

Developers offer Fla. county free course land

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Several local developers and land speculators are willing to give Lee County 150 acres for an 18-hole public golf course.

Most developers will get a magnet for home buyers, the county gets free land for a money-making recreational facility, and the golfers get cheap green fees.

Lehigh Corporation proposes the county build its course on 150 acres of a proposed 340-acre residential community it plans to build called Deer Run.

The community, on the western edge of Lehigh Acres, would be more than six miles from other courses. There are more than 50 golf courses in the county, three publicly owned.

Many insist more courses are needed, especially those with affordable rates.

While privately owned courses allow the general public to play, their fees, especially during peak demand in the winter, can range up to \$50 higher than municipal fees.

Debate rages over N.D. track

VALLEY CITY, N. D. — The new municipal golf course here is ready for play, according to major funder and Fargo businessman Gary Tharaldson.

Others disagree.

In the last four months, two city Park Board residents have quit, the recreation director was fired, and the city discovered it must still obtain from owner Paul Bjornson the land for the first and ninth holes and the driving range. Bjornson said he is anxious to

give the property to the Park Board "as soon as it's clear who is in charge."

Last year's flood sank course construction.

Tharaldson was to build the course, then hand it over to the Park Board.

He gave \$220,000 to the project.

The Park Board contributed \$100,000.

The Park Board will operate and maintain the course once it is built.

Chicago layout prepares for many changes

OSWEGO, Ill. — In its 28th season, Fox Bend Golf Course will undergo several changes.

Fox Bend opened in 1969 as nine holes, and in 1970 became 18.

Head pro Leon McNair points out that improvements will keep Fox Bend rated among the top public golf courses in Chicago.

First phase will be a double-row irrigation system to replace the 24-year-old system. Better watering patterns will provide better turf in the rough.

The irrigation system also may permit a future change to bentgrass fairways.

The second phase under study is eliminating the 165-yard 10th hole and building another par 3. The nines would be reversed, eliminating the current front nine logjam at the 205-yard 2nd hole.

Tees would be lengthened and the pro shop and parking areas expanded. Fox Bend has hosted PGA Tour School and Western Open qualifying tests.

City to upgrade municipal links

PONTIAC, Mich. — Developer Harvey Weiss has won approval from the Pontiac Planning Commission to build 35 new houses as part of a \$38 million golf course improvement.

Weiss plans to invest \$25 million in new homes for the golf course project. The city will pay \$13 million for the renovation of the golf course and infrastructure for the residential areas.

DOAK TO DESIGN WIS. FACILITY

FISH CREEK, Wis. — The \$6.5 million Golf Club at Fish Creek may ease demand for area tee times.

Course construction could begin in 1995, with the course opening in summer 1996.

Designer Tom Doak, who has worked under noted designer Pete Dye, said the course would measure 6,900 yards from the back tees.

