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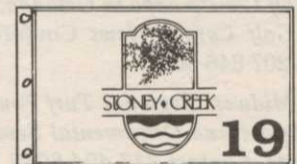
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Ocean City hitches its regional growth to phenomenon of public-access golf

Continued from page 46

tor of the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, said having a variety of courses will be the key to continued success in promoting golf in the area. With an increasing number of golf courses comes the variety which will bring golfers back to the resort area again and again, he said.

"There is a need for more golf courses. You can't get a tee time at a lot of them now and in the summer you're completely shut out," he said.

How many new courses can the area handle? FauntLeRoy said he doesn't know what the area can absorb. But any additional facilities can do nothing but help continue growth in the golfing industry, he said.

Increased golfing activity in the resort doesn't just mean business for course owners, but will increase business for hotels and motels, restaurants and the retail shops in the area also, Smith said.

Golf promotes business in the

shoulder months for Ocean City and acts as one more amenity which complements the resort's beaches, but does not place a great demand on the community's resources, she said. It doesn't hurt that the resort lies along the beaten path for visitors from the major metropolitan areas of Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Wilmington, Delaware and even New Jersey and New York.

Nurturing the relationship between the golf courses and the

associated businesses of Ocean City, however, is an on-going process.

In the spring and fall, hotels, which often offer golf packages, are filled with visitors. But when the beach season rolls around, golfers sometimes get bumped by hotels for the established tourist trade of Ocean City.

"We've had a time convincing some of the hotels that golfers are just as good customers as those people who have been coming to stay at the beach for years,"

Smith said. "That has been one of our main challenges."

She credits the efforts of both the golf courses and the Ocean City community as a whole for the success the area has had in establishing itself as a new golf mecca.

"There's a remote possibility Ocean City could become like a small Myrtle Beach, but I really don't think we want to be the next Myrtle Beach," Smith explained.

"We're Ocean City, Maryland, we're growing and we're glad to be what we are."

June

12 — Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Sports Field Workshop in Huntington. Contact 317-494-8039.

July

25 — Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Regional Turf Field Day in West Lafayette. Contact 317-494-8039.

26 — University of Georgia Turfgrass Field Day in Griffin, Ga. Contact 404-228-7300.

26-28 — Turf Producers International Summer Convention in Omaha. Contact Doug Fender at 800-405-TURF.

30-Aug. 1 — International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo in Louisville, Ky. Contact 800-558-8767.

August

2-3 — Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation Expo '95 in Mendota Heights, Minn. Contact Scott Turtinen at 612-473-0557.

6-8 — Georgia GCSA Summer Conference at Sea Palms Resort on St. Simons Island. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.

16 — Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Field Day in Columbus, Ohio. Contact Julie Guenther at 614-261-6750.

23 — Turf Talk '95 in Chandler, Ariz. Contact Garden West at 602-233-2966.

September

7-8 — Southwest Horticultural Trade Show in Phoenix, Ariz. Call 602-966-1610.

November

4-7 — Georgia GCSA Annual Meeting at Jekyll Island. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.

9-10 — Golf Course Expo in Orlando, Fla. Contact Golf Course News Conference Group at 207-846-0600.

14-16 — Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Turfgrass and Ornamental Seminar in Lafayette. Contact 317-494-8039.

December

4-7 — 26th Annual Georgia Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Atlanta. Contact 404-228-7300.

5-8 — Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Show in Columbus, Ohio. Contact 614-261-6750.

6-8 — Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Show in Minneapolis. Contact Scott Turtinen at 612-473-0557.

* For more information contact the GC-SAA Education Office at 913-832-4430.

Hawkins comment

Continued from page 11

should not be limited to wetlands and protected habitats, protected wildlife, protected or regulated waterways, archaeological or cultural resource sites and/or unique natural features or conditions.

A proper site assessment identifies those conditions that have regulatory and site-planning ramifications and should not include extensive or costly studies at this stage of the planning process. Gaining this level of understanding of the site, its potential limitations and regulatory requirements, the developer can make educated planning and permit requirement decisions while managing this level of financial risk.

If the golf course site can be legally permitted for the planned development in terms of zoning and land use regulations, and the site limitations or environmental sensitivities do not preclude development feasibility, the project can be approved.

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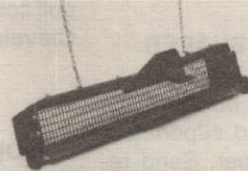
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* Appears in regional editions.

Phillips comment

Continued from page 10

urban areas often do) over and around this modest, middle-income municipality.

During a late-afternoon round, my four-some witnessed the following: A young couple and baby roaming the 6th and 7th fairways; four boys and their bikes cutting across the 9th on their way home from school; a shabbily dressed, middle-aged man (some might even have called him a vagrant) quietly reading John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row* on the 14th tee; and at least seven dogs happily leading their masters through their after-work walks.

No disruption. No adolescents riding their knobby tires across the putting surfaces. Just golf and community at dusk. The green fee was \$20 and, come January, Hyde Park residents enjoy some of the best cross-country ski trails and sledding hills in Greater Boston.

Sounds like a park to me.

In many ways, Gov. Whitman shouldn't be faulted for not realizing that fully two-thirds of the golf courses in America are open to anyone (of course, you have to pay — just as you have to pay to attend a sporting event, or many state parks for that matter). Similarly, the governor shouldn't really be expected to know why Hyde Park residents — and thousands of other communities across the country — consider their golf course to be part of the local park system.

Part of Whitman doesn't want to know because she's worried about her public image and how it might affect her political viability. Yet, it's even more likely that she understands none of this because the golf industry has done a damn poor job of passing along the facts.

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