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The most important people in the golf course industry make our front page every month.

People like Tim Hiers, Golf Course Manager of the 54 hole private John’s Island Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Past President of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, Tim received the organization’s Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and is currently their Chairman of Government Relations. Tim is a seminar instructor for several organizations and is also a special consultant to the PGA.

Hiers likens Golf Course News to “a Reader’s Digest of the golf course industry,” with topics that are “interesting, well-written, and pertinent to golf and its environment.”

If you want to reach Tim and 22,000 others who are the most important people in the industry... decision makers at nearly every course in America, call Golf Course News today.

It’s “addressed” for success.

Hawaii council nixes impact fees

By Peter Hille

The Honolulu City Council has unanimously reversed an April 20th decision to institute a $100,000 impact fee on all land exchanges, thereby averting an immediate financial calamity for the state and its golf courses.

The council’s action was taken after an outcry from the industry, which pointed out that the fees would have been one of the most severe in the nation. The fees would have made it impossible for land developers to finance projects.

The council voted 9-0 to overturn the decision, with one abstention. The vote came after a series of public hearings during which hundreds of people spoke out against the fees, and after a lengthy meeting with the state’s executive branch.

The council’s action was praised by the state’s golf course industry, which has been struggling to survive the economic downturn.

Sherman Hollow dealt a blow by Vt. board

By Peter Hille

The Vermont Environmental Board has voted to reject a proposed impact fee on all land exchanges, thereby averting an immediate financial calamity for the state and its golf courses.

The fee was proposed by the state’s Executive Branch, which sought to offset the cost of providing services to the state’s golf courses.

The Environmental Board voted 4-0 to reject the fee, with one abstention. The vote came after a series of public hearings during which hundreds of people spoke out against the fees, and after a lengthy meeting with the state’s executive branch.

The fee was expected to generate $100,000 in revenue, which would have been used to offset the cost of providing services to the state’s golf courses.

USGA puts rebuffed TRACs on hold

By Peter Hille

The U.S. Golf Association’s (USGA) TRAC program, which was designed to help golf courses improve their environmental practices, has been put on hold.

The program was announced in 2009 and was expected to be fully operational by 2012. However, the USGA has decided to hold off on implementing the program while it works with the national golf course superintendents association to develop a new, more comprehensive program.

The USGA’s decision was made after a series of discussions with the national golf course superintendents association, which had expressed concerns about the program’s effectiveness.
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