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MAIN EVENTS

12 LEGION FIELD: CENTERPIECE OF TOWN'S 150-YEAR BASEBALL TRADITION

In 1839, the small farming community of Marshall, MN, located 180 miles southwest of Minneapolis, cleared a patch of ground on the outskirts of the city for a novelty called baseball. The sport caught on quickly and brought the residents together. Although Legion Field was moved in 1911 to make room for the growing city, it has always served as a centerpiece for Marshall's historic baseball tradition. The fact that Legion Field was voted the best municipal baseball facility in the Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards is a tribute to the city's long-lived fondness for the game. The team that makes Legion Field sparkle consists of the park department, the school district, the Marshall Baseball Association, and consultant Mark Altman. By paying special attention to the field's soil conditions and detailed maintenance, the team produced a diamond which rivals those in the Major League.

22 DRAINAGE PROJECT HELPS REVITALIZE COUNTRY CLUB

Valley Country Club in Aurora, CO, is a family-oriented club situated on the banks of Cherry Creek southwest of Denver. Since it was built in 1955, the club has survived floods, droughts, a poor economy, and competition from newer courses. But each left its mark and forced the club to reevaluate its condition after 25 years. Today, after a series of major improvements, Valley Country Club is a shining example of what a private club can do to revitalize its condition and membership. The first improvement, and the one that has made a huge difference to the course's quality, is a new drainage system. In addition, the club now boasts a new clubhouse, a computerized irrigation system using effluent water, and a near-full golf membership.

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COVER: Legion Field has served amateur baseball in Marshall, MN, since 1911. Baseball has been played in the city since 1839. Photo Courtesy: Mark Altman.