

From the Inside OUT

Chuck Barber, St. Charles Country Club

PHOTOS: CHUCK BARBER

"It is the neglect of timely repair that makes rebuilding necessary." – Richard Whately

Richard Whately was a British theologian and thinker who served as the Archbishop of Dublin for the Church of Ireland. I'm not sure what it was he was rebuilding all the time.



Interior decorating is not my thing, actually any kind of decorating is not my thing, thankfully I have a staff with combined talents that took care of it for me this winter.

I imagine having more than one church under your care left a lot of ongoing maintenance to do. That being said, the point I'm trying to make is that I neglected my office. A lot. It fell in to disrepair when I came to St. Charles Country Club in 2011. One day in December of 2013 I decided to change that. Here's how Jason Kahlstorf, our assistant superintendent, and long-time staffer Dan Clark rebuilt what I had neglected.

As you can see in the before pictures there are a lot of exposed wires, there isn't much in the way of storage for our jackets, rain pants, shirts, gloves, hats, and the irrigation computer was in kind of a tight spot. Further, no offense to Pete Leuzinger and Jim Keith but I just wasn't a fan of the chair rail

'lake loons' wall paper. I'm not much of a sportsman which is why I took it off and saved it for Dave Kohley. Finally, the irrigation map was on one side of the room and the computer was on the other. We wanted to have everything all in one spot for clarity's sake. Our goals were set: Update the office, relocate the irrigation computer and find a home for our personal junk.

It turned out to be not as simple as I'd hoped. Nothing in life is ever as easy as I think it should be. The original plan was to remove the carpet, the lake loons, repaint the wall board and the concrete floor. Removing the loons was not going to work so I made the decision to take down the wall board and the old drywall. I'm sure everyone was



Removing wall paper is easiest when you take out the wall board that it is glued to.

THRILLED about that.

Now that the room was back to the studs Jason went in to the attic to move the irrigation system wires, run new internet cables, phone lines, cable, grounding wire and a bunch of other junk. I can't tell you how many times he had to crawl around in the attic. Further, I wanted to raise all of the electrical outlets off the floor and put them at desk height so he did that with the walls off. Finally, there was some insulation that had water damage so they replaced a few strips of the insulation, otherwise it was intact. Now that the carpet had been removed, the loons were gone, the old drywall had been stripped and the insulation replaced the rebuilding could begin.

The new ½" drywall went in next. Thankfully Dan Clark had a lot of experience installing drywall. He and Jason completed it all in a little more than a day. Thanks to one of the many 'dustings' of snow we had in December it took longer than anticipated. No big whoop. After the drywall went up Jason put drywall joint compound on all the seams and fasteners and let it dry overnight. The following morning the compound was sanded smooth. New outlets were installed all around the room to accommodate all the devices we use every day.



The new dryewall took a day to hang.

The next step was to repaint the ceiling. I didn't know this but apparently there is special 'ceiling' paint and paint brushes. Go figure. We bought white ceiling paint that went on pink but dried a brilliant white. I got some on the floor but the next step would take care of that.

Rental Max in St. Charles was kind enough to provide a floor grinder so we can scrape off the old adhesive and stuck carpet off of the concrete floor. It wasn't easy. It was dusty. I mean really, really dusty. We put water down in small amounts to help with the dust. If you choose to do something like this remember to check your furnace filter frequently if it's nearby. Ours would get clogged quickly.

After the floor grinder went back to Rental Max two coats of primer were added to the dry wall. Jason then etched the concrete floor with a dilution of muriatic acid and water. It's important to have good ventilation during this process. This is a lesson I learned the hard way. After the floor was etched it was time to paint the drywall.

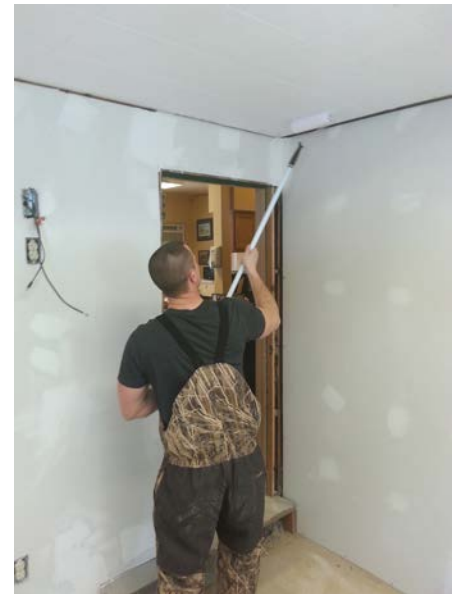


Etching the bare concrete floor ensures that it is clean and good adhesion for paint.

This is Dan's best side. We chose colors that looked good with our break room colors, which is right outside my office. Further, Dan finished painting the new windows that were installed a few years ago.

Dan did the crown moulding himself as well. It was his idea to add decorative inside corner pieces to the room. It makes cutting com-

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We made sure we put electrical outlets where we needed them. We painted the ceiling before the walls.



Dan Clark did a great job of bringing the whole project together with colors, moulding and trim work.

plicated angles at the corners unnecessary and speeds up the finishing process.

Dan is a handy guy to have around because he was able to scale back the size of the cabinet housing or irrigation system components. Jason reinstalled the Rain Bird Maxi Interface Module (MIM), grounding, radio transmitter and all



Jason re-installed the irrigation controls into a custom built housing that will neatly hide all the wiring.

the electrical connections. If you have the chance to hire a former Leibold Irrigation service technician like Jason, I recommend it.

With the crown moulding up and the irrigation cabinet installed it was time to stain the floor. Dutch Boy products makes solid color stains. I was looking for a more marble look but the

concrete we had wouldn't accommodate it. I chose the color green. Get it? Green?

With everything done we moved back in again. This was a welcome change because all of the office furniture had been stored in our pump house and break room. It was nice to have a clean path to walk around the shop again. We added a few dry erase boards and calendars so we could better keep track of the golf calendar and our chemical and fertilizer applications. At the time of this writing the irrigation map is

at the framers.

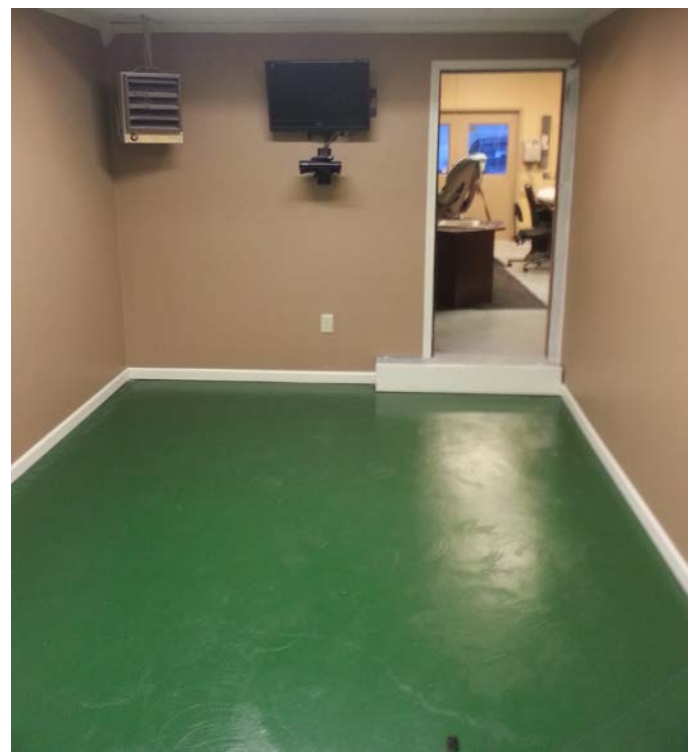
One of our crew members was upgrading his home entertainment and conveniently had a very cheap 55" HD Samsung for sale at a reasonable price. That is the cherry on top right there. I have all of our Grounds and Greens Committee meetings on Powerpoint in our break room and it has been on a 32" TV. It was hard to see some-



Dan added a coat of concrete semi-gloss to the floor to keep it shiny and easy to clean.

times and the VGA cable to connect to the computer was cumbersome. I invested \$35 in a Google Chromecast and can now wirelessly cast my computer screen to the TV. This with the added screen space will greatly improve our monthly meetings.

I would like to thank Jason Kahlstorf, Dan Clark and Fidel Gomez for their work. They put it all together and made it work. Our office is now more functional with compartmentalized irrigation computer systems, wireless printing, improved storage space, and less chair rail lake loons. @



The cleanest my office will ever be.....until the next remodel.