

Downtown Chicago practice range gets go-ahead from city

CHICAGO — The city has approved conversion of now-desolate downtown area into a driving range by the spring of 1994, and a par-3 golf course in mid-1995.

The 10-acre golf course is to be built within an undeveloped 27-acre section of the Illinois Center development just south of the Chicago River and just west of Lake Shore Drive. It will be, owners say, the first golf course in the heart of a major city.

Park advocates and area residents complained that the Chicago Plan Commission permitted course owners Metropolitan Structures and the Whitman Corp. to sidestep a 1969 promise to build a permanent six-acre rectangular park along Columbus Drive on the west side of the site.

They claim the course and other amenities will be replaced in the next 15 years by high-rises.

Feud threatens Fla. project

WELLINGTON, Fla. — All's not well among golfing friends in Wellington.

In prosperous 1988, they'd combined to create Bink's Forest Country Club, a mile north of Corepoint Corp.'s newest golf complex, the Wellington Club West.

The economy soured, estate home sales faltered, and plans to host a championship golf tournament yielded to foreclosure threats for both clubs.

Corepoint has restructured its

operations at the Wellington Clubs. First Union filed a foreclosure suit to collect \$25.83 million in loans.

At Bink's, Continental Bank filed a foreclosure suit to collect \$5.47 million in loans. Auction of the golf course property is a possibility.

An area real estate analyst offered this observation. "Wellington draws mostly working families. How many of them can afford an \$85,000 lot?" he asked.

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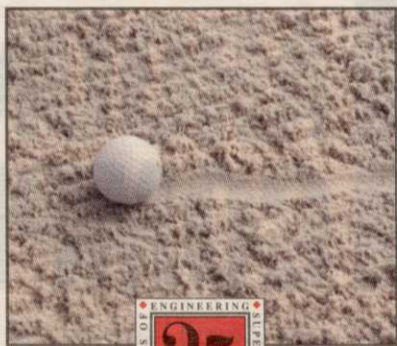
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CIRCLE #107

Referendum tries to overturn Calif. golf course OK

SUTTER BAY VILLAGE, Calif. — The proposed Fountainville golf course project has received final approval by the Board of Supervisors, but the Protect Sutter County-Let Us Vote group hopes to overturn this action via a new referendum drive.

Referendums will be sought on any other development agreements approved by the board of supervisors for the 25,000-acre south county region.

Plans call for development of 382 acres between Highways 99/70 and 65, about a half-mile north of Striplin Road. Planned is a semi-private golf course and 50 single-family homes and 20 bungalow residences.

PSC-LUV has been accused of spreading misinformation and making "propaganda statements" in gathering signatures for the Fountainville referendum.

Conn. club plans new renovations

NORWICH, Conn. — Taking swings at Norwich Golf Course will take a bigger slice out of players' pocketbooks this year.

The City Council approved the Norwich Golf Course Authority's 1993 budget that raised all membership costs. Seniors, the most active, will be least affected, paying from \$21 to \$26 more. Residents will pay \$321, non-residents \$401.

Capital improvements include redesign and rebuilding of numerous tees, greens, fairways, cart paths and parking areas.

Ark. school almost complete

HOTSPRINGS VILLAGE, Ark. — A golfing school to cost \$1 million and embrace a three-hole layout and instructional building will be completed Sept. 1. The school is the project of Cooper Communities, Inc., and golf professional Roger Kluska. Ernie Deaton, CCI director of engineering and construction, will oversee design and construction.

GOLF COURSE NEWS