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NEWS

Town approves \$1.7M clubhouse

The municipal Winnetka (III.) Golf Course officials have won Village Council approval to build a new \$1.7-million clubhouse to replace an "inadequate" facility.

The construction will not be funded by property taxes but rather by golf user fees, \$300,000 in cash on hand and about \$1.4 million in bonds.

Daiichi to upgrade Lakeover

Daiichi America Real Estate Corp., which bought the former Lakeover Country Club in Bedford, N.Y., for \$24.9 million, plans to turn it into a world-class golf course by 1991.

Lakeover, now Whitfield Golf Course, became Daiichi's first golf course in the United States when it bought the property in mid-September from Whitfield Development Corp. of Norwalk, Conn.

"The immediate plan is to redesign and improve the golf course," said Douglas Danzig of the Park Avenue law firm Marks, Murase & White, which represents Daiichi. "They're willing to spend as much as it takes to rebuild the course... It will be a worldclass, top-notch golf course" by the spring of 1991."

It is the second sale of a northern Westchester property to a Japanese firm this year involving golf course plans. Mitsui Fudosan Inc., a Tokyo real-estate company, bought 239 acres from the Lincoln Hall school in Somers.

McCumber, Goodkin form partnership

McCumber Golf and Goodkin Research Corp. have formed McCumber/Goodkin Golf Group, focusing on public play and semiprivate golf facility opportunities.

McCumber President and Chief Operating Officer James L. McCumber announced for joint venture between his firm and Goodkin, a real-estate research firm.

The new business will cater to all facets of the golf industry from feasibility analysis, design and construction, financing and investment to golf course management, club operations and course maintenance.

"It is our combination of skills, experience, knowledge and market presence," McCumber said, "that allows us to identify economically under-utilized existing courses or new developing opportunities, determine whether to construct a new golf facility or reposition an existing facility, and how to manage all phases of a facility's programs to ensure that economic return is optimized."

Goodkin Research Corp.'s sister corporation, Goodkin Real Estate Investment Services, Inc., assists in joint ventures, equity and debt financing and real-estate risk management.

Tortoise endangers Utah project

Designation of the desert tortoise as an endangered species has endangered plans for a golf course community in St. George, Utah.

Utah Bureau of Land Management officials have reported that the site for the project contains an average of 100 desert tortoises per square mile — "among the highest (densities) in the Majave Desert."

Desert tortoises in Utah, Nevada, California and parts of Arizona were designated as endangered this year after biologists discovered many were dying from a respiratory disease.

Rocky Mountain Ventures of St. George wants to buy 2,400 acres of state-owned land between St. George and Washington for the 300-home resort community.

The emergency measure naming the tortoises endangered expires April 1 but U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials hope to provide permanent protection for the animals by that time.

Town buys course to block developer

With townspeople standing firmly behind them, Manheim (Pa.) Township commissioners have voted to buy Overlook Golf Course there for more than \$7 million, blocking a developer's plans to build 534 houses and apartments at the site.

The commissioners voted unanimously to condemn the 101-acre golf course, stopping the plans of Murry Development Corp. of Lancaster, Pa.

Now lawyers for the town and Murry will negotiate a deal for Murry to buy the golf course and develop the area in a way the town will agree to.

Supporters of the township's purchase feel that if the course is developed, the costs of a new school and road improvements will be more difficult to afford than buying the course now.



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