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Appeals board bags driving range

By MARY ALLEN
South County Staff Writer

Birds and bugs will be about the only things flying around a vacant Deale tract that had been considered for development as a golf driving range.

The county Board of Appeals last week denied a request for a special exception that would have allowed Michelle and An Hsiang "Scott" Lee of Calvert County to construct the business on property zoned residential-agricultural.

The decision pleased the south county residents who fought the plan.

"It's really a thrill," said their

lawyer, Weems W. Duvall Jr.

The Lees had proposed building the driving range at the intersection of Bay Front and Rockhold Creek roads on more than 5 acres in the critical area. Their proposal included a range with 17 tee boxes, a pro shop, overhead lights and a gravel parking lot for about 30 vehicles.

They had taken the idea to the Board of Appeals in December, after county Administrative Hearing Officer Robert Wilcox rejected it.

"I was obviously disappointed," said Anthony F. Christhilf, the Lees' attorney.

Mr. Lee said he wasn't sure if he

would appeal the decision to Circuit Court or find another use for the property.

Aside from valuable time and enthusiasm, people who fought the development idea invested little else. Mr. Duvall contributed more than 80 hours of pro bono legal work and called on witnesses like Naval Academy professors who volunteered their testimony at no cost.

"It shows what a group of citizens can do when they pull together," he said.

Residents were also indirectly aided by the testimony of a county planner and a state Department of Natural Resources lawyer, who said

the proposal was counter to the critical area designation.

The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission also opposed the idea.

In its ruling, the board used issues raised by residents who fought the development to explain why the special exception request was denied.

"I think credence was given to speculation and not the expert testimony," Mr. Christhilf said.

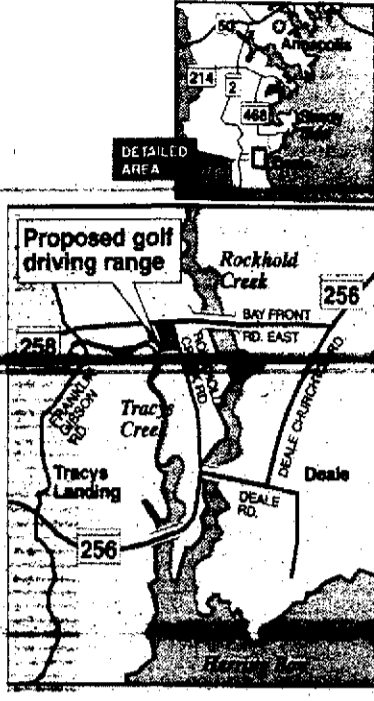
The board sided with safety concerns that stray balls from the driving range could pose a hazard to drivers on Rockhold Creek Road. The board doubted that a 30-foot-tall

net the Lees had proposed to corral the balls would be effective.

At a hearing, Mr. Christhilf called on a professional player and consultant, who said expert golfers drive a ball an average of 289 yards. A golf ball would have to travel more than 400 yards to clear the net, he testified.

The board also noted that a driving range would be incompatible with the rural character of south county. Its night lights could disturb nearby homes, the opinion said.

Mr. Christhilf said a commercial center across the street from the site gives off more light than a driving range would have generated.



Capital graphic

TAKE YOUR MARKS!

Runners will commandeer area roads in race

By CHRISTOPHER MUNSEY
Staff Writer

The 21st annual Annapolis 10-Mile Run and its thousands of pavement-pounders will bring road closures in Annapolis and across the Severn River on the Broadneck Peninsula Sunday morning.

Sponsored by the Annapolis Striders, the popular road race takes runners over a 10-mile course, starting at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium and continuing through the city, the county and the Naval Academy before finishing back at the stadium.

The race starts at 7:30 a.m., and all roads should be fully reopened to traffic by 10 a.m., area police said.

Motorists headed to downtown Annapolis Sunday morning are advised to take West Street instead of Rowe Boulevard, said Sgt. Philip Turner, special events coordinator for city police.

Churchgoers headed to St. Paul Lutheran Church and Calvary United Methodist Church on Rowe Boulevard and the other churches downtown should give themselves an extra 15 minutes to make it on time, Sgt. Turner said.

In Annapolis, two major traffic arteries, Rowe Boulevard and King George Street, will be affected throughout the morning.

A segment of Rowe Boulevard — from Melvin Avenue to Herbert Sachs Drive at the Tawes State Office Building complex — will be closed from 7:30 a.m. until the race's end at 10 a.m.

Police have arranged a detour for motorists

during that time.

In downtown Annapolis, King George Street will be closed from College Avenue to Route 450 and Annapolis Street from 7:30 to about 10 a.m., Sgt. Turner said.

Another section of King George Street, from Gate 1 of the Naval Academy to College Avenue, will be closed from 8 to 10 a.m., he said.

Although much of King George Street will be closed, motorists will be allowed to use cross streets throughout the race when the street is clear of runners, police said.

As the contest starts at 7:30 a.m., a circuit of streets close to Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium — Taylor Avenue, Cedar Park Road, Farragut Road, Melvin Avenue, Annapolis Street and Route 450 — will be closed for about 10 or 15 minutes.

All except Taylor Avenue will reopen after the last runner passes, Sgt. Turner said. Taylor Avenue will remain closed until the race's end.

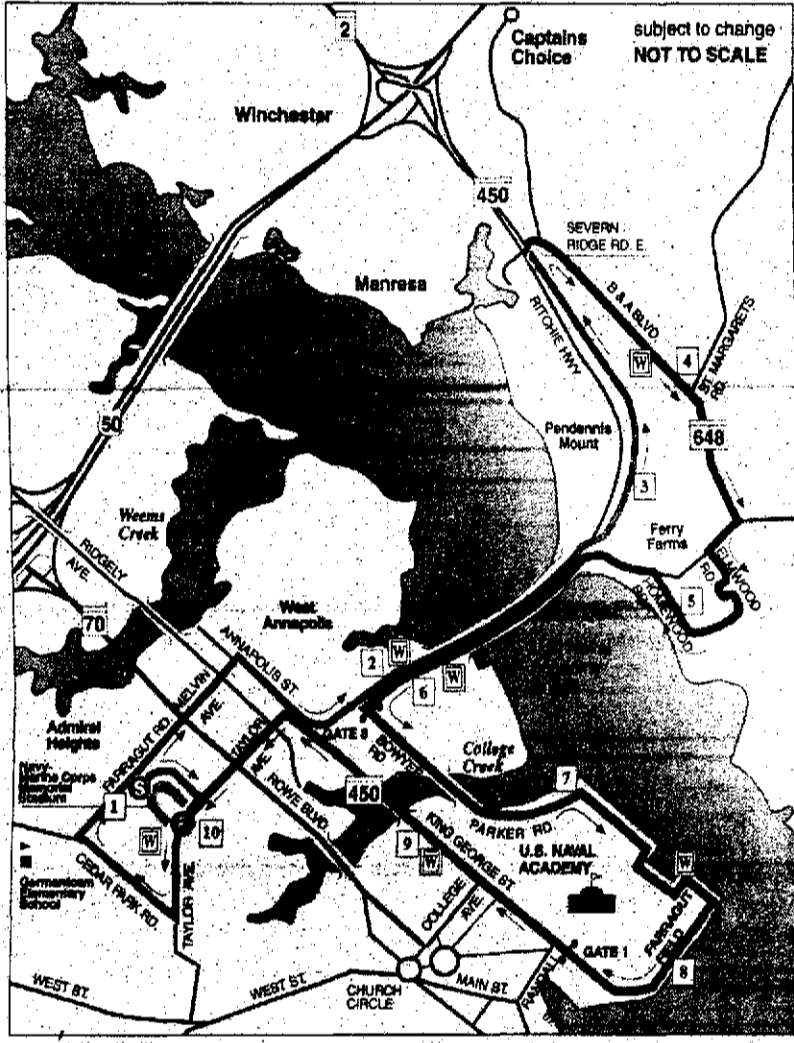
Motorists also won't be able to get in or out of Annapolis over the Naval Academy Bridge. It will be closed to traffic from 7:25 to 10 a.m., Sgt. Turner said.

On the county's portion of the course, segments of Route 450, Severn Ridge Road East, Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Elmwood Road and Homewood Road will be closed from 7 to 10 a.m., said Officer John Bull of the county police Traffic Safety Unit.

"As long as there's a runner on the course, it's closed," Officer Bull said.

Annapolis 10-Mile Run

- KEY**
- S Start
- F Finish
- W Water / Aid
- M Mile Marker



Capital graphic

Area police are advising motorists to avoid downtown Annapolis if they can Sunday morning, as thousands of runners participate in the 21st annual Annapolis 10-Mile Run. Some of the major traffic closures are: Rowe Boulevard — from Melvin Avenue to Herbert Sachs Drive at the Tawes state office building complex — will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to the race's end at 10 a.m. King George Street will be closed from College Avenue to Route 450 and Annapolis Street from 7:30 to about 10 a.m. King George Street, from Gate 1 of the Naval Academy to College Avenue, will be closed from 8 to 10 a.m. The Naval Academy Bridge will be closed to traffic from 7:25 to 10 a.m. Route 450 will be closed from the Naval Academy Bridge to Severn Ridge Road East from 7:30 to 10 a.m.



By Mark M. Odell — The Capital

Severna Park High School sophomore Krissy Hellmann, foreground, takes part in cheerleading tryouts. The school's three squads — two varsity and one junior varsity — were picked Tuesday. Miss Hellmann made the team for the second year. This year is the first time cheerleading is an official team sport in the county.

Cheerleading a team effort

By THERESA WINSLOW
Staff Writer

The day before the cheerleading squads at Severna Park High School were picked this week, about 60 girls sweated in unison for the chance to root for the home teams.

Workouts have been like this for years, but this time there was a difference that wasn't immediately noticeable. The girls were trying to earn a spot on a team of their own.

Cheerleading has gone beyond the club realm and is now an official sport.

"I think (the cheerleaders) will get more respect," said Rick Wiles, county coordinator of physical education and athletics. "Overall, the end result will be beneficial to the students in Anne Arundel County."

Some of the veteran cheerleaders at Severna Park High feel that way too, although they said it isn't that much of a change for them.

"I don't think that it will be much different because we've been treated as a sport here (already)," senior Emily Hauser said Monday. "But

maybe it will get some respect from people who don't treat us with respect."

As for the two cheerleading coaches, Diane McCall and Debbie Woods, both said the biggest difference was having to alter their schedules.

Ms. McCall said tryouts used to be held in the spring with a panel of judges picking the squads, which then had the summer to practice. This year, tryouts didn't start until late last week.

The two coaches will pick the three squads — two varsity and one junior varsity — to cheer at football, soccer, field hockey and volleyball games.

"We've been treated as a sport the 12 years I've been coaching," Ms. McCall said. "It's not that much different, except for competitions and tryouts."

Cheerleading teams must follow state rules, which prohibit traveling more than 600 miles round-trip for a competition, Mr. Wiles said. Some squads traveled farther than that in

the past.

Mr. Wiles said there were many reasons for making cheerleading a sport, including ensuring that activities are more closely monitored.

The county also will be able to give cheerleading squads more financial support, he said. The exact amount each school will get is still being worked out.

Mr. Wiles said his department had been looking at making cheerleading a sport for a while. Heightened gymnastic skills in recent years made it "a natural match," he said.

"Cheerleading is definitely an athletic event," Mr. Wiles said. "Look at the skills involved."

School officials are still ironing out the details, but plan to have squads compete at fall and winter meets.

There will be three categories for the squads: 16 members and over, 15 members and under, and junior varsity.

Model rocket launch set for Severna Park

The county Department of Recreation and Parks will present a model rocket launch at Kinder Park in Severna Park at 9 a.m. on Sept. 7.

Join Dennis Christopher, aerospace education specialist from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, to learn how to build, launch and track model rockets.

Preregistration is required. Call the Baltimore Annapolis Trail

New bus route will give mids better mall access

By THERESA WINSLOW
Staff Writer

Mall-minded mids now have a ticket to ride on their own city bus.

Starting this week, the city Department of Parking & Transportation is designating one of its buses to the academy on Saturdays for nonstop runs to Annapolis Mall.

Only midshipmen will be allowed to ride the shuttle and it will be at a reduced rate: 50 cents each way instead of the normal 75 cents, said Kathleen Darden, marketing director of the transportation agency.

"We're in business to please anybody that we can," she said.

The bus will leave from outside Gate 1 at the academy at 11 a.m. It won't make the return trip until 9:30 p.m., so midshipmen who don't want their mall visit to be an all-day affair will have to hop one of the regular hourly buses at the mall, Ms. Darden said. That trip will cost them the regular fare.

Ms. Darden said the city will break even on the cost of running the bus as long as about 40 midshipmen ride each way. The bus will be a shuttle used by the city during the week and usually taken out of service on the weekend.

The Navy-to-mall shuttle had its genesis in May when city officials attended a

transportation meeting with some academy officials, she said. The idea for the bus came up in an informal discussion, and the city has been working with the academy on the project since then.

It's aimed at giving midshipmen who don't have a car an easy way to get to the mall, Ms. Darden said.

"We are, in fact, very excited about the service, and certainly we appreciate it," said Ensign Leslie Lance, an academy spokesman. "It reflects the strong bond the academy has with the citizens here."

Ensign Lance said word of the bus has been filtering down to the midshipmen

through the chain of command. She called it a "safe, quick and easy mode of transportation to the mall."

The bus will run on the same schedule every Saturday except Sept. 21, when there's a home football game at night, Ms. Darden said. The schedule that day includes the same departure time, but a return trip at 4 p.m. instead of 9:30.

There are no runs scheduled for Oct. 5, Nov. 9, 16 and 30, March 1 and 8, and May 3. Ms. Darden said the cancellations were because of sporting events, exams or holidays. No service is scheduled in December, and the last shuttle run will be on May 17.