

## N.C. landfill becomes city's first municipal track

THOMASVILLE, N.C. — After three years of work and plenty of doubt, 166 acres of rolling land that had been a city landfill for 29 years has been transformed into the new 18-hole Winding Creek Golf Course. It is the first municipal course in the history of Thomasville, a city of about 16,000 just below Winston-Salem

and Greensboro.

Even though the idea for the golf course started with Thomasville Recreation Director Vaughn Black in 1993, ground was not broken on the \$3.4 million project until January 1995. The course has opened for play. But there is still substantial work to be done on the par-71, 6,700-yard layout.

Jonathan Howes, secretary of the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, praised Thomasville officials for the courage and vision "to turn a potential liability into an asset," according to the *News & Record* of Greensboro.

"Less innovative people might have turned their backs on this

property," Howes said at the course's opening ceremony. "This is not the first landfill in North Carolina to be turned into a golf course. And it won't be the last.

"We have many old landfills across the state, hundreds of them. And people don't know what to do with them. Hopefully, they will come here and see what you've done."



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CIRCLE #106

## Florida mayor goes wet, wild following golf course soaking

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A golf course employee was suspended for a week without pay after he turned on a sprinkler to stop Mayor Ron Weaver from using the Hilaman Golf Course before it opened in the early morning hours.

Weaver was reportedly wet and angry after the incident. Mike Osley, the worker who turned on the sprinklers, was given a week's suspension without pay.

Weaver has an \$800 annual membership at Hilaman, which allows him to play anytime the course is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Weaver's home is close to the sixth fairway and he frequently hops on to the course to play when it's officially closed.

## Georgia layout gets nod to host PGA Tour event

DULUTH, Ga. — The BellSouth Classic has received the go ahead from the PGA Tour to play next May's event at the Tournament Players Club at Sugarloaf course in Duluth.

After a recent inspection headed by PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and TPC President Vernon Kelly, Tour officials were satisfied that the course and clubhouse would be completed in time to host the BellSouth Classic May 8-11.

The tournament had been conducted at the Atlanta Country Club in Marietta since 1967, but tournament officials felt the event had outgrown the ACC in terms of parking and corporate hospitality.

The TPC at Sugarloaf course is the first Greg Norman signature layout in the United States. The course is essentially complete except for the seeding of the 11th green and a par-3 peninsula hole that required the construction of a dam to meet environmental codes.

The course features European-style sod-wall bunkers, zoysia rough, Crenshaw bentgrass greens and GN-1 Bermuda fairways. The new clubhouse is scheduled to be finished by March.