Trevino to transform St. Pete dump

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A 270-acre former county dump known as Toytown may soon be transformed into a public 27-hole golf course designed by Lee Trevino.

Trevino-owned Eighteen Construction of Jacksonville will pay $5,000 for the right to negotiate exclusively with Pinellas County officials to lease the property. County officials are apparently very enthusiastic about the proposal.

Toytown, located near Interstate 275 and Roosevelt Boulevard in northeast St. Petersburg, served as the county's landfill until about 10 years ago when it was closed and sealed. The county has been trying to market the site ever since.

There have been other ideas floated for Toytown including a spring training baseball stadium and an outdoor amphitheater. No proposals have gone as far as the golf complex.

"The area is a tremendous area," said Joseph Salinas, treasurer of Lee Trevino/William Graves Inc. of Dallas. "There's a big need for some more holes out there."

FREMONT — After several changes of opinion by city officials, it now looks like an 18-hole private golf course may be built in the hills east of Interstate 680 near Avalon, a hillside development of 275 luxury homes.

Mayor-elect Gus Morrison and Councilor Judy Zlatnik say they support a developer's plan to build the golf course on a 405-acre space that has been left undeveloped. Both Morrison and Zlatnik were elected in November on a preservationist, slow-growth platform.

Morrison and Zlatnik say that while they were opposed in the past to the luxury Avalon development, they now see the building of a private golf course near there as a sensible, workable option. Fremont, a city of 185,000, does not have a full-size golf course.

John Wong, the president of developer Mission Peak, controls the future of the land until the new homes at Avalon are sold.

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HEAD PRO CRAMPS ARIZONA LAYOUT

MESA, Ariz. — Brad Schoenberg, the head pro at the new Apache Creek Golf Club in Apache Junction, should know a bit more about the course than your average pro. After all, he designed it and built it.

In an unusual move aimed at keeping costs down, Schoenberg, course owner Joe Alsip and greens superintendent Chad Shotton teamed up to design and build the par-72 layout. Schoenberg learned the craft of making a golf course from local architect Brian Whitcomb, who has designed The 500 Club and Club West at the Foothills.

"I'm very proud of the way it's turned out," said Schoenberg. "It's not often that a head pro gets the opportunity to design his own golf course."

COLORADO TRACK AWAITS APPROVAL

LONGMONT, Colo. — A third municipal golf course could be open by May 1997 if a lease-purchase agreement is worked out to provide financing for the 210-acre, 18-hole course in the Spring Valley area.

If the lease agreement is approved, construction on the golf course is expected to begin in the spring. Golf course architect Robert Trent Jones II has designed the layout. G.T. Lands and Centrex Homes are planning to develop the area around the golf course, including 1,000 to 1,200 new homes planned over a 10-to-20-year period.

WORK UNDERWAY IN PHOENIX

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Construction has begun on a new golf course in south Phoenix, one of the first ever built in that part of the city. The Raven Golf Group is building the The Raven Golf Club across from Phoenix's South Mountain Park. The 7,100-yard course, designed by David Graham and Gary Panks, is scheduled for completion by October 1995. Wadsworth Golf Construction is the contractor.