CARS REGULARLY DRIVING ON GOLF COURSE; SEMINOLE SHERIFF ISSUING TREPASS ORDERS TO THOSE CAUGHT

Since the covid-19 quarantine has begun in March, an increase in public presence on the former golf course has been noted. Many people have been treating the former golf course lands like a public park, even destroying fencing to get access to the course lands. Parents have been taking their kids and baby carriages along the cart paths while bikers (both children and adults) have been using it as a trail. People have been seen walking their dogs on the greens while kids are playing in the sand traps. Most alarmingly, cars have been spotted joy riding along some of the cart paths.

The presence of automobiles on the course has increased tenfold during the months of May and June. The owner of the golf course has authorized the Seminole County Sheriff's Office to trespass any individuals caught operating motorized vehicles on the course. As a reminder, trespassing in the state of Florida is at least a second-degree misdemeanor.

The sheriff's office is very much aware of the increased presence of cars on the course, including some who have been joyriding along the cart paths and one pair of drivers that were racing each other. Patrols along the course itself have been increased. Given the high amount of pedestrian traffic on the course, it is only a matter of time before an accident occurs. We do not want to see anyone injured by a car. So, please, help us to keep everyone safe. If you see any motorized vehicles on the golf course at any time, please call the Seminole County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Line at 407-665-6600 to report what you have seen. We know that, together, we can help to keep everyone safe!

SEMINOLE COUNTY BCC DISCUSSES POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF DEER RUN GOLF COURSE

The Seminole County Board of Commissioners held a workshop on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 in Sanford, Florida. The meeting was a budget workshop to discuss utility issues. During the conversation of future plans the county has regarding water consumption, commissioners discussed the possibility of acquiring the former Country Club at Deer Run.

Commissioner Bob Dallari introduced the possibility of purchasing the former Deer Run Golf Course because it already has a Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) for water consumption from the St. John's Water Management District. If the county purchased the golf course, it would not need to purchase a new permit from the water management district which Dallari believed would be more expensive than purchasing the golf course. Commissioners Jay Zembower and Lee Constantine expressed interested support for the possibility believing it could help Deer Run residents who oppose development of the course while saving the county money and addressing water consumption issues. Most of the commissioners seemed keenly aware of the anti-development feelings in Deer Run. Commissioner Brenda Carey remained adamantly opposed to the idea believing that future new home construction on the golf course lands would help increase new Seminole County utility customers.

The discussion begins at the 1 hour, 39 minute mark. Please visit the URL to view the discussion yourself: http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/videos/5-19-2020-bcc-budget-worksession-2-morning-session.stml

Dallari requested that staff report back to the commission in no than 30 days with information about the feasibility and cost involved in purchasing the former golf course, and staff agreed to do so at the earliest opportunity available.

REPAIRS BEGIN ON BROKEN GOLF COURSE FENCING

The wooden slat fence that has marked the exterior boundaries of the former Country Club at Deer Run has existed for decades. Since the golf course's closure, the fence has become damaged in multiple locations. Most notably, the fence rails were damaged along Fairway Oaks Drive, at the Sterling Park Housing Association clubhouse, and across from the entrance to Sterling Park Elementary.

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office contacted the golf course's owner in May 2020. They reminded the owner of his responsibility to keep the golf course from being an 'attractive nuisance' to the public.

Shortly after the owner received the reminder about his duty to maintain the fence, residents reported seeing some random repairs to fencing being completed, particularly at the damaged portions near Sterling Park Elementary. However, many portions of the fence remain broken or missing outright. We hope to see more repairs to the fence completed in the near future.

RESIDENTS FILE FORM COMPLAINTS WITH SEMINOLE CODE ENFORCEMENT

Over the last several months, residents in Sterling Park, Fairway Oaks, and King's Point have noticed that the golf course has been somewhat lax in maintaining the grass cutting as they are required to do so by law in Seminole County. Throughout the past year during the golf course's closure, the owner has more or less maintained the grass with regular mowings.

However, this past spring, some residents have reported him to Seminole County Code Enforcement, as county law says the grass cannot grow higher than 8 inches without the owner being opened to fines. Most recently, the owner was given until June 1, 2020 to cut the grass below the required height or to face fines. His latest violation was by a resident.

The grass was mowed, and it appears the owner is now in compliance with county regulations. However, we continue to encourage residents to file complaints if the golf course grass adjacent to their properties gets any higher than eight inches.

As a reminder, all code enforcement violation complaints for unincorporated Seminole County should be directed to the Seminole County Sheriff's Office at 407-665-6650 or by using their online form, https://www.seminolesheriff.org/forms/ReportCodeViolation.aspx.

E-mail address: admin@savedeerrun.com

Did you know there's a Facebook group where you can discuss matters about the golf course closing? Check us out!

We're on the Web!
See us at:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/SaveDeerRun/groups/?ref=page_internal   http://www.savedeerrun.com/