



Dayton tightens up on employee greens fee giveaways

DAYTON, Ohio — Dayton officials have adopted stricter policies covering free golf passes at the city's four public courses after the *Dayton Daily News* reported 1,571 free passes were used in 1994 and 1995 by city employees, retirees and friends of city officials.

The new policies allow city officials to hand out passes to smooth over customer complaints, as prizes in charity events, and to compensate volunteers who work on the courses. Also, the golf professionals, restaurant operators and course employees will be eligible for free play.

Lifetime pass holders will be eligible for

continued free play but must now renew their passes annually. City officials have been unable to determine who has lifetime passes.

One policy that remained intact was the 26 free passes to members of the fee-rate committee, the group that meets five or six times a year to recommend cart and greens fees. One committee member who is also president of the city's golf commission has criticized the policy, saying it creates a bad impression to the public.

Under the new policy, volunteers who work more than 15 hours a week get a free season pass, while those who work less than 15 hours earn one pass for every three hours earned.

Financial woes force city to seek volunteers to maintain golf course

TROY, N.Y. — Officials in the financially-strapped city of Troy are hoping that volunteer citizens and golfers will chip in to maintain the municipal 18-hole Frear Park Golf Course this summer.

Troy Mayor Mark Pattison has estimated the city is currently operating with a deficit that could be as high as \$12 million. With the city's recreation department staff gutted from 34 people to 12, and the course maintenance bud-

get slashed, it's not clear how the golf course will be maintained.

A task force has been pulled together to discuss how to promote and maintain the golf course. As the season opened this spring, there were three or four people city employees available to work on the golf course. Golf leagues are being asked to adopt a hole and pay for flowers, greenery and other costs. Businesses may also be asked to buy ads at each tee.

Just last year, a developer offered as much as \$3.8 million to the city for a 30-year lease to operate the golf course. But the city rejected the offer, saying that the revenues from the golf course were an asset the city shouldn't give up.

Citizens unite to save Minnesota golf property

EAGAN, Minn. — A group of concerned citizens successfully convinced city officials here to deny a developer's plan to replace the 18-hole public Carriage Hills Golf Course with a 525-home development.

Now the community activists, known as the Carriage Hills Coalition, plan to help golf course owner Bill Smith find what they think is a more appropriate buyer for the property — and possibly someone who would keep the golf course.

The city has expressed interest in buying the golf course, which is the only public, 18-hole course in Eagan.

The developer, Pulte Homes, wanted to build 525 homes on the land but needed the council to amend the city's land-use plan to change the designation of the golf course parcel. Hundreds of residents from the neighborhoods surrounding the golf course opposed the plan. The city's Planning Commission rejected the request.

Tom Westbrook, manager of Carriage Hills Golf Course, said it's no longer economically feasible for Smith to own the course, which he started as a nine-hole layout in 1965 and expanded to 18 holes two years later.

LOWES SAN ANTONIO DESIGN SET TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — After years of false starts, Lowes Hotel is nearing the start of construction on a multimillion dollar resort hotel here that will include an 18-hole golf course designed by Tom Fazio. Construction on 270-acre Woodland Hills should start by the year's end. Once ground is broken, the project is expected to take 18 to 24 months to complete.

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