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Changes Arriving Soon

My wife Lauren and I are approaching the biggest change we will ever face in our life. At least that is what everyone keeps telling us. We dated for four years before we got married, so getting married didn't seem to be that much of a change. Getting a dog was a big change in our lives. We never had a dog before, and now we had to be home at a certain time or find a "baby sitter" if we knew we would be gone too long to watch the pooch.

Now, we await the arrival of our first child in January (yes, we sort of planned it that way). And from what everyone tells us, our lives will never be the same, in a mostly good way. Thinking about this change excites me and terrifies me.

This coming change is full of unknowns and questions I keep asking. What kind of father am I going to be? How bad can the lack of sleep really be? (I'm told that it's pretty bad.) How am I going to juggle work and family time? Is the baby's head going to fall off if I don't hold it right? Am I going to puke the first few times I change a diaper? What if I pass out in the delivery room? This list goes on forever; each time I think I have no more questions, a new one pops into my head.

I know some of these questions will be answered in our class before the baby arrives, but most of them won't really be answered until I actually experience them. The more I think about it, the more comparisons I relate from becoming a father to becoming a superintendent. Little bits of the knowledge that I use on a regular basis are the concepts that I was taught during turf school. However, the majority of my knowledge of our profession are the items that I have learned through the experience of doing things and absorbing from what other people have done. I foresee that this is how it is going to go with the baby. There's only so much you can learn from a book, but the education that you get from actually doing it and learning from others is limitless.

I will never be able to answer all the questions, but I know I can find the answers to a lot of problems by talking to other superintendents. Something that has been talked about countless times before is the camaraderie that we have in our business. It is something that I believe is unrivaled in any other industry. Before and after we have the baby, there will always be someone to talk to about this life-changing event. Someone at a MAGCS meeting, at golf league, or even on Twitter, will always have had the same experience, or is even going through the same exact thing as Lauren and I and will have some input on ways to solve the problem. Or perhaps, if there is no solution, they'll just say, "yup, that's the way it is, you're going to have to deal with it."

Although I know there will be times that it will be tough to juggle being a new father and a superintendent, it has been done countless times before, so I know it can be accomplished. I'm sure that there will be times that I feel like it's impossible to get it all done, but I'm thankful that I will always have people in the industry to turn to for help. 