Largest Palmer-designed development set in Florida

LEESBURG, Fla. — Palmer Course Design, owned by Arnold Palmer, plans to build its largest-ever development in South Lake County. Golf balls soon will be flying where citrus groves abounded during the early 1980s.

The Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission approved the plans in a 2,320-acre, hilly, burnt-out citrus countryside surrounding Sugarloaf Mountain. After the 1983 and 1985 freezes devastated orange groves, growers were hesitant to replant. Karick Price, who owns 484 acres on the proposed site and arranged the deal, said this would be Palmer's biggest land development. Palmer Course Design, headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, maintains 24 golf courses and has developed 200 golf course projects. The Lake County project, located north of County Road 561A, would have two 18-hole golf courses, 1,145 acres of single family homes, 90 acres of golf villas, 310 acres of golf courses, 100 acres of lake and 290 acres of open space.

There would be a commercial area, clubhouse, parks, nature trails, bike paths, athletic fields, schools, churches and community centers.

Seed group creates biotechnology panel

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Seed Trade Association has created a biotechnology committee to bring an established industry presence and center for cooperation to those who work in commercial biotechnology. Officials feel it should be an excellent forum for industry leaders to exchange views, identify areas for cooperation and combine talents that will help commercial technology achieve its fullest potential, with emphasis on the seed industry. Chairman Warren Springer may be reached at 612-593-7265.

EPA steps aside on Cutler Bay project

BISCAYNE, Fla. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won't block construction of the Old Cutler Bay development near Biscayne National Park. After reviewing modified plans submitted by Dade developer Raul Planas, the EPA cleared the way for Planas to build a luxury housing complex around a golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus. However, the development will be smaller than originally proposed. Planas agreed not to fill in eight acres of rare white mangroves along Biscayne Bay.

The EPA had threatened to use the Clean Water Act to veto Planas' construction permit. Mangroves are stringently protected under local, state and federal laws.

Lake Norman area to get course

MOORESVILLE, N.C. — A $2 million golf facility here, just off 1-77 at Exit 36, should serve the entire Lake Norman area. This would include Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Denver, Lincolnton, Salisbury and Statesville.

Melvin F. Graham of Graham Enterprises bought the 25-acre site. Graham and partner Grady Skumate of Sambelt Golf Properties Inc., plan golf centers in Charlotte and south of Charlotte — perhaps Rocky Hill. The local golf center is to include an aero-shop, practice-green, spacious sand traps, five target greens and 25 tee boxes complete with cover for foul weather. Tees will be of natural turf. All greens will be sodded and the turf area, fairways included, irrigated.

Instructions will be available by appointment with PGA instructors. Video cameras also will be available.

Rejected developer opposing others

CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. — A developer, challenging the town's condemnation of his land for a golf course, financed an organization's successful campaign to halt additional course funding. Richard Herman donated $13,551 to the Dartwood Community Homeowners Association, which spearheaded opposition to authorize an additional $1.9 million for the golf course.

The proposal was defeated in referendum, 18,264 to 6,888. Herman and co-owner Richard J. Kowalski are appealing a state Supreme Court decision that permitted the town to take the land. The Town Board has not decided whether to proceed with the golf course, using the $2 million previously approved.

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