

Florida's World Golf Village expands, again

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — Despite indictments and charges of conflicts of interest against some commissioners, the St. Johns County commissioners have voted to sell \$11 million in revenue bonds to build a convention center at the planned mammoth World Golf Village golf resort and residential development that will include a Golf Hall of Fame.

One commissioner, Moses Floyd, has been suspended after a grand jury investigation of the commissioners' relationships to the project led to charges against Floyd of seeking illegal gain and two counts of perjury. Two other commissioners who own land near the development were accused of conflicts of interest but were eventually cleared. A subsequent ethics complaint has been filed against one of two.

The project, known as the St. Johns Development, is predicted to draw up to a million tourists a year to the Golf Hall of Fame, a championship golf course and resort. In all, St. Johns will include 7,200 homes and about 6.4 million square feet of commercial, industrial and office space. Construction is expected to start this year.

PGA Tours and John Q. Hammons Hotels — the developer and one of the builders in the project — brought out former major league baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, who lives in St. Johns County, and PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem to speak in support of the project before the commissioners approved the bonds sale.

Palmer to design municipal facility in Palm Bay, Fla.

PALM BAY, Fla. — The city picked a Riviera Beach developer to build a \$5.1 million, 18-hole municipal golf course designed by Arnold Palmer.

The developer, JTH Development Corp., has agreed to cover all costs to build the course on a 248-acre, city-owned site in the southwest area of the city.

The project also includes a golf school, miniature golf course and passive recreation area, according to JTH Development Corp. representative Milt Petrides.

Under the proposed agreement, JTH will lease the site from Palm Bay for 30 years at \$80,000 annually. After 30 years, the city would own the course.

After inquiry, super agrees to resign

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — The superintendent of a city golf course who was accused of making racist and anti-Semitic remarks reached a deal with the city to allow him to resign rather than be fired.

Alan Bunn, who had run the city-owned Orangebrook Golf Course since 1988 and oversaw a 38-person staff, was fired in November 1994 from his \$43,035-a-year job after a city inquiry into derogatory

comments he made about blacks and Jews. Bunn denied making the comments, but an investigation by the city's Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action found a "hostile environment" at the golf course.

Bunn was planning to appeal his firing but a deal was worked out between lawyers that reinstated Bunn to his job temporarily with the understanding he would resign.

Port St. Lucie mulls course plans

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — If the City Council here gets its way, watching the New York Mets work out in pre-season spring training may not be the only draw in this Treasure Coast city. Indeed, if the strike isn't settled soon, the need for golfing diversions would be even more pressing.

The council has proposed buying 290 acres in the heart of the city in order to build an 18-hole municipal golf course, a park and possibly a community center or aquatics facility.

Port St. Lucie officials said the deal could be financed entirely with proceeds from the course.

City Council members now want to find out whether local residents want a public golf course and, in particular, a golf course on the particular piece of land in question.

City Manager Don Cooper said the city could pay between \$4 and \$5 million for the 290 acres off Westmoreland Boulevard, land that currently includes the nine-hole Wilderness Shores Golf Course.

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