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Jacobson Inks Va. Project

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Walley Forms Design Firm

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A new company focusing exclusively on design, consultation and development of golf-related projects has been formed here by Mark Walley, formerly a principal in the architectural landscape company of Bills/Childs Associates. Walley is in the process of signing several clients in the southeastern Michigan region. He intends to control the growth of Golf Services Group by selectively handling only projects to which he can devote appropriate personal attention. The firm is located at 266 S. Fifth, Suite 200, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48108.

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Hurdzan, Cook collaborate again

PALM DESERT, Calif. — Golf course architect Michael Hurdzan is teaming with PGA Tour pro John Cook to design the new public Desert Willows North Course here, the first of two 18-hole courses for the 540-acre Desert Willows development. The $9.6 million, 18-hole public championship-caliber course will give the city its first municipally owned links. The course is scheduled to open by February. Hurdzan and Cook have said the goal is to make the track one of the top 10 in the state.

Ken Kavanaugh, an evolving style

Aplus-1 handicapped golfer, Ken Kavanaugh has been designing golf courses since 1985. His first experience in course design came in 1981 when he was project manager for Fred Enke Municipal Golf Course in Tucson, Ariz. His Southwyck Golf Club outside Houston opened to praise in 1989 as did Orchard Valley Golf Course in Aurora, Ill., host of the 1996 Illinois State Open. The Resort at Gold Canyon’s 11th, 12th and 13th holes are ranked in Arizona’s top 10.

Golf Course News: Your first design job was nine holes for Roy Rodgers and Dale Evans. How did you land that job?

Ken Kavanaugh: I graduated in 1976 in landscape architecture and practiced it for 10 years. Everybody I met knew my goal was to design golf courses, so the word got around out here. Roy Rodgers and Dale Evans were involved with Thousand Trails, a group that builds destination RV resorts.