

Albuquerque's Ladera Muni on road to recovery

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Ladera municipal golf course had long been considered the worst of the city's three major municipal layouts. Last year, in fact, the course was in such bad shape that golfers in the annual men's city golf championship were actually allowed to tee the ball up in the fairways.

But 18 months later, through the hard work and vision of two father-son teams, a hardworking superintendent and crew and committed city officials, Ladera is on its way back. One golfer told the *Albuquerque Journal* that the course was "200 percent" improved. Another said the course was well-run, organized

and beautiful.

Sam and Wright Zimmerly and Billy Moya Sr. and Billy Moya Jr., deserve much of the credit for the transformation, along with superintendent Dominic Carmona and his crew. The elder Zimmerly and Mora were once among the top professional golfers in the state.

Moya, Sr., who is 73, has been in the golf business all his life. He came out of retirement to run Ladera with Sam Zimmerly and was appalled by the condition of the course when he first saw it. They soon discovered that the city had been saving money for a new course.

Mora, Zimmerly and Mayor Martin Chavez eventually convinced the city to pump the

money back into existing courses like Ladera.

In the past year, Ladera has gained about 250 new trees, new cart paths and flower plantings. Fairways have been reseeded and the course groomed to near country-club standards. A new fleet of 60 golf cars was purchased. There are also plans for renovating the restaurant and creating a banquet room.

Frustration with Birmingham course grows

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — More than six months after asking for proposals to renovate the shut-down Charlie Boswell Golf Course at Highland Park, the course remains closed and pressure is mounting on Mayor Richard Arrington.

The course officially closed last November when the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board canceled a contract with Birmingham Greater Golf Associates, the company that was running the course. The action came after Park Board members had complained for months about conditions at the course, which is the former home of the Birmingham Country Club.

According to the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, several companies submitted bids to the Park Board last winter but no action was taken. Several bidders said no one from the city returned their calls or acknowledged any developments on the project.

Ken Wyninger, owner of AKW Golf in Hattiesburg, Miss., was one of the bidders. Wyninger said the course has good potential for renovations and an upgrade, but it needs at least \$1.5 to \$2 million invested in the facility.

Oklahoma track closes for redo

STILLWATER, Okla. — The 18-hole municipal Lakeside Memorial Golf Course has closed for a \$2.3 million renovation.

The course, which opened in 1947, is scheduled to reopen in May 1998 with 12 new greens, almost all new tees, a new irrigation system, and a completed cart path system, according to Bill Nelson, director of Stillwater Parks and Recreation.

Other parts of Lakeside's renovation project include tree removal to improve air circulation around greens and tees, tree trimming, cutting down part of a hill to improve visibility and safety and removing dead trees and stumps.

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