

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — *Golf Course News* Publisher Charles von Brecht has announced that Mary Anderson has joined the newspaper as a sales assistant. She will work directly with Simone Marsteller until the middle of August, when Marsteller will leave *Golf Course News* to enter Stetson Law School. Anderson has a bachelor of arts in mass communications, with a minor in business, from the University of South Florida.

...  
**WARREN, Mich.** — Officials and townspeople here have questions for Mayor Ronald Bonkowski about his plan for the city to purchase more than 300 vacant acres (valued at \$12 million) from General Motors Corp. for an \$80 million golf and residential complex. The town will hold future meetings to hear the plan's feasibility and financing.

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**MIDLOTHIAN, Va.** — The directors of Forecast Golf Marketing and Financial Systems, Inc. have elected James Murphy to the position of president, replacing Scott Marlowe, who has left the company to pursue other interests. For the last three years Murphy served as the firm's vice president and director of marketing. Forecast has also moved its corporate offices to 1403 Huguenot Road, #103, Midlothian, VA, 23113. Forecast's phone (804-379-5760) and fax (804-378-4907) numbers have not changed.

## No pipedream: The ultimate practice facility is here

By MARK LESLIE

CINCINNATI, Ohio — The ultimate golf facility is in the ground. So says course architect Mike Hurdzan, whose latest venture into executive golf course design opened June 7 as part of Meadow Links and Golf Academy in Hamilton County's Winton Woods Park here.

"This is the ideal learning center," said the Columbus-based Hurdzan. "We have another one in construction in Vancouver [British Columbia] and one in its first phase in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"This is the model of what we would be building," he laughed, "if I were made king."

Hurdzan names five requisites for his perfect learning center:

1) A full-sized 18-hole golf course that plays to par 71 or 72 and measures from 5,000 to 7,200 yards.

"But that only appeals to golfers. If we get smart — and we must — we have to allow for the entry-level experience. How are we going to do that?" Hurdzan asked.

Ski areas have bunny slopes, he said. "But where are the bunny slopes in golf? We don't have one, so we throw people out into a regulation course. It's like trying to learn to surf at the Pipeline."

Accompany the 18-hole course with "the ideal entry-level golf situation — a driving range," he said. There the golfer learns the mechanics of hitting the ball and putting.

2) A short-game center, where golfers learn to play 20 yards out from the green — "over bunkers, out of bunkers, through bunkers," Hurdzan said. "You play to a green and learn to hit all kinds of shots."



The lush, almost gothic first hole at Winton Woods in Hamilton County, Ohio, appears to be anything but a scaled down, rinky-dink design.

3) A large putting green. Part of it should be flat where golfers can learn to make a proper stroke; and part of it should be undulating so they can learn to read breaks.

4) Practice holes. "This is where you learn the etiquette of who goes first, where you stand, how to tee up, rake bunkers, who holds the flag..."

5) The executive golf course. "This is sort of what the intermediate slope is in skiing," Hurdzan said. "You're not intimidated by the length. That's what most beginning golfers lack the most — length."

Marty Kavanaugh, head professional and director of golf for the Hamilton County

Park District's seven golf facilities, is excited about Meadow Links and Golf Academy. He hopes to follow the June 7 opening of the course by opening the practice facility in July.

He said the newest is similar but more extensive than his Little Miami Golf Center, which registers more golfers than even the 70,000-rounds-a-year Mill Course.

Kavanaugh said the featured nine-hole "mid-length" (not "executive") Meadow Links course is combined with a state-of-the-art driving range including 50 tees, 40 of which are heated and covered; a five-

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# Public Golf 1993

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## Ocean Course off the block

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wondering why the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island was not part of the July 14 Landmark proceedings in Dallas? Well, there is an explanation:

Two weeks prior to the Dallas auction, Resolution Trust Corp. officials informed the bankruptcy court that the Ocean Course portion of Kiawah Island Resort would be withdrawn from the July 14 auction of Landmark properties.

The RTC had originally planned to include the Ocean Course in the auction, but environmental groups expressed an interest in the property, which has been identified as "environmentally significant" in accordance with provisions of the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act.

These environmental groups have been granted an exclusive 90-day bidding period and an additional 90 days to negotiate a sale for properties offered under the act. The clock on this specially-arranged bidding period started ticking June 29 — the day the decision to remove Kiawah was issued.

If a sale to one of these environmental groups cannot be arranged, the property will be made available to investors at a later date.

## Practice Facility

Continued from page 3

-acre bentgrass practice area; and a structure with audio-visual rooms and auditorium that seats 100 for classes during inclement weather.

"There will be minority, senior and ladies programs," he added. "We have 25 stations with a shelter and a short-game area behind that. We'll have a people-mover to take 11 out at a time. It will also have a state-of-the-art washing and dispensing unit that can handle 28,000 balls an hour and will hold 92,000 golf balls — the world's largest golf ball washer-dispenser."

### CLUBSERV TAPS EX-FAIRWAYS VP

ClubServ recently named Joseph Zaleski senior vice president. Zaleski has served as vice president of operations for the Fairways Group (formerly U.S. Golf Properties) and president of Fore Golf Inc.

Bethesda, Md.-based ClubServ is a club management and consulting firm specializing in turnkey management and operation services.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

# Troubled Fairways Group enters partnership with KSL

VAIL, Colo. — KSL Recreation, an investment partner of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., has formed a partnership with The Fairways Group of Manassas, Va., to operate 11 golf courses in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida.

The Fairways Group was founded in 1978 by Charles Staples, who will remain as CEO and President. He will be responsible for acquiring other East Coast golf properties.

"We believe there are numer-

ous opportunities to expand our operations through select acquisitions of quality golf facilities," Staples said. "With KSL's financial backing, we believe we will have up to \$100 million to enable us to capitalize on the many

growth opportunities in the golf industry."

KSL Recreation President Michael Shannon added: "We hope The Fairways Group will be the first of several investments in the golf industry, and we are actively looking for similar opportunities in the Midwest and West. We are also exploring other facets of the golf industry, including destination golf resorts."

Properties included in the partnership are Montclair (Va.) Country Club; Patuxent Greens Coun-

try Club in Laurel, Md.; Country-side Golf Club in Roanoke, Va.; Monroe Valley Golf Club in Jonestown, Pa.; Shalimar (Fla.) Pointe Golf & Country Club; Tiger Point Golf & Country Club in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

Northgreen Country Club in Rocky Mount, N.C.; Broad Bay Country Club in Virginia Beach, Va.; Marlboro Country Club in Upper Marlboro, Md.; Scenic Hills Country Club in Pensacola, Fla.; and Prince William Golf Club in Nokesville, Va.

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