



Are you ready for golf season? It has only been 2½ months since we closed but it seems like a long time ago. If this year is like the past two years we be open in only 1½ months. A lot has happened since we closed. Tiger Woods is back playing on the PGA Tour, the Vikings went in the tank, and the Wild are the best team in hockey. More importantly, we are getting ready for the 2017 golf season. Our limited grill menu that was being served in the fall has been replaced with more options that will fit everyone's needs. The golf course, taking over the restaurant to become the Chisago Lakes Grill, is one of the biggest things to happened here in quite a while. Let me fill you in on what is going on.

I have hired J.J. Johnson to be our head cook and kitchen manager. J.J. worked for a few different owners here in the past and spent the past 1½ years as the Assistant Chef at Swenson's Lake House. He has done a wonderful job of putting the new menu together and getting the kitchen up and running. Many of the new items on the menu are J.J.'s own recipes and he is making a lot of it in-house. Be sure to check out the soups and daily specials we are adding as we get closer to the golf season.

Hopefully, at this point you have had a chance to meet Paula Hanson. She is the Food and Beverage Manager overseeing the bar and dining room. Paula has many years of experience in the hospitality industry, including owning her own catering business in Bemidji before she and her husband moved to the Chisago Lakes Area (where he has his job as a Chisago County Deputy). Paula is working on a part time basis as she and I share the managing responsibilities of the Grill.

We also have hired a great group of cooks and bartenders to serve you. They are here to make your golf and dining experience the best it can be. Our focus is on serving quality food and drinks quickly and providing the friendly atmosphere that people want.

So what is different about the Chisago Lakes Grill from any of the previous operations? The biggest difference is we are focused on golfers first and foremost. This is a golf course first and always will be.

You will notice changes we are making in the dining area to better accommodate golfers. We will be changing the planter near the windows into a big high-top table that can accommodate 12-16 people. This will be perfect for groups when they finish their round. We are also adding another high-top table in the bar area to accommodate 6 or 8 people. This setup will also give us more flow to the bar (and into the bathrooms). This fits with our commitment to getting items 'at the turn' faster. The hot dog machine with condiments, coffeemaker, pop cooler, snacks, and fountain pop dispenser will all be located in an area that makes getting food 'at the turn' quick and easy. The turn menu will also be posted on the 8th and 9th tee boxes where you can call in an order to be picked up when you finish the ninth.

Another change you will see in our food and beverage service is how the on-course service is provided. We will be using the Snack Shack on an everyday basis and adding the beverage cart on busy days. The Snack Shack will have all of your food and beverage needs and will be able to take credit and debit cards. We will have breakfast burritos, grilled hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers all immediately available for you on the course. With having the Shack in the middle of the course and being able to quickly get food and beverages at the turn all your food and beverage needs will be covered. You will have 4 four opportunities to get something during your round. You will be able to 1) stop at the Shack after hole 6, 2) come in at the turn after number nine, 3) after hole 12 you can drive your cart over to the Shack, and 4) you will be back at the shack again after hole 15. If you are walking we will usually have a "courtesy cart" parked near the 13th tee; you will be able to drive over to pick up what you need and/or use the restroom. Plus, you always can get something before and after your round.

Now there are plenty of opportunities to get what you need. If you want to load up on beverages you can get a cooler at the Shack or at the Grill. As you can see, we are pretty serious about serving you. And when you support the food and beverage operation you are also supporting the golf course. We will continue to reinvest in

the golf course as much as we can. With your support we can continue to meet that goal. Our goal with the Grill is the same as with the golf course – to get better every day – to keep making improvements – and to find new and efficient ways we can better serve our customers.

On the golf side of things we had a great 2016. A nice long season, lots of fun tournaments, and a lot of course improvements. We added a total of four new bunkers to the course including the long awaited fairway bunker on hole four. While we won't be doing as many projects this year we will continue to make additional improvements to the course. The one bunker we are looking to add would be near the green on hole 12. Brian also is planning to renovate the bunkers on hole five, rebuilding the fingers on the church pew bunker on hole nine, redesigning the tee boxes on the second and ninth holes and then continuing to work on improving drainage on holes 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17.

Once again we will have a full event schedule for this year – Men's Club, Ladies Invitational, Men's and Ladies Leagues, Junior Golf, the Demo Day and Beer/Wine Tasting event are, just a few. CLGC is the place to be! You know you will see a friendly face when you come in the Pro Shop, the greens will be the best around, and you will be treated well. As of now no one has indicated interest in running the Men's Club as well as the Wednesday Night Men's League so if you are interested please contact me at tkueppers@chisagolakesgolf.com

If you want to join our fun, there are a number of ways to get connected to CLGC and save money. You can get a Membership or one of our Pay 'n Play packages. Or try out our Golf and Cart card or Players' Club Package. Even better, if you have had a Bronze or Silver Membership in the past, consider upgrading to one of our Premium Memberships (Onyx and Gold). These include unlimited golf, USGA handicaps, reciprocal golf at other courses and more! You will play more golf and have the opportunity to play other courses at a discount.

In continuing to encourage families playing golf together – especially those with younger kids, this year Juniors 17 and under are FREE on any membership with their Mom or Dad! In addition, any dependents ages 18-22 can be added to a parent's single membership for only \$95.

The Chisago Lakes Golf Course Junior Scholarship Program is available again this year. We will be awarding two junior golf memberships and range privileges (up to a \$365 value!) to one male and one female golfer. These scholarships are awarded to applicants submitting an essay discussing what golf means to them and how it has affected their life. The scholarships will be awarded to junior golfers who are currently enrolled in 7th to 11th grade in the schools of the District 2144 area. Academics and strong core values are considered in awarding the scholarships. The essays must be submitted to me at tkueppers@chisagolakesgolf.com by March 18th.

The 2017 fee schedule, membership application, league and event information is enclosed. Membership dues MUST be received or postmarked by Friday, March 18th to secure the early payment discount. Again we're offering the opportunity to choose the two-payment option (first payment by March 18th, second payment by May 31st). **You must have a credit card on file. The remaining balance will be processed on May 31st.** Payments must be received by those dates to maintain playing privileges.

If you are interested in securing a 'permanent' tee time please contact me and I will send you the form (it requires a credit card to hold the tee time). Priority will be given to those who have contacted me and turned in their form before March 18th.

If you have any questions please contact me at (651) 257-1484 or e-mail tkueppers@chisagolakesgolf.com. We are looking forward to serving you again in 2017, and as always, thank you for making Chisago Lakes Golf Course your golf home.

Sincerely,

Todd Kueppers
PGA Professional
General Manager
Chisago Lakes Golf Course