



Groundskeepers mow around a new bunker on the 10th hole at Bend Golf Club.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Bend Golf Club gets a makeover

The venerable club's membership is completely full for the first time in 16 years as changes are made

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin

Bend has become a hotspot for professionals who work remotely and can live pretty much anywhere they choose.

Many of these newcomers to Central Oregon are golfers.

So as the housing market has surged in Bend, so has the demand for golf as the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year.

Proof of the increase in the popularity of the game can be found in the memberships at Bend Golf Club.

The venerable club's membership is completely full for the first time in 16 years, according to Bend Golf Club general manager Jeff Keller.

"There's a lot of folks moving to town," Keller said. "If people can work from home, where do they want to live? That helps. We've done what we've done over the last three years (at Bend Golf Club), and we've done no advertising. So every-

body's talking about who we are, and it's been fun to watch."

Central Oregon's oldest club has announced big changes for this season, including more than \$270,000 of upgrades that are under way.

"Once we became debt-free, we were able to focus our efforts on who we really are as a club, and what we needed to do to our facility and course to attract those golfers who shared our vision," Keller said.

See **Bend** / 14