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More Tamarac golf courses slated for housing

March 08, 2010 | By Lisa J. Huriash, Sun Sentinel

TAMARAC — City officials are reviewing two new proposals to turn golf courses into housing, and nearby residents are complaining that developers are chipping away at the last of their green space.

One project is in Woodmont, west of University Drive, where the builder is proposing 255 single-family houses and nearly 61,000 square feet of commercial space for offices and restaurants. This proposal would close the Pines course and leave the Cypress course intact.

In 2007, when developers proposed 300 townhouses and single-family homes for the Woodmont golf course, hundreds of residents organized to squelch the plan.

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"People are upset," said Woodmont resident Burton Schneider. "In order to do this they are eliminating one of our golf courses and that's not an acceptable solution. We were never in favor of giving up open space for construction. Our feelings are still the same."

The second plan is for Colony West, owned by the Edward Rack Corp., where one of the two golf courses would become the site of 422 townhouses and two-story condos. The Glades course, south of McNab Road between Pine Island and Nob Hill roads would close. It abuts developments including Spyglass, Westwood II and Plum Bay and Plum Harbor.

Residents there are fearful about traffic and their property values.

"I'm really against it," said LeRoy Browne, who lives in a single-family house in Paradise Estates, adjacent to the Colony West golf course. "I moved down here in 1980 and I paid extra for the golf course view. That is lost once this goes up."

Colony West Estates resident John Hollis said his neighbors are heartbroken.

"Everybody that bought here planned on living on a golf course and felt protected that view would exist," said Hollis, whose backyard is on the No. 1 hole. "It's morally wrong to have the city change a land use law to benefit one family [Rack] and at the same stroke of a pen have a serious adverse reaction to literally thousands of people that live in the hundreds of homes surrounding that area."

Golf course space is shrinking in Tamarac. Two former golf courses, Sabal Palm and Monterey, near Florida's Turnpike, are slated for residential use, despite strong opposition from residents. The new proposals for both Woodmont and Colony West would each impact one of two golf courses in those neighborhoods.

Only the two golf courses in the Woodlands neighborhood would be untouched.

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