

MIDWEST BREEZES

Chuck Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Change

People are often afraid of change. Some people avoid change and think the easiest thing to do is to continue on doing the same thing. Lack of change is predictable, comfortable and provides a form of security. Lack of change can also be boring.

Two of our members recently jumped off the "edge" and made changes in their careers and their lives.

Ken Shepherd, Golf Course Superintendent at Prairie Bluff Golf Club woke up one day and decided he wanted to make a change. He had been working on a golf course for the last thirty six summers. He just wanted to do something different. He wanted to stay in horticulture because he still loves working in the outdoors. In a perfect world, he would like to stay working for the Lockport Park District. He inquired with his Director that if anything ever came up in the Parks Department he would be interested.

Several years later, a position opened for the Superintendent of Parks and the call came. "Ken can you help us out?"

He's excited about the change. There is ample opportunity to use his experience. Several soccer fields are in need of irrigation installation and new parks are being planned for development. The Parks Staff is also excited about the change. Kenny has a well deserved reputation for getting things done. After all, growing in a golf course can be a little demanding.

Without the duties of babysitting a golf course on weekends, he's excited about the new opportunities to do other stuff. One of his interests is working with a program called Team Focus. It's a camp for fatherless children. The leaders teach life skills to the children. Skills like changing a tire, gardening or tying a tie. Perhaps even teaching the children the most valuable lesson that it's important to care and help other people less fortunate than themselves.

We will miss Ken, or as I like to call him Shep-a-matic at the meetings.

He'll still be around doing what he does best, making other people around him better.

Brad Anderson, CGCS said he was looking for a challenge after eighteen years at Midlane Country Club. Brad grew in Midlane and was very happy to be part of its growth and

development. That being said, Brad is always looking for the next challenge. Some nice folks in Michigan gave him that opportunity.

He is now the Golf Course Superintendent at Birmingham Country Club, in Birmingham Michigan. BCC was founded in 1916 and is located about twenty miles north of Detroit. Brad says the local professional organizations, vendors and other Superintendents have been very supportive in his new job. He says most things about the Detroit area are very similar to Chicago. The only difference he finds is that he had to learn how to make a "Michigan left" while driving. I'm not sure what that means but Brad said anyone from Michigan would understand.

One of the challenges he faces is the short preparation time he has before the golf season gets into full "swing". He just recently started in his position a few weeks ago. Perhaps his biggest challenge will be the separation from his family until he gets established. He expects a full reunion in three months. He misses the hugs at night.

Brad will also be missed from the meetings. He is a Past President of the CAGCS and he was an Associate Editor for "On Course" magazine. As a matter of fact he used to write this column.

Sometimes change happens when we are ready or not. Our guys were ready.

Are you? **-OC**



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