

The foundation has announced a new way to become involved—the Commemorative Brick Program at the Midwest Golf House. This program allows people to purchase personalized bricks in two different sizes (4x8 and 8x8 inches) to be installed adjacent to the front entrance of Golf House. To learn more about this tax-deductible program, go to www.sunshinethroughgolf.org, or you can contact Alex Nolly at 630-685-2351 or anolly@cdga.org.

Congratulations to Tina and **Chuck Barber**, whose family just got a lot bigger after the birth of their second child on November 22nd. The Barbers were blessed with a daughter, Molly Michelle, who popped into the world at 7 lbs., 12 ozs., and 21 inches long. And then came the inlaws, and thus the MUCH bigger family.



Molly Michelle Barber

The MAGCS 2011 dues renewal is underway, and anything you can do to expedite your membership renewal will allow your association to continue to offer you the finest in association thingies. It will also allow us to pay bills and Bull Sheet writers, so please either follow the link on one of those emails you get, or go to magcs.org and figure it out. I thank you. My family thanks you. Our creditors thank you. You get the picture.

Oh, and ditto for ITF—please renew your membership ASAP.

Leave it to MAGCS members to lead the way once again. We reported previously that GCSAA was holding the TurfWars: Battle of the Budgets Video Contest and that the deadline for submissions was November 30th. Turns out that two of the first three submissions came from our own **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club and **John Ekstrom** of Hinsdale Golf Club. Their videos can be viewed at GCSAA TV (go to gcsaa.org and click on the link), but in a nutshell, Dan's "Keep Cart Revenue Rolling" described his efforts to pay extra attention to cart wear areas in order to allow carts to remain in use even if conditions are not favorable for it. John's video, titled "Visual Improvement Program," details HGC's program that standardizes 12 different maintenance areas to create expectations and improve maintenance practices through ratings, charts, and photos. Way to go, trendsetters!

Congratulations to Martin Implement Sales, Inc. on celebrating their Grand Re-Opening and 65th Anniversary on November 4th and 5th at their South Elgin location.

If you are a smartphone user and are attending the Golf Industry Show in Orlando in February, there is an application that will streamline your experience. Golf Industry Show Connection has a whole bunch of cool tools to make your show experience the best it can be. It's available for iPhone, Android, Blackberry, and any smartphone that has web-browser capability. Ask your smartphone how to download the app. Not while you're driving, though.

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS) held its Annual Meeting on November 11th at its traditional location—The Oak Park Country Club with **Al Fierst** serving as host. At this meeting, the annual election of officers was held, and the board of directors for 2011 is made up of the following individuals: President—**Dan Marco, CGCS**; Vice President—**Dave Ward**; Treasurer—**Jeff VerCautren**; Secretary—**Jeff Frentz, CGCS**; Directors—**Don Cross, CGCS** and **Dave Radaj, CGCS**. Immediate Past President is **Tommy Witt, CGCS**. Congratulations to these gentlemen.

The November 3rd issue of GOLF WEEK magazine featured another of those lists we all aspire to be on (no, not the list of Jennifer Anniston's exes). The 2011 GOLF WEEK'S Best Resort Courses list included a few of MAGCS' own, with **Vinny Dodge, CGCS** and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower, MN coming in at #43; Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa's The General course (**Tom Tully, CGCS**) ranked 91st; and The Glen Club and **Scott Goniwiecha** edging in at 98th. Congrats, guys!

Making another one of those lists was The Chicago Highlands Club and **Michael Heustis**, whose 344-yard ninth hole made *Golf Digest's* 2010 Golf Hole of the Year as part of the magazine's list of Best New Courses. The hole is shaped like a volcano, up a steady rise from the tee to a hilltop green surrounded by slopes of tightly-mowed turf. So basically it's like hitting a ball onto the top of a Hershey's Kiss, where if you miss the mark, your ball rolls 60 yards down, either toward you or away from you. Ouch!

Also caught in print was an article in the October issue of *Club & Resort Business* magazine titled "Putting Down—and Bringing Up—Proper Roots" featuring Naperville Country Club's **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG** and **Dan Dinelli, CGCS** of North Shore Country Club. The article detailed the turf varieties Tim used in his recent renovation at NCC, along with Dan's work with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) at North Shore. Definitely worth a read—nice work, Tim and Dan.

This item was "stolen" from *Verdure*—the official publication of CAGCS. It seems that earlier this season at Coyote Run Golf Course, a part-time employee named Dave had a little "brain-fart" much like we've all seen on our own courses, forgetting to set the parking brake on a sand rake. Here is the result...

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Again, nothing new and different, except for the post-booboo treatment this guy's boss **Dave Ward** inflicted upon him. Not only did he ask the employee to go back in the pond and pose for this photo, he also held a caption contest

among all the Homewood-Flossmoor full-time employees, with judging being done by a couple ladies who work in the Park District's main office. Lesson here: If you screw up while working for Dave, just leave the machine where it ended up and run away, never to return. Oh, and the winning caption? A beauty: "Trying to impress a foursome of female golfers who were putting out on the 16th green, Dave flexes his biceps, sucks in his gut and drives the bunker rake into the pond."

A true icon of golf in Chicagoland celebrated a huge milestone last month when Samuel Henry "Ernie" Ball was guest of honor at his 100th birthday party. Ernie Ball left his native Wales over 75 years ago at the behest of his friend Bobby Jones to come to Georgia to play in the first Augusta National invitation tournament. He is now the lone survivor of the 72 men who played in the first of what would be known for the rest of history as The Masters. Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Ball played in over 50 Majors, including 20 U.S. Opens, 18 PGA Championships, and he dominated the Illinois PGA Section during his long tenure at several Chicagoland clubs including 30 years as teaching pro at Oak Park Country Club followed by 27 years at Butler National. Amazingly, when this guy shoots his age these days, he considers it a bad round. Happy Birthday from MAGCS to Ernie Ball—a legend and an inspiration.

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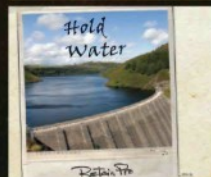


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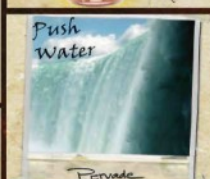
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