

## Florida city ponders municipal track

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Port St. Lucie reportedly is long on private golf courses, but short on affordable public courses. Three Midwestern families who own 428 acres in western Port St. Lucie hope to remedy this imbalance.

The property owners, through real-estate broker Genevieve Jackson, would give the land to the city if city officials agreed to build and run a golf course. The City Council has been asked to consider building an 18-hole municipal course on about 140 acres.

Plans for the property near Inter-

state 95 include housing, an industrial park and a shopping center.

Jackson said the city could pay for it without raising taxes by repaying bonds with the course's revenues. Chuck Proulx, local parks and recreation director, predicts a well-run public course would be a success. Paul Hyde, general manager of nearby Indian Pines GC, dissents. He said the Fort Pierce metropolitan area ranks third in the nation in private courses per resident, adding that the area rates 24th nationwide in public golf courses.

## Phoenix rec complex garners support

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Environmentalists are dubious, but the Phoenix Reach II Recreation Area Plan that would feature two golf courses has gained much city backing.

Officials say the courses would anchor a development that includes four soccer fields, equestrian center, picnic ramadas and a nature trail that would accommodate people who are blind or use wheelchairs.

If approved, the first of two

courses could be built within two years. The related projects totaling more than \$2 million must be complete before the first round of golf.

Agreements must be signed with Johnson International, a company Phoenix has named to develop the 1,500-acre strip that's rich with cottonwood and paloverde trees, quail, foxes and coyotes, and must be approved by the City Council and the federal Bureau of Reclamation.

## Utah pros sue Salt Lake City over pensions

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Five Salt Lake City golf professionals are suing the city for retirement benefits in a class-action suit on behalf of all other pros, assistants and staff aides who have worked for the city since 1981.

Before then, the suit says, the men were considered city employees. In 1981, the city decided the men were independent contractors. The pros say they lost retirement and other benefits because of the city's decision.

The city has asked that the suit be dismissed because it violates Utah's Governmental Immunity Act. The act requires the golf professionals to notify the city of a claim against it within a year after the claim arose.

## Illinois city seeks water district aid in course project

WORTH, Ill. — Committees are exploring all facets of area recreation before committing to an 18-hole championship golf course and tennis courts in Worth village.

Joe Johnson, building commissioner, said committees are taking a cautious approach so that overall village recreation needs will be met.

A municipal course along the Calumet-Sag Channel is the focus of committee probing.

Because Worth spends more than \$30,000 per year to maintain Metropolitan Water Reclamation District-owned property, village officials say the district should help fund the multimillion-dollar project.

Worth Police Chief Frank Gilbert said he would welcome a golf course because it would be much easier to patrol than the now heavily wooded area. A golf course, he said, not only would beautify the area and raise property values, but would give police an easier job maintaining order.

## Two N.J. courses join Audubon Coop

AURORA, Ill. — Springbrook and Naperbrook golf courses have joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

The national program is designed to help landowners preserve the environmental quality of their courses and enhance wildlife habitats on golf courses.

### CORRECTION

Because of a reporting error, the product Orthene was misspelled throughout the mole cricket feature that appeared in the March 1994 edition of *Golf Course News* (page 24-26).

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