Dear AGC Members,

As we move into the thick of our golf season at AGC and the majority of our summer residents return to the community, I thought it would be helpful to give you a brief update on our Little Darling par 3 course progress:

- After securing a special exemption from the city for a much-needed irrigation well last summer, we were able to drill, test and install the well system during September. This was a critical step in the construction process as a reliable and cost-effective water source is paramount to a successful golf course.
- We began the actual construction of Little Darling last fall and were able to complete a great deal of work prior to the ground being unworkable due to freezing temperatures. Much of the initial shaping of green complexes, bunkers and tees was completed prior to winter arriving. We are fortunate to have one of the best shapers in the golf construction business working on Little Darling. Jack Dredla has built over 20 golf courses all over the world and is doing some amazing work for us on both Little Darling and our Hole 11 renovation. In addition, we are blessed to have one of our members, Matt Stennes and his excavating team, doing incredible work to help us with this project. Without Matt and Jack, this project could not be accomplished!
- Additional course construction work continued this spring, and the majority of the shaping work is now complete.
- Greens construction will begin next week. Building each green complex will require removal of approximately 14" of topsoil to replicate the contours of each designed green. Once the soil material is removed, we will install a 4-inch layer of fine gravel followed by 10 inches of a special greens mix consisting of 92% sand and 8% peat moss. In all, we will be installing approximately 380 tons of material in each green on Little Darling! This construction process is required for consistency and proper drainage and our goal is to have the greens constructed by early July. Your Little Darling par 3 course will have spectacular greens that will be well kept and fun to play.
- Although the Little Darling par 3 course is designed to be extremely walkable, we will be installing cart paths throughout the course. The cart paths will begin to be graded next week as well. We have designed the cart path placement to be inconspicuous and, where possible, hidden in the fescue or native grass that will be prevalent on Little Darling.

- We began seeding a number of areas on Little Darling this week. Our initial focus is on the slopes where we are concerned about erosion. The early seeding of these areas will minimize any erosion issues and assist in weed control.
- Irrigation materials have begun to arrive in preparation for the irrigation system installation which will take place during July.
- Once the irrigation system is installed, we will then complete the finish grading and begin seeding the entire golf course. Our goal is to have the Little Darling seeding completed by early August, so we are able to take advantage of 2 of the best months for growing grass in Minnesota – August and September.

Through a tremendous amount of project planning and hard work by many people, the Little Darling par 3 course is coming to fruition. Our thanks to Tom Lehman who has been instrumental in helping us with the course design throughout the process. Little Darling promises to be one of the most unique and incredible par 3 courses in the country. My description may sound like hyperbole although, as Little Darling is completed and you are able to begin seeing the grass grow and the course develop, I am confident you will become as enthusiastic about it as many of us involved in the project are.

It will change AGC and our community forever and leave a legacy we can all be proud of. The Little Darling project will strengthen our youth, enhance the attractiveness of our community, and be a win for AGC in the future.

We have had excellent participation from both AGC members and community residents in fund raising pledges for construction. In return, contributors are receiving significant membership benefits, so it is a win-win for everyone involved. We are still in need of additional funds to complete the project, so I encourage you to consider making a pledge and contributing while these benefits are still available during construction. A pledge to the Little Darling project is a pledge to the long-term success of AGC and Alexandria. Please contact me (jar5858@gmail.com or 216-978-5497), David Kjos (kjosnews@gmail.com or 320-760-5955) or Bruce Leland (baleland@gmail.com or 320-805-0141) for information on making a pledge. Thanks to everyone who has helped and who will help going forward.

Although it's difficult to visualize each of the nine holes on Little Darling prior to completion, we have drafted a hole-by-hole description of Little Darling that will be

utilized for marketing purposes on our eventual website. I have included the Little Darling Hole by Hole Summary in the link below for you to review. Reading it will not be nearly as much fun as playing this wonderful new addition to AGC and to the Alexandria community. It's gonna be something very special!

INSERT LINK TO LITTLE DARLING HOLE BY HOLE SUMMARY

All the best,

Jerry Rose
Little Darling Project Chair