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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Hidden Creek Golf Course will close for course play on March 7, 2012, so that the redesign and realignment of the municipal course can get underway. The project will take approximately five months, with an expected re-opening in late August.

The original plan, on Jan. 4, was for the course to close the back nine holes on Jan. 9 and the front nine holes in mid-February. That date was set so that Chesapeake Energy could start the construction of an irrigation pond and move the dirt (all at no cost to the City), per a gas well agreement between the City and Chesapeake.

After the agreement with Chesapeake was approved by council (awaiting final approval by the City attorneys), Chesapeake requested a renegotiation concerning the City possibly doing the construction of the irrigation pond. Both sides agreed that the City would dig and sculpt the pond and move the dirt then Chesapeake would reimburse the City up to \$400,000. With the new arrangement, approved by council Feb. 6, one contractor will be performing all the work at the course, including the irrigation pond and golf course construction. The work will go out for bids in February with a bid approval by March. The dirt work will take place roughly March-May, then sod will be taking root May-July.

In November 2011, council members approved a full redesign of Hidden Creek Golf Course. The project includes the realignment of four holes (a total of 12 holes will have substantial renovation), three new green complexes, additional lake (5 acres, 14 feet deep), turf/topsoil/irrigation improvements, and cart path realignment. Colligan Golf Design is doing the realignment. When the course re-opens, the rates for play will remain the same. The redesign and realignment will open Hidden Creek Golf Course up for championship tournaments and qualifying events.

The redesign and realignment is being paid for with gas well reserves (revenue from the gas wells on Hidden Creek Golf Course property) as well as the \$400,000 from the gas well agreement with Chesapeake. Chesapeake is drilling 6 wells and in return is purchasing water for the fracking process from both Bailey Lake and the new Golf Course irrigation pond.

Hidden Creek Golf Course will be closed for play March-August, but the pro shop and restaurant will remain open. The Hidden Creek Grill serves sandwiches and specials, including hamburger baskets and Panini sandwiches for lunch, but the restaurant is getting a makeover too. Andrea Blair, formerly of Wine Down in Old Town, is the chef. She is planning two special events each month, starting with a Wine Tasting on Feb. 24, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. The price is \$10 per person and will include a wine tasting (three wines), appetizers, and live music from After Six featuring Rey Gonzales and Bill Bateman. Drinks will also be available for purchase. Blair is also tweaking the tournament food offerings. The grill will be open for lunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The pro shop will be open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., seven days a week. The range will remain open until work begins in that area. The pro shop is fully stocked with all the latest gear and clothing and major brands. The practice facilities include a bunker, putting green and driving range.