Stray golf balls the subject of lawsuit

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The folks at Bailey's Mobile Home Park in Nicholasville have flat out had it with stray golf balls from the next-door Plantation Links Golf Center. And they're going to court for relief.

Five residents have filed a lawsuit in Jessamine Circuit Court to force the driving range-centered golf facility to keep golf balls off their property and to recover more than $7,500 in property damages ranging from dents in cars to broken windows and punctured siding. Residents say the incoming golf balls have ruined their quality of life and pose a constant hazard.

The golf center operator, Tee Time Development, said it has tried to work with the property owners to minimize the potential for problems, including closing one set of tees.

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EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — Three new golf course developments are planned for an area known as Metro East within 15 minutes of the famous Arch in downtown St. Louis just across the Mississippi River.

The biggest of the three projects is planned for the East St. Louis riverfront: a state-of-the-art golf complex with an 18-hole course and a $40,000 square-foot conference and banquet center. It will be developed by the Koman Group, which owns the Casino Queen and will be managed by Hale Irwin Golf Services. City officials hope the golf course will drive development of condominiums, apartments, hotels and other attractions.

In Centreville, extensive renovations are underway at the Grand Marais Golf Course. In recent years, the course has suffered from soggy greens and flooded fairways. But a new management team has pumped in millions of dollars to make improvements. Through substantial renovations, the course now has rolling hills, smooth greens and 11 new lakes. In November, developers also opened a new 9,600 square-foot clubhouse.

Lastly, Cahokia city officials are working out financing for a new $5 million, 18-hole municipal golf course. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring. The course, to be located next to Cahokia Park, is being developed by Fairway Golf Development Inc. and built by Svendsen Builders Inc.

Penn. proposal dies slow death

READING, Pa. — A golf course proposal that the Reading Water Authority has been putting together for the last three months has been taken off the agenda indefinitely.

The authority first showed interest in building a golf course at a site at Lake Ontelaunee last November. It then changed the proposal to a site at Lake Antietam after deciding opposition from environmentalists would be too strong. There has been as much opposition to the Lake Antietam site from the initial core group that opposed the Lake Ontelaunee site.

So far, the only official action taken on a golf course proposal has been a $12,000 topographical survey of the Lake Antietam site. For now, the authority has said it wants to concentrate on solving a projected $860,000 revenue shortfall and pursuing a city water system, according to Michael A. Setley, a solicitor for the authority. The authority's negotiations with the city over a water system and land holdings are expected to determine how quickly, if ever, the idea of building a golf course will resurface, and who would have the ultimate authority to approve such a proposal.

Conn. voters nix Timberland site

GUILFORD, Conn. — Voters in this small town on the Connecticut shoreline just east of New Haven have overwhelmingly rejected a plan to build an 18-hole golf course inside a 590-acre town forest called the Timberlands.

According to the town clerk's office, nearly 3,800 residents voted by a 3-1 margin in a special referendum to not allow a proposed 290-acre golf course to be built in forest in the Guilford Lakes area.

The vote, however, referred specifically to siting the course in the Timberlands. The town's Golf Course Committee may now look for another location.

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