



# Fortifying Our Resources, On and Off the Course

*Thank you, MAGCS members, for electing me to the secretary-treasurer office. Fred Behnke handed over the books with great attention to detail and accuracy, and I can assure you all that my efforts will be to do the same. Early this past winter, the MAGCS officers met with representatives of Arnold N. Schorn & Co., which performs our annual audit. The accountants requested the meeting to relay the importance of having 20-25% of our annual budget held in reserve as readily available monies. This means we need to nearly double our current reserves. As explained by the accountants, money is hardest to get when you need it most. We will not try to obtain monies of this magnitude in the short term, but will capture the funds needed to achieve this goal over several years.*

*By increasing the amount of the reserve fund to reflect 20-25% of our budget, the Association will be fully prepared financially during times of opportunity and growth and able to avert possible financial hardships during the worst of economic times.*

It has been a very busy winter for us at Elgin Country Club as we look towards the arrival of spring. We have several projects in the works, all with the hopes of being completed by Memorial Day. A new high-capacity well has been drilled into the St. Petersburg sandstone formation nearly 900 feet below the surface. This well tested a sustainable delivery of 550 gallons per minute. Two ponds on the property have been dredged to clean out leaves and silt. A new pump house, along with wet well and flume, has been installed at pond's edge on no. 16. New mainline piping has been installed with lateral piping scheduled for spring installation. Five new tees will be finished this spring. All the fairways will be rebordered with new bluegrass to redefine the fairway edges. In addition, we are nearly finished with the removal of 200 trees that inhibit the ability to grow turfgrass due to shading and root competition. These improvements to the infrastructure of the golf course and our improved access to the basic needs of sunlight and water will provide the tools necessary to provide excellent turf conditions.

Just as we make improvements to the infrastructures of the golf courses we manage, we as an Association and particularly as a Board of Directors also must continue to explore ways in which we can improve our Association's ability to serve its members. By increasing the amount of the reserve fund to reflect 20-25% of our budget, the Association will be fully prepared financially during times of opportunity and growth and able to avert possible financial hardships during the worst of economic times. As is often the case, opportunities and hardships occur without enough prior notice. Having this reserve fund will position us to take advantage of opportunities and lessen the hardships during rough economic times.

Once again, thank you for your confidence in allowing me to serve our great Association.

