

SUPER -N- SITE

Scott White, *Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club*

Kenny Shepherd -N-

In the Southwest suburbs you can find one of the finest gentlemen around, Prairie Bluff Golf Course Superintendent Ken Shepherd. I was fortunate to work down the road from Mr. Shepherd for the last five years while at The Links at Carillon. After trading irrigation parts, equipment, and secrets, I consider Kenny a good friend and would like to tell you a little more about this Midwest legend.

The legend began in the summer of 1973, as young Kenny Shepherd started his turf management career straight out of high school, working at Cog Hill for Ken Lapp. After completing a year at Lewis University majoring in Business, Kenny decided to switch to Joliet Junior College for an Associate's Degree in horticulture. In 1976, Kenny accepted his first Assistant Superintendent position at Woodruff Golf Course working for the Joliet Park District. Two years later he was promoted to Superintendent at Woodruff where he spent the next 11 years. In 1989, Kenny moved within the park district to Wedgewood Golf Course, Joliet's tournament course. In 1997, when the Lockport Park District built Prairie Bluff Golf Course, long-time Lockport resident and seasoned Superintendent Ken Shepherd was the perfect fit for the job. With 19 years of experience working in public golf, Kenny made an easy transition to Lockport. He oversaw the construction and grow-in of Prairie Bluff's beautiful facility designed by two-time U.S. Open champion Andy North and Roger Packard. Prairie Bluff Golf Course is truly one of the best public golf courses in Chicago, with great conditioning and outstanding staff inside and out. Long-time Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Manny Mascote oversees the daily maintenance routine and helps insure that Prairie Bluff stays at the top among public facilities in the area.



Having built a successful career on and off the golf course, "Old Shep" turned a young 52 in August. Kenny takes pride in family, friends, and faith. He and his wife Nancy, a nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet, are celebrating 30 years together! They took a long overdue trip to Hawaii in the spring. Nancy and Kenny have two sons, Craig and Kyle. Some of you may know that their oldest, Craig, who is 25, recently graduated from the University of Illinois. He works for Liebold Irrigation and services the Chicago area. Kyle, 22, just accepted a position with the Lockport Fire Department. Yearly ski trips to Colorado and Wisconsin keep the family bond strong and help recharge the batteries for the next season. Kenny is active in the MAGCS and attends several monthly meetings each year. You can find him hanging around fellow superintendent and friend Renny Jacobson, counting down the days til the snow flies,



The Shepherd's, Nancy, Kyle, Ken and Craig.

or planning the yearly pilgrimage to Bristol to cheer on Jeff Gordon.

Interviewing Kenny and hearing the old stories, looking at pictures and talking about the good old days, I found an individual devoted to enjoying life. The golf course is in great shape and it's fun to play. Kenny Shepherd's success on the golf course is easy to see, but his real achievement is balancing work, marriage, and family over the past 30 years. Congratulations Ken and Nancy. **-OC**



This picture (above) of the 15th green at Prairie Bluff Golf Club details the smooth and rolling lines of the green side bunkers and surrounds. The image below tries to capture the expanse of the property that sits on 230 acres.

