

Newman, preservationists want to buy Conn. course land

EASTON, Conn. (AP) — Paul Newman is donating \$500,000 to help preserve land that developers want to turn into a golf course.

The actor, who lives in the neighboring town of Westport, said the money would come from proceeds of his Newman's Own food products.

At issue is a 740-acre tract owned by BHC Co., a water utility. National Fairways Inc.

wants to buy the land and turn it into an 18-hole golf course and 103 luxury condominiums.

"I've hiked this land," Newman told the Planning and Zoning Commission on Jan. 5. "I think the developers are being very shortsighted. Fifty years from now, the people who worked to save this land will be remembered as heroes."

Do-it-yourselfers receive plaudits for Conn. layout

PUTNAM, Conn. — Chalk one up for the do-it-yourself golf course construction industry.

Mike and Sally Donovan, both casual golfers with no experience or background in golf course design or construction, built the 18-hole Putnam County Club in rural eastern Connecticut on a \$1.5 million budget.

The course, with many stand-alone holes ringed with trees, bunkers and ponds, has received high marks from area golfers following the opening of the back nine last July. One National Golf Foundation official called the Donovan's creation "extraordinary."

Mike Donovan, who was a landscaper at the time they launched the project five years ago, convinced his wife to build and operate a golf course after the two of them struggled to find tee times at other local courses. The couple had also been discussing starting some kind of sideline business, but their thinking had been more along the lines of a crafts center or catering business.

But, after finding a 200-plus acre site in Putnam, where Sally Donovan grew up, along with a house, the Donovans were on their way in the golf course business. For five years, they worked up to 16 hours a day operating bulldozers, backhoes and excavators to clear and shape a heavily forested woodland area. They also had help from the extended family. The front nine opened in 1995.

The Donovans, who lived four miles from the course when they began building it, now live in a house they built off the eighth green.

Pine Valley to get public neighbor

PINE HILL, N.J. — There may soon be another world-famous course in New Jersey with a two-word name starting in Pine. The difference is this one will be public.

In what should be one of the more highly-anticipated projects in the New York-Philadelphia corridor, developer Eric Bergstol is moving ahead with plans to build

an upscale, daily-fee 18-hole course designed by Tom Fazio in the same neighborhood as the ultra-exclusive Pine Valley. It will be called Pine Hill Golf Club.

Along with what is being described as a "world-class" golf course, Pine Hill will also offer a hilltop clubhouse offering views of the Philadelphia skyline.

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lance would be set up to accom-
modate younger players, al-
though the course would be
regulation length to allow adults
to play with children. Children
would be given priority for tee
times and the course would be
used for training and also youth
tournaments.

If approved by the Legislature,
construction could start later this
year and the course could be
open for play by 2000.

Under Carlson's plan, the Min-
nesota Amateur Sports Commis-

TPC track likely
for San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The
four has asked La Cantera
Company to add a
to its existing course
to host a tournament.

and
an

will be
begin renovations to the
clubhouse immediately and in-
tertake a feasibility study for the
nine-hole expansion.

GOLF COURSE NEWS