

Congressman wants fed'l revenue from courses

Land leased to Scottsdale should produce further return, Synar claims

U.S. Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., is upset the Interior Department receives no revenues from federal land leased to the city of Scottsdale, Ariz. for two golf courses.

The courses are part of the flood

control basin and the land is leased as a flood-control project, according to the magazine "Insight."

The courses, which are managed for the city by the Professional Golfers' Association of America, charge

greens fees up to \$75. Income pays for course construction.

"If people in the private sector did these kinds of deals, they'd be fired," Synar said of the federal negotiators.

The Interior Department's Bob

Michaels, who helped negotiate the lease, said it probably should have been drawn up differently, although the government doesn't pay maintenance costs under the current agreement.

Hills moves East office

Arthur Hills and Associates' Maryland office has moved.

The new address is 6701 Democracy Blvd., Suite 300, Bethesda, Md. 20817; 301-571-9334.

Renovations lag behind schedule

Expansions of Duluth, Minn.'s Lester Park and Enger Park golf courses are behind schedule, but golfers were expected to get a break with the opening of a second nine at Enger in August.

Both courses are being expanded from 18 to 27 holes.

With the new nine at Enger,

both will have 18 available for play. The new nine at Lester was sodded in late July and could be ready this fall.

The \$4.1 million expansion project begun two years ago was supposed to be completed in July.

It was delayed by bad weather and a lack of snow cover last winter

that caused severe turf damage at Enger.

Erosion problems have also plagued both courses.

In addition to the new holes, several tees and greens were modified at Lester and new irrigation systems installed at both facilities.

Planter's Row Course closes at busiest time

The Planter's Row Course on Hilton Head Island, S.C., one of three 18-hole courses that comprise the Port Royal Golf Club, is undergoing major renovation work that will close the course through the busy summer season, according to Michael F. Tinkey, chief operating officer of Royal Golf and Tennis.

"Our strategic plan is to offer the finest golf on Hilton Head Island," Tinkey said. "And to do that, we are willing not only to forego three months of revenue on Planter's Row, but to commit the additional dollars that we feel are necessary to make good on our pledge."

A major part of the renovation work includes replacement of all the greens at Planter's Row.

Completely rebuilt to United States Golf Association specifications, the new putting surfaces will feature Tidwarf Bermudagrass.

"In addition to redoing the greens," Tinkey said, "we are doing some things to enhance both the playability and the aesthetics of the course."

"We are taking out some of the sand bunkers, doing some subtle recontouring of some areas, replenishing landscape material throughout the course and doing some things to create several beauty points."

Architect Willard Byrd, who originally designed the 6,520-yard, par-72 Planter's Row, is supervising the renovation project. Planter's Row was opened in 1985 and was host to the PGA Senior Tour's Hilton Head Senior Invitational that year.

Tinkey said the renovation is only part of a massive capital improvement project that will see Royal Golf and Tennis pump more than \$700,000 into the combined 81-hole golf operation at Port Royal and Shipyard Plantations within its first year of ownership.

New maintenance equipment, additional landscape material, cart path repaving and new restroom facilities are included in the project.

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