

Superfacility brings variety to Chicago

Tanguay-Burke-Stratton Comprehensive Real Estate Services has arranged a lease valued at \$3.1 million for Chicago's first golf retail superstore and indoor golf facility at the Washington square building at 651 W. Washington Ave.

The 14,933-square-foot golf center — Pro Golf & Country Club — opened in May offering five individual driving ranges, putting greens, three computerized 18-hole golf simulators, lessons from a staff of teaching pros, and a discount golf equipment and accessory store.

The store will have about 7,500 square feet, and the rest of the space will be set aside for golf instruction, practice, training, simulators and a lounge. Chicago Design Network designed the facility.

The computer-simulated golf machines use the latest technology so golfers can simulate play on such famous courses as Pebble Beach and Spyglass in California, Club du Bonmont in Switzerland, and Quinto du Lago in Portugal.

Nat'l Nitelite tourney set

The inaugural 1989 National Nitelite "Day/Nite" open golf tournament will be held Sept. 9-10 at Doral Country Club in Miami, Fla.

Nelson F. Newcomb, president of Pick Point Enterprises in Mirror Lake, N.H., which markets the novel night ball, said tourney will benefit the National Society To Prevent Blindness, headquartered in Schaumburg, Ill.

Steve Caldwell of Tara Ferncroft Country Club in Danvers, Mass., became the first pro to enter. Teams daily will play 18 daytime holes and nine nighttime holes that count double.

During night play, winter rules will apply. When putting, the Nitelite tee will be used to mark balls. The Nitelite putter is recommended because it lights up so that the angle of the blade can be seen.

Flashlights are recommended for all players. However, shining the light on the ball or green to "read" greens is prohibited. The 4-inch lightstick will be used on flagsticks, 150-yard markers, tees and in cups for direction and lights.

Players must wear a lightstick pinned to their backs. The lightstick weighs a half-ounce and does not interfere with the swing.

Panks designer at Sedona

In the April issue of Golf Course News we mistakenly reported that the new Sedona (Ariz.) Golf Resort's 18-hole championship public course was designed by Gary Panks. It was designed by Gary Panks, who has joined with David Graham to form a design firm.

Pesticides embroiled in controversy

BY MARK LESLIE

The debate over lawn care chemicals is intensifying in the wake of a report on the lawn care industry by the Ralph Nader-founded watchdog group Public Citizen.

The two-part report recommends that people avoid pesticides whenever possible, claims that 12 of the 40 major chemicals used on lawns are carcinogens, and calls for Environmental Protection Agency and state government action to tighten laws controlling use of the chemicals.

EPA and lawn care industry officials are condemning the report as unscientific, irresponsible and misleading.

EPA herbicide branch chief Tom Adamczyk said, "If the label directions are followed, we feel that there are no unreasonable adverse effects from registered pesticides... We have nearly complete data on many of them (pesticides). If we felt something was a known carcinogen, we would certainly take it off the market."

Public Citizen's claims differ sharply with studies done by the medical and regulatory sources, and scientists associated with the Professional Lawn Care Association of America rebutted the report's claims:

- The report is wrong in its claim pesticides are untested or have extensive data gaps, they said, adding that of the pesticides are used extensively on food crops and must undergo extensive tests and that independent studies of long-term lawn care employees "have confirmed the absence of long-term health effects."

- Public Citizen's "assertion that the use of lawn products poses a cancer risk is a gross misinterpretation of the data reviewed by the EPA and other independent scientists," they said. "The vast majority of data on the carcinogenicity of pesticides is based upon animals exposed to large amounts of concentrated material over a lifetime. EPA recognizes that adverse health-effects data generated on animals does not equate to the very limited exposure of humans."

- While the report assumes that humans, especially children, are

exposed to frequent, high levels of lawn pesticides, research from Canada, Massachusetts and California "indicates that little, if any, pesticide will dislodge and transfer to humans or their clothing once a liquid lawn care application has dried." A minute number of people may have an allergic reaction to a given pesticide, they add, but some are also allergic to milk, pets or makeup.

- The report says lawn care companies have made untrue and misleading claims about safety of their products, but those companies and the EPA feel that when used according to label directions,

'The law ... puts interests of pesticide ... industries over public health.'
— Laura Weiss

lawn care pesticides can be used safely.

- Public Citizen says exposure to 2, 4-D (used in about 1,500 lawn care products) may be linked to non-Hodgkins lymphoma in Kansas farmers, but the PLCCA said the EPA, Canadian government and Council for Agricultural Science and Technology found significant errors in methodology in testing.

- Dursban insecticides can cause a variety of nervous system effects, the report says, but those claims are based on lab experiments in which animals were "deliberately injected with lethal doses of chlorpyrifos and then revived with heroic measures," the scientists said.

- Public Citizen listed side effects linked to diazinon (an insecticide used in lawn sprays), and PLCAA said diazinon has indeed been banned from use on golf courses and sod farms.

- While the report blasts the use of daconil to control fungus on turf, the scientists said it "continues to be used widely on lawns and golf courses, and in other consumer products with no adverse effects reported."

But the report's author, Laura Weiss, remains staunch in her defense.

"The EPA is regulating and registering these pesticides for use on lawns without adequate information," she said. "They don't know exactly what the extent of inhalation and dermal absorption there is out there."

Weiss added, "With 7 million American households hiring these companies and with very few states requiring sign posting, the potential for exposure is great, as I see it. The fact that they're diluted doesn't mean that they're safe."

Weiss said using pesticides constitutes "an unnecessary risk... Many of these chemicals are just not necessary. There are effective ways of taking care of your lawn without using chemicals."

Public Citizen recommends:

- The EPA ban lawn care pesticides suspected of causing cancer in humans.

- Congress require lawn care companies to give customers government information on pesticides.

- Congress ensure that federal agencies take decisive action against false and misleading claims by lawn care companies.

- The EPA conduct a comprehensive exposure study for all lawn care chemicals, speed up testing for neurotoxic effects of all pesticides and their inert ingredients, and take regulatory action to protect consumers.

- Congress add more money for programs promoting use of Integrated Pest Management.

- Congress should replace the risk-benefit analysis currently used by the EPA with a health-based standard in deciding if a chemical can be used.

"I think the law (the EPA) is working under puts interests of pesticide and related industries over public health," Weiss said. "The risk-benefit analysis is the basis of the law that in itself requires EPA to balance risks and benefits. You've got a risk assessment going on that can't be done adequately because how can you do a fair risk assessment if you don't even know what exposure is? They're just making guesses."

Weiss said there should be "required practices for reducing or eliminating pesticide use."

One major step, she said, would

be using IPMs.

"If you're going to be using a golf course that demands a lot of care, putting together an IPM program makes sense," she said. "It makes sense to reduce our use of pesticides, it makes sense for the players who would be exposed to less chemicals while they are on the course, it makes sense for the workers who would have to handle the chemicals, it makes sense for our ground water which chemicals could leach into."

But Jim Snow of the USGA Green Section's Golf House said, "IPMs is the coming thing and is very important, but it's not going to stop

Superintendents 'would be willing to ... do everything they could to (use) fewer pesticides.'
— Jim Snow

a major outbreak of insect, weed or disease. You can use it to a certain extent and it definitely will help. What it does really is organize you so that you do every thing that is possible to minimize stress or potential for outbreak of pests and to predict when you should treat.

"And pesticides are an integral part of IPM. IPM includes them in a more logical and curative way, rather than going out on a preventative program where you spray every two weeks whether you need it or not. It helps you so that you probably use fewer applications, and you probably time them better, but it doesn't exclude pesticides..."

Snow said, "There are going to be times when you are going to have to use pesticides or it is going to devastate courses. It's not just a few people's recreation; it's a huge industry that could be really damaged. No one's going to go out and play golf if the golf course is dead... The industry would stop."

Snow predicted that most golf course superintendents "would be willing to cooperate and do everything they could to accommodate using fewer pesticides, but a total ban would be a disaster."

Americans returns golf course to Korea

The return of a golf course to South Korea next year will mark the beginning of a relocation of a controversial U.S. military base from central Seoul, South Korea, to the countryside.

The base, home of the U.S. Eighth Army, has become a focus for anti-American sentiment in South Korea. The golf course is located on the 669-acre base in teeming downtown Seoul, and many South Koreans want the land to be maintained as a park.

But land prices in Seoul have been soaring and real-estate developers are very interested in the land.

Third summit programs promising

The golf industry's third biennial Summit meeting, again to be hosted by the National Golf Foundation, will be held Nov. 12-14, 1990, at Marriott's Desert Springs Resort and Spa, Palm Springs, Calif.

Golf Summit '88 last November brought together 400 decision-makers from virtually every segment of the golf industry.

Summit attendees focused on 14 strategic action programs. NFG research indicates the U.S. golf population could grow from today's 21.7 million to 30 million by the year 2000, and the \$20 billion

golf industry could double.

Strategic planning themes are:

- Increase the number of golf courses nationwide.
- Enhance the playing experience for all golfers.

- Increase the number of new young players for the next generation of golfers.

- Ensure that golf remains attractive to those 40 and older in the year 2000.

Fourteen organizations have adopted programs to lead the studies and report on at the 1990 Summit, including:

- PGA of America: Speed

of Play, Instruction and the Junior Golf Coalition.

- PGA Tour: Corporate Golf and the Advertising/Promotion Cooperative.

- NGF: Research, Golf Course Development, Driving Range Development and Family Golf.

- LPGA: Women's Golf.

- National Club Association: Legal/Legislative.

- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America: Environmental Impact.

- Golf Course Association and Club Managers Association of America: Uniform System of Accounting.