golfers. I have had occasion to address a number of posting errors resulting from this misunderstanding. Your *adjusted gross score* is your gross score less any adjustment required by *Equitable Stroke Control*.

What is *Equitable Stroke Control* and how does one apply it?

Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make a player’s handicap more representative of his potential scoring ability. ESC sets a maximum number of strokes that the player can post on any hole. The number of strokes that a player can count for posting purposes depends on his course handicap. A handicap index determined from scores to which ESC has not been applied may not legitimately be called a *USGA Handicap Index*.

The following chart shows the maximum allowable strokes that a player may count on a given hole for handicap purposes:

| Equitable Stroke Control Table | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 18-hole Course Handicap | 9-hole Course Handicap | Maximum Score |
| 9 or less | 4 or less | Double Bogey |
| 10 through 19 | 5 through 9 | 7 |
| 20 through 29 | 10 through 14 | 8 |
| 30 through 39 | 15 through 19 | 9 |
| 40 through 49 | 20 and above | 10 |

Suppose Jim, an 8 handicapper, has a mental lapse during a round, as a result of which he shoots a quadruple bogey on a particular hole. In adjusting his score for posting purposes, ESC requires that Jim reduce his *gross score* by 2 strokes, just as if he had shot a double bogey on that hole. So if his gross score was 82, and he had no other holes to adjust, Jim must post 80, which is his *adjusted gross score*.

The *gross score* is the score used in determining the order of finish in a competition. The adjustment required by ESC is made only for purposes of returning or posting the score.

ESC’s purpose is to keep *handicap indexes* more accurate by factoring out the occasional high hole score that is unrepresentative of the player’s actual playing potential.

Questions or comments can be addressed to the author at slolster@yahoo.com

FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP

(Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)

By Michael Bernback

THE WORLD IS CHANGING AND SO IS READY GOLF

With the start of year 2009, golf will begin its eighth straight year of decline. We have no way of knowing when or if golf will turn around and start heading back up again. And, as you all know, the world has changed recently and will continue to change. Regardless of various gloom and doom predictions and regardless of the challenges that lie ahead, Ready Golf will remain innovative, imaginative and hard-working. We will continue to serve our patrons with excellent quality service. On these things, we will not waver.

In order to prosper and survive the tide, perhaps we will make some changes or adjustments that some will find surprising or uncomfortable. And as most of you know, the company is in acquisition mode which is sure to stretch our energies and test our will. But like the public and our country’s people at large, we are a staff and management team that are capable, competent, and well-positioned for the challenges ahead.

I want to personally recognize our great staff of talented and dedicated people. You have all done a fine job this past year, thank you. I specifically want to thank Brian Creps for his vast experience and counsel, Mark Aten for his unwavering loyalty, and most of all Head Golf Professional Mark Karge. Mark is a truly inspirational leader who considers everyone in each decision he makes. You can say he is a great guy which is also true. I like to say...”I can always count on Mark to watch my back and get the job done whatever it takes.” Thank you, Mr. Karge.

I would also like to recognize the maintenance and operations staff, Bob Davis, Pete Fry and Sandy’s staff here at Sepulveda. This past year has brought a new tenor of cooperation from the golf division through operations and maintenance. We appreciate your assistance. Not to be forgotten is the new, capable, hard-working and very fair concessions department under Mr. Robert Morales. The rules don’t allow me to give Christmas gifts but I can say...”ding dong the witch is dead” as I pop a bottle of champagne. Many of you will understand what that means. Thank you Mr. Morales and your staff.

Finally, to the Sepulveda Men’s Golf Club, we will continue in our dedication to serve the members as guided by the wisdom of the current board. We remain dedicated to the cause of healthy fun golf and look forward to a future of unified values although albeit under various club names and groups. To the few very special supporters over the years, who I will leave nameless, thank you and thank you again. Our 2008 contribution to junior golf was \$13,094. Our total contribution to date is \$159,192. Let’s see if any other Los Angeles concession operator can match that!

We are all fortunate in many ways. Happy New Year! Thanks for your patronage.

NEWS BRIEFS

GOVERNOR'S GOLF USE TAX

As the January Eagle went to press (The Eagle has a long lead time) the Governor and the Democratic Majority in the State Legislature were working on a Phase I package of tax increases masquerading as fee accretions and spending cuts to keep the State open for business through the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2009).

The golf use tax was not part of the Phase I package. Why? While we would like to think it was because the legislators thought the concept unwise, it had more to do with the theory the Democratic Majority used to circumvent the Republican Minority's capacity to use the 2/3 rule (Proposition 13) to block all tax increases than the unpopularity of the golf tax.

In other words, we got a short reprieve. Phase I only keeps the doors open through June; it does not do anything to solve the much greater fiscal shortfall facing the State in fiscal year 2009-2010. Expect the golf tax to be back on the table in some form right after the Proposition 58 Emergency Session of the Legislature adjourns.

The California Alliance for Golf (CAG) continues to pursue an omnibus solution. The Public Links Golf Association (PLGA) continues to pursue a municipal exemption, a concept that is beginning to gain traction and resonance among the region's local municipal governments.

CONCESSIONS

The citywide electric cart concession remains stuck in the Mayor's Office, whether due to the lobbying of organized labor, which is arguing for self-operation (contracting-in), or the lobbying of the spurned incumbent Kishi Company is anybody's guess. But the bottom line is the award to Ready Golf Centers is being held up, and the public remains stuck in limbo with shoddy cart service.

The driving range / golf shop concession, also awarded to Ready Golf Centers and awarded many months prior to the electric cart award, has yet to be transmitted to the City Council's Arts, Parks, Health & Aging Committee (Chair Tom LaBonge, CD 4). Why? Ostensibly to await the outcome of the cart award. Again, the public is denied the improvements long promised and even longer needed.

GREENS FEES

Everyone has noticed the lack of golf play since July 1. That is when the City raised fees, instituted a non-resident fee on top thereof, turned Friday into a quasi-holiday, and practically forced all residents to spend an additional fee to secure the privilege of the somewhat lesser fee now charged residents. The concessionaires, whose businesses are almost wholly functions of foot traffic, have sure noticed. So, did the Golf Advisory Committee, whose Fees & Charges Subcommittee in November requested the post July 1 statistical information necessary to determine the efficacy of the package – i.e., what of that package might be working, what might need to be reworked, what might need to be jettisoned altogether, what effort ought to be redoubled, etc.

The Department has thus far refused to release that data to the Golf Advisory Committee. Draw your own conclusions.

PUBLIC LINKS (PLGA) UPCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENTS

As a member of SMGC you are eligible to play in all of the many tournaments put on by our parent golf association. You can always get applications at www.plga.org or through the PLGA office (800) 272-7542. The two tournaments now taking applications:

LAUGHLIN OPEN

March 2-3

Rivers Edge (Needles) & El Rio (Bullhead City, AZ) Golf Courses
Edgewater Hotel – March 1 & 2, with March 3 Optional Individual Low Net (36-hole and daily prizes)

Fee: \$195-\$215

Application Deadline: February 12

PLGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

March 21-22 Net Flight Qualifying

“A” Flight (4.5 - 9.4) Mountain Meadows & Santa Anita

“B” Flight (9.5 – 13.4) Marshall Canyon & La Mirada

“C” Flight (13.5 – 17.4) Mountain Meadows & Santa Anita

“D” Flight (17.5 -) Marshall Canyon & La Mirada

March 28-29 Championship Flight Qualifying

(+ - 4.4) Rancho Park & Wilson

Final 36 Holes (27% of field makes cut)

April 4 – The Links at Summerly (Lake Elsinore)

April 5 – East Valley (Formerly PGA Champions Course in Beaumont)

Individual Low Net for Flights / Low Gross for Championship

Fee: \$135

Application Deadline: March 6

Tournament applications soon to be released:

NEVADA OPEN

May 4 & 5

Location: Primm Valley Resorts

Cost: \$TBD

Release Date: 4th Week of January

Closes: April 6, 2009

Format: Partner Better Ball

Max Field: 144 Teams

CORONADO CLASSIC

June 20 & 21

Location: Coronado G.C. – Coronado Island

Cost: \$TBD

Release Date: 4th Week of January

Closes: May 15, 2008

Format: Individual Low Gross & Low Net

Max Field: 144 golfers

AN *ICY* BLAST

from *Dr. Warmth*
aka GENE VANO

Golfers and Friends,

I am forced to announce a discovery as we head into the 2009 season. The mystery is solved. The doublespeak has been laid to rest. The answer was right in front of me but I couldn't see it for the shucking and jiving that was always the response. All right, What is it you ask?

For years I have been asking the powers that be, WHY on weekends, our courses citywide look like an unmade bed after a rough night. The answers were a potpourri of malaprops. You know, I would say, on Tuesdays and Thursdays the courses always seem better. Better groomed, greens roll well, bunkers raked and so on. For a long time I thought OK we play on Thursdays and the Ladies play on Tuesday so they give us a little more effort because we have some visibility with certain city fathers who want our votes. But it nagged at me. That's wrong. I thought. People on Friday, Saturday and Sunday pay a lot more and they should be entitled to a better maintained playing field than they get.

Lo and Behold (I toss some Holiday words in cause it is the season). By accident I overheard some people at the Golf Division tournament (held at Balboa in December). The basic thrust was one guy asking another which days off he had? Friday and Saturday or Sunday and Monday? Holy Sack of Sacred Monkeys. There are only two work plans. Half the fulltime well trained workers are not working on the days we need maintenance the most. So I looked around. Private courses give everyone Monday off. And then selected days off by seniority or need all through the week. I looked at private industry retail (Macy's and Nordstrom.) The busiest days were the most highly staffed to make it BETTER for the customer.... The GUY paying the bills.

When you drive into a city of LA golf course the most desirable 6 to 8 spaces right in front are reserved for STAFF. Drive into Macy's and you will see a fired worker leaving if he gets caught parking any where near the front of the store. Simi Hills, Knollwood, Camarillo, Los Robles, all competing municipal courses very near us. Try to find the employee parking.

We have 14 golf courses and apparently they are in business to give the workers the best possible experience and to hell with the paying customers. Well here's a new wrinkle. There is a lot of talk driven by the media to privatize the golf in our city. Their reasons have to do with budgets and an inability for this city to be fiscally responsible. Years ago when Mayor Riordan was considering privatization the unions came to us the Clubs and asked for our support and in return they promised to give us a fair days work and conditions we could be proud of. We said YES. I have a suspicion we the golfing public have been hornswoggled.

Definition: To Hornswoggle. The art of begging with the left hand and a smile and inserting deeply down under with the right hand and a sneer. I don't know if private operators are the answer to help the city financially but I do know there isn't a company in the country that will give workers Rockstar working hours and choice parking to the exclusion of the paying customer.

Believe me it is hard to write this because as I type I see many of the faces of people in the system who I like and respect and so many of the individual workers are really good people. I think their hands are tied and truly believe they would love to make us and themselves proud by having the best conditions. We need someone from the political side, or the Rec and Parks Commission, or the union to get involved and get stuff done. PLEASE!

Next month we'll laugh together about the ridiculous state of affairs the concessions part of the golf system is in. Concessions, Carts, Pro Shops, Driving Ranges, Restaurants. . . .

BE A MARSHAL AT THE 2009 NORTHERN TRUST OPEN AT RIVIERA COUNTRY CLUB

Be inside the ropes touching elbows with the world's greatest golfers. Receive a free pass to the tournament for the entire week as well as weekly passes for a guest. Become part of the tournament committee family.

All you need to do is work a minimum of two full days and purchase a marshal's uniform, something that will no doubt be of great value to you well beyond the week of the tournament.

The 2009 Northern Trust Open Golf Tournament is Wednesday, February 18 through Sunday, February 22 at the famed Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades. The civic sponsor is the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce (LAJCC) which sponsors the Los Angeles Urban Youth Golf Program and the 1st Tee of Los Angeles, both of which are partners of our parent Public Links Golf Association.

In 2008, 17 of the top 20 ranked players in the world participated, including Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Jim Furyk, Pdraig Harrington and Fred Couples. Who knows, maybe a recovering Tiger Woods will return again to his hometown, virtually the only place on the PGA Tour he has yet to snag a victory.

All you need to do is log on to www.ntomarshals.com, where you can register and order a uniform. Or you can contact 2009 Marshal Chair Mike Allison at either gma4usc@aol.com or (626) 893-1611. Or you can go to the PLGA website at www.plga.org and begin the process there.

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

You Can't Beat Something with Nothing

On November 24 Golf Manager James Ward, informed the city's Golf Advisory Committee that with respect to the long-awaited enterprise fund reform "never gonna happen." Mr. Ward, also informed the Committee that with respect to the notion of convening a task force to look at alternatives to the enterprise fund reform "not gonna happen either."

On December 23 City Controller Laura Chick released a report recommending that the Mayor take a serious look at contracting out a whole host of city services now performed by public employees. Golf was prominently mentioned among those "services."

On that same day the Los Angeles Times reported that Mayor Villaraigosa had long ago retained the services of Michael Keeley to assist in analyzing the relative benefits of privatization of certain public services versus continued public operation. For those of you who haven't been around as long as I, Michael Keeley was the fellow who worked for Mayor Riordan and developed Riordan's 1994 proposal to privatize the city's golf system, an initiative that was roundly defeated at the time by a coalition of organized golf and organized labor.

What the LA Times and other press organs didn't report was that lobbyists for various golf management companies have long been "working" the Mayor's Office and numerous City Council Offices toward that same goal. Forgive them. They didn't know. I do know and have known for some time.

On January 1 the County of Los Angeles unveiled its new fee structure one that featured the following rather impressive list of accomplishments:

- It raised by a factor of 50% the amount extracted from each greens fee dollar going to its capital improvement trust funds, monies that by County Ordinance can ONLY be used for major capital projects at the courses where they are collected;
- It undercut the City's fees in EVERY category, but most particularly in the most price sensitive junior and senior categories, with a senior rate a full 25% lower than the City;
- It rejected the consideration of Friday as anything other than the 5th of five weekdays;
- It rejected all resident / non-resident distinctions;
- It extended the exemptions permitted its "recognized" men, women and senior golf clubs, extended their hours of access, and continued to permit women and seniors playing in sanctioned club events to use their senior discount cards to avail themselves of \$12.50 fees when playing in organized, pre-booked club events; and
- It announced that it expected this new fee structure to raise its NET Golf system profits to \$14.5 million per year.

On January 1 the County of Los Angeles published a list of golf projects completed in 2008, a list that included a new irrigation system at Los Verdes, a completely redesigned, rebuilt 9 holes at Alondra Park, a complete makeover for the Maggie Hathaway facility, a clubhouse renovation project at Chester Washington, and a series of mid range projects at courses throughout its far-flung system. In addition, it announced that \$6.2 million in funding had been secured to complete a long awaited new golf facility in the Kenneth Hahn Recreational area in Baldwin Hills.

On January 1 the County didn't note, but I will, that this impressive list of projects was completed PRIOR to the 50% bump in capital improvement dollar set-asides. As for the trajectory of future project completion, with that "bump," the continued creative use of bond funds (Propositions 12 & 40 plus Proposition A), and the continued ingenuity of the "Director's Asset Management Team," things should only get better. Not bad for the middle of a severe economic downturn!

And in case it got lost in all of those other "accomplishments," let me repeat – THE COUNTY'S PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT NETS \$14.5 MILLION PER YEAR FROM ITS GOLF OPERATION!

Our fair City says it cannot operate golf as an enterprise fund, because the system can't make it on its own financially. The County charges significantly lower prices, sets aside substantial amounts of money from those lower prices, completes capital projects with great regularity, and brags about all the money it makes in the process.

It's not hard to connect those dots. Keeley and all those lawyers and lobbyists ought to be ashamed of themselves for actually charging fees to connect them for the Controller, the Mayor, and the City Council.

Does anyone doubt that when the Mayor unveils his 2009-2010 budget on April 20 it will contain language about emulating the County model and contracting out the operation and maintenance of the City's golf courses to private management companies? Does anyone doubt that the County model is a pretty powerful "something" to contend with? Does anyone think that the Department of Recreation and Parks has something better than "nothing" to beat it with?

Players with Cell Phones

Many players program the starter's window and cart shack numbers into their cell phones to cover possible **emergencies**. Here are the Encino/Balboa numbers:

Starter's window (818) 995-1170

Cart shed (818) 788-9793

Coffee Shop/Bar (818) 789-1919

Don't abuse them, keep them silent during your round!!

READY GOLF TIP

By Jeff Prey

The Light Grip

Our New Year has greeted us with less than ideal weather for golfing. If you like raingear, sweaters and frozen hands you're enjoying Winter. Between storms, my equipment will get new handles. As my grips begin to show wear, they become firm and lose their feeling. So on these cold days, I'm squeezing the grip, thus losing any club head speed I may have had. This tight grip pressure also destroyed any rhythm or tempo I've envisioned.



By simply decreasing my grip pressure by 10% and installing fresh grips, the club head speed has returned. This light grip pressure (or soft hands) will encourage a hinge-like action necessary for a full release. The distance and consistency we are looking for is now created with far less effort. Good luck and remember to use the extra club this winter.

Jeff Prey is a Teaching Professional at Ready Golf's Sepulveda Driving Range. You can also find Jeff in the shop several days a week. Jeff offers lessons with the A-Star digital swing analyzer upon request. Playing lessons, group lessons and series lessons are also offered. His rate of instruction is \$35 per half hour private lesson.

Tournament Sign-Up Coupon

To sign up and pay for a future tournament, check the appropriate boxes and mail with a separate check (payable to the SMGC only) for each event to:

SMGC
P.O. Box 57373
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

- Jan 22 Woodley Lakes **\$35**
- Feb 26 Hansen Dam **\$35**

Tournament chairman is Gene Vano (818) 703-0749

COMING EVENTS

| | | |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| Jan 12 | Monday, rescheduled Holiday tournament - Encino | |
| Jan 15 | MGA Team Play - Rancho Park | |
| Jan 22 | Thursday Tournament - Woodley Lakes | \$35 |
| Jan 25 | Sunday Tournament - Buenaventura | \$65 |
| Feb 3 | Board Meeting | |
| Feb 19 | MGA Team Play - Hansen Dam | |
| Feb 26 | Thursday Tournament - Hansen Dam | \$35 |
| Mar 2-3 | PLGA "Laughlin Open" El Rio & Rivers Edge | |
| Mar 3 | Board Meeting | |
| Mar 8 | Sunday Tournament | TBA |
| Mar 19 | MGA Team Play - Balboa | |
| Mar 21-29 | PLGA "Amateur Championship" Qualifier | |
| Mar 26 | Thursday Tournament - Encino St Pat's-Dinner | |
| Apr 4-5 | PLGA "Amateur Championship" Finals | |
| Apr 4-6 | LA City Junior Golf Championship | |
| Apr 7 | Board Meeting | |
| Apr | Sunday Tournament | TBA |
| Apr 16 | MGA Team Play - Woodley Lakes | |
| Apr 23 | Thursday Tournament - Simi Hills Shotgun | |
| May 3 | Sunday Tournament - The Palumbo - River Ridge | |
| May 4-5 | PLGA "Nevada Open" Primm Valley Resorts | |
| May 5 | Board Meeting | |
| May 16 | Saturday, SMGC Senior Championship-Balboa | |
| May 17 | Sunday, SMGC Senior Championship-Encino | |
| May 21 | MGA Team Play - Encino | |
| May 28 | Thursday Tournament - Member/Guest-Encino | |
| June 2 | Board Meeting | |
| June 11-14 | LA City Men's Golf Championship | |
| Jun 18 | MGA Team Play - Harding | |
| June 20-21 | PLGA "George Collup" Coronado Classic Coronado G.C. | |
| June 20 | Saturday - Club Championship - Balboa | |
| June 21 | Sunday - Club Championship - Encino | |
| June 27 | Saturday - Finals 50% Plus ties-Encino | |
| June 27-28 | PLGA "JC Cunningham" Senior Championship Buenaventura & Olivas Links GC | |
| July 7 | Board Meeting | |
| July 12 | Sunday Tournament | TBA |
| Jul 16 | MGA Team Play - Wilson | |
| July 23 | Thursday Tournament - Rancho Park | \$35 |
| July 25-26 | PLGA "Central Coast Open" Marshallia Ranch La Purisima | |
| Aug 4 | Board Meeting | |
| Aug | Sunday Tournament | TBA |
| Aug 15-16 | LA/PLGA "Match Play Qualifying" Encino/Harding/Wilson | |
| Aug 17 | PLGA "Pro-President" Los Serranos (North) CC | |
| Aug 20 | MGA Team Play - Hansen Dam | |
| Aug 23-24 | LA/PLGA "Match Play Finals" Rancho Park | |
| Aug 27 | Thursday Tournament - Harding | \$35 |
| Sept 1 | Board Meeting | |
| Sept | Saturday Tournament | TBA |
| Sept 13,20,27 | PLGA "Team Play" | |
| Sep 17 | MGA Team Play - Encino | |
| Sept 24 | Thursday Tournament - Pro/Member Shotgun - Encino | |
| Oct 3 | Saturday Tournament - Goeckner Qualifier | TBA |
| Oct 4 | PLGA "Team Play" Semi-Finals | |
| Oct 6 | Board Meeting | |
| Oct 11 | PLGA "Team Play" Finals | |
| Oct 15 | MGA Team Play - Woodley Lakes | |
| Oct 15-16 | LA City Senior Men's Golf Championship | |
| Oct 22 | Thursday Tournament - Wilson Elections and Dinner at home | |