

S'West Ill. potential golf hotbed

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — A feasibility study performed by Golf Resources Associates concludes the metro-east market centered here is strong enough to support new golf courses.

This finding has led to the proposal of three municipal golf courses in the immediate area: a nine-hole course near Longacre Park in Fairview Heights; an 18-hole course at the abandoned St. Ellen Mine in O'Fallon; and a course in Cahokia which is being slowed by resident opposition (see related story, page 8).

Atlanta-based Golf Resources Associates (GRA) determined the demand now exists for approximately 1.7 million rounds of golf in the region each year, with about 1.95 million expected by 1995. But according to GRA, area golf courses can provide only about 890,000 rounds, leaving a large untapped market for golf course developers.

The study encompassed the area south to Waterloo, west to Highway 67 near Arnold, Mo., north to Interstate 270 and just east of Lebanon.

Maine muni not guilty in lightning death

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — A jury last month ruled the city was not financially liable for the death of a golfer struck by lightning four years ago at South Portland Municipal Golf Course.

The jury voted 6-2 that the city of South Portland shared in the blame for the death of Thomas Fisher, 31.

But it ruled that Fisher's decision to ride out the storm under a tree on the sixth tee, rather than move indoors, made him more responsible than the city. No financial damages were awarded Fisher's family.

The suit charged the city was negligent for failing to take measures to protect golfers from lightning.

According to the *Portland Press Herald*, testimony showed the course took no precautions — such as sirens, posters or lightning shelters — to warn golfers of an approaching storm.

This is believed to be the first jury trial charging negligence in a golfer's death.

The Supreme Court of Tennessee in 1991 overturned a lower-court decision against a golf course in a lightning death, the newspaper reported.

Expansion of Mass. municipal course proposed

DUXBURY, Mass. — Selectman Chairman Friend Weiler has indicated it's time to expand the town-owned North Hill Country Club from nine holes to 18.

Three years ago, an engineering study of the 300-acre site indicated expanding the golf course would not harm the groundwater or adversely affect neighboring conservation land.

Last year, despite a positive economic feasibility study, expansion was postponed.

The new plans call for a driving range and a clubhouse. The whole project will cost the town about \$2 to \$2.5 million, according to Brian Silva, principal in the golf course design firm of Cornish and Silva.

Board supports wetlands study for Mass. course

NORWELL, Mass. — A majority of the advisory board has indicated its support for a wetlands study of the 144-acre Stetson Meadows conservation land, which has been proposed as a site for a town golf course.

Information of the extent and location of the wetlands is necessary to determine whether a course could be built and whether it could be nine or 18 holes.

Half the advisory board members in favor of the study said they did not think a golf course would ever be built on the North River site. If this were the case, the study could help determine other recreational uses for the land.

BAY STATE PRACTICE FACILITY SET TO OPEN JULY 1

HOLLISTON, Mass. — A practice range under construction at Pinecrest Golf Course is scheduled to begin full-time operation on July 1. The work is being completed by M&R Construction Company of Nashua, N.H.

The range will include 25 individual practice tees and a number of sandtraps and target greens at varying distances.

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