

Va. officials investigating two course proposals

BRISTOL, Va. — Officials in this city split by the Virginia-Tennessee border are taking another shot at turning the Clear Creek Recreational Area into a public golf course.

A golf course committee has talked with two developers about the property. City Manager Paul Spangler, a member of the golf course committee, said the two proposals — one from Summit Engineering of Pikeville, Ky., and the other from a local group which has asked to remain confidential during negotiations — fall outside the scope of the city council's original

direction and more discussion is needed before a final decision is reached. Spangler said a decision could come in May.

Plans to develop a golf course at the Clear Creek Recreational Area have been on the drawing board for about four years. Two previous developers were chosen to move forward but backed out. Bristol originally had a recreational easement on the property in Washington County but has since acquired it from the Tennessee Valley Authority as part of a power-supply contact.

AGC to operate Ore./Calif. tracks

SALEM, Ore. — American Golf Corp. (AGC) has been awarded a long-term operating lease for the recently completed 18-hole Creekside Golf Club here, the first golf course to be constructed in Oregon's capital city in the last 32 years.

The Santa Monica, Calif.-based company has also secured the lease for EastLake Country Club in Chula Vista, Calif.

AGC was awarded the management contract at Creekside following the club's purchase by National Golf Properties, Inc.

(NGP) and will continue to operate the course as a semi-private club. Public play will be phased out as the membership level grows, with the goal of operating Creekside as an exclusive private club. The course was completed in June 1994.

Encompassing 160 acres within the new EastLake Greens neighborhood just 20 minutes from downtown San Diego, EastLake's 18-hole, par-72, 6,606-yard course was designed by golf course architect Ted Robinson in 1991.

Maine company takes over Bath municipal links

BATH — Family-owned Back Bay Golf Holdings of Falmouth has agreed to purchase the Bath Country Club for \$1.6 million and said the acquisition is part of an overall plan to corner the market on golf in mid-coast Maine.

Back Bay Golf has operated the Falmouth Country Club for six years, purchased the nine-hole Boothbay Country Club two years ago, and is in the process of closing a sale on another nine-hole club, Westernview in Augusta.

Back Bay Golf partner Jeffrey Harris said plans are in the works to expand both the Boothbay and Augusta courses, which, with Bath, would create a triangular territory of 18-hole courses. One of the Back Bay Golf leaders is Richard Harris, a PGA pro who worked at the Bath club for two years in the late 1960s and who is now golf director at the Falmouth Country Club.

Under the sales agreement, Back Bay Golf has paid the city \$25,000 for now. The city will continue to own the club until the sale becomes final on Feb. 15, 1996, when the remaining \$1.575 million is due. Back Bay Golf will also make \$84,000 in lease payments on the course's \$1.3 million loan and be responsible for course improvements.

Voters to decide fate of Texas municipal track

LAKE JACKSON, Texas — The proposed Lake Jackson municipal golf course faces a public referendum May 6 after citizens against the project organized a successful petition.

On May 6, voters will be asked whether they want the 400-acre parcel proposed for the course, and the neighboring 482-acre Wilderness Park, to be protected from development.

The proposed ordinance would allow the city to create foot trails but no construction on the land could take place without later votes by the public.

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