

Lawsuit targets Michigan golf course project

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP, Mich. — The proposed Sawmill Golf Club, an 18-hole course and subdivision, is up against a lawsuit claiming township officials illegally negotiated the sale of 58 acres for the 283-acre project.

The Jan. 12 filing in Saginaw County Circuit Court demands a halt to the \$5 million project, saying the township violated the state Open Meetings Act by not informing the public of its plans to sell land to project developers. The project's developer, Masters Development Corp., is not named in the lawsuit.

Environmentalists seem to be most critical

of the golf course project. The Lone Tree Council, a group of environmentalists who formed in the 1970s to oppose the Midland Nuclear Plant, has unanimously voted to oppose the project.

Council Chairman Terry Miller says the group wants to stop further loss of the state's wetlands. Miller is one of eight plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

Masters indicated its plans call for preserving the wetlands as much as possible.

Before Masters can develop the wetlands, it still must seek a permit from the Land and Water Management Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

Course could become part of Va. park

RICHMOND, Va. — Pending City Council approval, Richmond officials plan to transform Bryan Park into the city's first public golf course. The plan calls for an 18-hole course with a clubhouse, picnic area and playground.

There are also plans to build an Arthur Ashe tennis academy and 26 courts.

The city will pay for improvements to the lakes and roads. Then a developer will lease the land, build the course and run it. The project should run \$3 to \$5 million.

The course would likely be dubbed the "Azalea Gardens Golf Club," a name derived from Bryan Park's revered azalea gardens.

Richmond could use another golf course. In the immediate area, there are 513 golf holes and 7,130 people per hole, according to National Golf Foundation spokeswoman Judy Thompson. That is far enough below the national average to rank Richmond 259th out of 321 metropolitan areas.

The proposed club would be the 11th public course in the metropolitan area.

Indianapolis pair break ground on 27-hole affair

WESTFIELD, Ind. — An exclusive golf course and residential area is being planned not far from the Boon-Hamilton County line.

The golf course and development, expected to break ground in October, are the dream of Dick Perk and Richard Pollak of Indianapolis. Pollak is an architect.

Plans call for the 18-hole course and 9-hole par-3 to be the center of a 256-lot, 326-acre development. The course and development will be known as Royale Links.

Anyone who buys a lot gets free membership in the course and a riding cart. Total cost of the project is expected to reach \$50 million.

City hopes to buy Ohio course

NORTH OLMSTED, Ohio — A proposal to buy the Springvale Country Club has been presented to the city council, but the city has not made a final decision on the purchase.

Plans are to borrow \$4.1 million to buy the country club and use it as a golf course and recreational community center.

For the first full year of operation, officials estimate the city should expect \$1.2 million in revenue and \$850,000 in expenses. According to Councilwoman Duane Limpert, financial projections show the purchase could be a "cash cow."

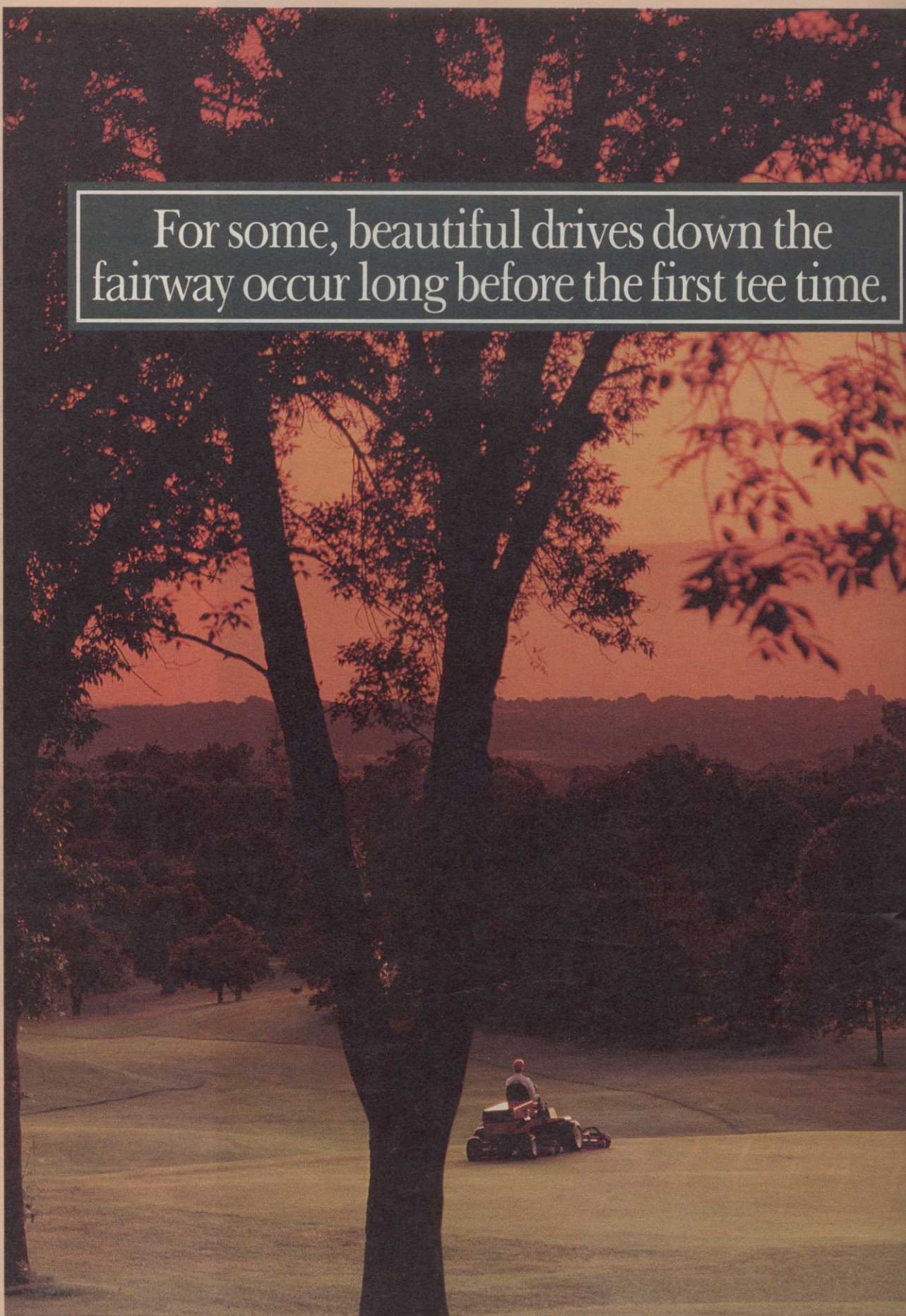
Between \$50,000 to \$100,000 in course improvements are needed.

Permits sought for Minn. track

BRAINERD, Minn. — Crow Wing County planners postponed action on a conditional use permit for The Preserve golf course while it determined whether an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is needed.

An EAW is a review of a project's environmental impact.

This issue was brought about because neighbors of the proposed golf course collected enough signatures to petition the Environmental Quality Board.



For some, beautiful drives down the fairway occur long before the first tee time.