



April 1, 2024

Dear Oaks Members,

In this month's letter, I would like to provide several updates from our committees at The Oaks. We are off to a great start for 2024 with our membership strong and some exciting happenings in the works for this Spring!

## **Finance**

The Club continues to perform well in all financial aspects through the first quarter of 2024. After a slow start in January due to the weather, the club recovered as expected throughout the remaining months of the quarter. We continue to realize greater member participation in all areas of the Club, which keeps us healthy financially. Our management team continues to steward the operations efficiently, keeping our operating expenses within budget. This past month, Heatherington & Fields, CPA conducted an annual audit of our financial statements and the club passed in all areas.

## **Clubhouse Operations**

We are enhancing our outdoor dining seating with the addition of new umbrellas on the Tillinghast patio. The umbrellas are scheduled to arrive and be installed this month! Additionally, we are working with our vendors to complete repairs on the Centennial Patio door and the 71<sup>st</sup> Street Entrance Gate. Elevating the member experience is a priority, and in the coming year, you will be requested to participate in our new survey feedback system. Thank you for your continued support in providing feedback so that we can fulfill our mission of continuous improvement.

## **Food, Beverage & Entertainment**

Chef Anthony and our staff are delivering enhanced dining experiences to our members and their guests with new menu items and 3-course dinners with drink pairings. Chris Hardgrave continues to bring us special events that have proven very popular with several new events scheduled for this quarter.

## **Greens & Grounds**

The new **Back Nine Restrooms** opened this month! I am sure you will agree this is a needed upgrade over the old building. The new building is ADA compliant, protected with a closed-camera security system in the lobby and the exterior of the building, and equipped with a self-service refreshment bar. It also has an extended patio area that can be used for special events. We are holding a grand opening

event for the Back Nine Restroom during the Horse Race on April 26<sup>th</sup> that will also feature our custom Oaks blended Makers Mark Bourbon.



We have acquired our first autonomous mower, "Husky," to test at the Oaks. Battery powered robotic mowers are an emerging trend in the golf industry offering many benefits. They generate no direct emissions, low noise levels, and produce high-quality turf. They are programmed to cut specific areas and can be run day or night. Additionally, they will deliver consistent cut quality throughout the golf course while reducing labor costs. We project the payback on Husky within the first year of use and will evaluate further use of this mowing technology on other areas of our property.

**SavATree Study:** The first step in our tree management master plan is underway. SavATree personnel were onsite this past month to identify, inventory, label, and plot over one thousand of our trees as well as assess their health. Their report and recommendations are expected this quarter. This is a critical initiative to proactively maintain one of our great assets at the Oaks, our trees.

The condition of the golf course continues to be exceptional. Many thanks to Dan and his team, who have really provided a remarkable golf course despite the wind, the heat, and everything else Oklahoma can offer. His team was able to complete the French drains, extend the #17 tee box area, and finished the #3 tee box renovation ahead of schedule. Our seasonal green aerification was completed in record time. Smaller tines were used and the new material hauler reduced the golf course down time allowing us to open for play in the afternoon the very next day! To learn more, make sure to read Dan's "Course Clippings" update in the monthly Breeze Newsletter.

## Golf

The 2024 Golf Schedule is in full swing with a busy slate this month. The year kicked off with the Super Bowl Scramble in frigid weather (kudos to those brave players who participated). The upcoming schedule includes: The Oaks Masters, Spring Stag Day, The Tilly Cup Matches, in addition to the Seniors, Couples and Ladies events. Also, you can now register for events, schedule lessons, and make same day tee times on The Oaks Fore Tees app!

On May 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>, the Oaks is hosting the 6A State Boys Championship as our club was selected to showcase the most talented, young male golfers in Oklahoma! Please contact Derrick if you would like to volunteer during this event.

## Swimming Pool, Tennis & Pickleball

Please welcome Liz Bacon as our new tennis/pickleball program director! She holds a USPTA certification and has experience as a tennis coach and professional. Liz will coordinate our growing Pickleball program and is available to provide private instruction. Pickleball leagues for men, women, and couples are starting in April!

Pool season is coming! The new WIFI pool controllers have been installed to automatically ensure proper sanitization and pH levels in our three pools. The pool will be ready for the Memorial Day Weekend!

## **Membership**

The Oaks continues to have full membership in all categories. Additionally, we have a strong waiting list with 28 prospective members in process.

**Oaks 2030 Strategic Plan:** As Oaks Country Club continues to enjoy prosperity, now is the time for our club to develop and implement a sound overall strategic plan that will keep us on course through the year 2030. A well-constructed and enduring strategic plan addressing all facilities, programs, services, and amenities will sustain our club's relevance and keep it attractive to all generations of members, both new and old. We enlisted the McMahon Group, a leading private club planning consultant, to assist us with the development of the strategic plan. Member input is critical to the development of this plan. We must ensure that we are investing in club amenities and services that matter most to our membership.

In April, we kick off the first step of the Oaks 2030 Strategic Plan with the help of Member Focus Groups that will provide input into the Member Survey. Later this quarter, the entire membership will be asked to complete a survey. It is our goal to hear from as many of you as possible to understand your perspective on the club as we look to develop a strategic plan as a roadmap for the Club's future.

## **Compensation & Benefits**

Attracting and retaining talented people to The Oaks continues to be a focus area. Please contact Justin, if you know of a special person that would be a valuable member of the Oaks team.

In closing, thank you for your continued support of the Oaks. It has been an honor serving you on the Board and President. Special thanks to my fellow board members, who willingly gave their time and talents to our club. I am blessed by their friendship and support.

Sincerely,

Scott DeGeer, President