New Jersey course may be island bound

BURLINGTON CITY, N.J. — Local developers are discussing plans to build a public, 18-hole course on an island that sits just 130 yards off the banks of the Delaware River.

Project costs and who will direct the financing for the Burlington Island development are yet to be determined. Joseph Egan Jr., former president of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corp., and a longtime local real estate player; and Sam Katz of EnterSports Capital Advisors Inc. in Bala Cynwyd, a nationally known developer are the developers.

Egan said development will be limited on the 300 acres of land and 100-acre freshwater lake that comprise the island. He expects it to be an environmental area with recreation components, including a clubhouse, chip-and-putt course, small hotel or conference center, recreational paths, marina, and a bridge connecting the island and Burlington City.

Board officials for the island said they have only agreed to listen to what the developers have to offer. Egan and Katz have requested an exclusive 18-month contract to see if they can raise the money. The decision on the request should be made by the end of this month. The developers are also waiting for a bill to pass the state legislature that would extend the current 5-year lease on the island property. The legislation is expected to pass.

Burlington city officials and the Board of Island Managers have direct jurisdiction over what happens to the island, but because of its location, several other governmental bodies also have a say in what gets developed there. Those agencies include the Environmental Protection Agency, state Department of Environmental Protection, the Tidelands Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Huizenga-owned Caddyshack course to receive facelift

DAVIE, Fla. — The grass was once greener at Rolling Hills Golf and Country Club, but now the greens have faded to browns and grays because someone killed them — on purpose.

The mounds of dirt amid a sea of hay-colored grass is part of a facelift for the 35-year-old course, which was featured in the 1980 film Caddyshack.

The most ecologically friendly method to prepare a course for redesign is to stop the water so the topsoil can be used, according to Stan Smith, spokesman for Florida Panthers Holding Inc., the new owner of the course. The track is the sixth purchased by the company, which is chaired by Wayne Huizenga.

Plans for the links include: renovating the country club, changing the shapes of the greens and sand traps, adding 10 acres of water and transforming the 27-hole course into an 18-hole championship track. It will cost $3.5 million to renovate the public course. A price for refurbishing the clubhouse has not been set. It’s expected to be open for play in early 1999. The architects are Garcia/Brenner & Stromberg. Jim Applegate is the architect in charge of course renovations.

In the meantime, workers will replant the fairways with Bermuda grass and the greens with fescue grass. The approximately 200 Spanish oak trees that currently shade the layout will remain.

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CARLTON JOINS MASTERS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Masters Golf Corp. has hired Wendy Carlton as its marketing coordinator. Carlton will provide marketing support as well as marketing and membership generation services for Masters-managed clubs. She joins the Masters team after a career with TeamStaff and Arabian Nights where she gained extensive experience in marketing and client relations.

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