City to fund infrastructure for golf course

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ohio — A residential/golf course development project almost nine years in the making appears to be inching closer to reality.

A major obstacle had been questions about drainage and roadways. The city will issue bonds that will be repaid from fees charged at the public course. No city money will be used.

The land is owned by Miner Properties Inc., and Abercrombie Limited Liability Corp. is the developer. Plans call for 100 to 800 single housing units in the $250,000 to $300,000 range and an 18-hole golf course on 480 acres.

Oklahoma links finally opens

MCALESTER, Okla. — The 18-hole Thundercreek Golf Course, the town's first municipal layout, recently opened.

The course was built in just over two years. Energy Construction Specialists and Chambers Construction handled much of the work. The irrigation system was done in-house. The course architect was Randy Heckenhamper.

Financing came from a 1992 bond issue that received overwhelming voter approval and allowed the course to issue $53 million of bonds.

June unveiling set for NC track

MERANE, N.C. — An 18-hole golf course that is part of the 66-acre Club at Mill Creek is being seeded and workers are laying sod around the greens in anticipation of a June 1 opening.

The course will be semiprivate. First Oaklands Properties of Raleigh, which is handling the golf course development, expanded the course acreage slightly to avoid wetland areas and agreed to monitor the site for any contamination of water due to chemicals.

River Oaks ponders new nine

COTTAGE GROVE, Minn. — Officials in this city just southeast of St. Paul are considering a nine-hole River Oaks Municipal Golf Course.

They're also considering adding a new dining room to the existing clubhouse.

River Oaks, which opened almost three years ago, is the only publicly owned and operated golf course in Washington County. Approximately 42,000 rounds of golf were played at the course last summer and manager Bruce Anderson estimated that the club made a profit of approximately $30,000.

A consultant earlier this year predicted that a proposed 18-hole municipal golf course and driving range in Woodbury would reap the city estimated annual profits of at least $500,000 over the next 20 years.

There are also plans in Oakdale for an 18-hole course under a private-public arrangement.

Minn. developers threaten countersuit

HIWABIK, Minn. — Two groups opposing development of an 18-hole golf course at Giants Ridge Recreational Area have filed an appeal to stop or at least delay construction.

But the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, which oversees the site, has said that if construction is delayed by a legal injunction, it will ask that a $1 million bond be posted against the environmental groups.

The Iron Rangers for Responsible Ridge Action (IRRA) and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy are seeking to delay any construction until further environmental studies can be completed. They are upset with a decision of the St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Commission which stated that construction at the site, which includes hills, lakes, streams and heavy forest, could begin without a full-blown Environmental Impact Study.

IRRA has maintained that a series of agency-paid environmental studies are sufficient. Those studies found that the golf course would not have a significant environmental effect. A $4.8 million contract to build the golf course already has been issued to Park Construction of Minneapolis.

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