

Lakes Golf Course expands with pool, villas

By ELISA SAND, Staff Reporter

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From the addition of a pool and fitness building next to the Lakes Lodge to the newest development of vacation villas, the Lakes Golf Course area is bustling with activity.

Established in 1999, the Lakes Golf Course was once undeveloped farm land. It now features numerous homes, a nine-hole golf course, the Lakes Lodge and a restaurant.

Development extends past the golf course and down the road, accommodating seasonal residents with an RV park and, now, vacation villas.

The vacations villa development is the newest investment in the area. The concept received the endorsement of the Lake County Commissioners last fall; now that the infrastructure has been installed, lots have become available for purchase.

The goal: to have 51 of the villas, also known as park homes, purchased and placed on the lots in the next couple of years.



Callie Wockenfuss, marketing and promotions coordinator for the Lakes Community infrastructure, said the space is there, and so is the interest.

"I think they'll go fast once they start selling," she said.

Promotion of the development has begun, and Wockenfuss said she's seen a strong response with inquiries, tour requests and hits on the Web site.

Lot sizes aren't the typical size, and neither are the homes. The villas are a mere 400 square feet and will be placed on lots that range in size from 3,800 to 4,500 square feet.

The homes, which are on wheels and considered RVs and are available exclusively from Spader Homes in Sioux Falls, feature a living room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and (in three of the four models) a loft.

Wockenfuss said some people have asked about building on the lots, but that's not an option. The lots are specifically designed for these homes and the developers want these particular homes on the lots.

Every home will feature cedar siding, said Wockenfuss, but homeowners will have the ability to customize the inside with any number of amenities.

An option for homeowners is the addition of a three-season room and a storage building.

In addition to utility hookups, homeowners can hook into an irrigation system installed throughout the development.

A homeowner's association will be established, Wockenfuss said, and each buyer will be required to plant at least one tree on the lot. The first tree will be a gift from the development, she said.

The development is meant to attract a segment of the population that travels seasonally and to attract the younger

families who want a small piece of lake property.

"This is a great investment," Wockenfuss said. "All land and property around the lake is going up exponentially."

The seasonal development will be open from April 15 to Oct. 15.

Although the lots and homes are small, the homes are placed to maximize yard space. Home placement on the lot is illustrated on the development map, which shows two homes on adjoining lots nearly back to back, which maximizes the front yard.

In addition to a lake view, the nearby golf course and restaurant, homeowners will have access to other amenities.

An in-ground, heated outdoor pool has been installed just beyond the boundary of the villa development in the RV park, and playground equipment has also been installed.

A community center is planned for this fall, she said, as well as an indoor pool and fitness center at the Lakes Golf Course.

The pool and fitness center are currently under construction east of the Lakes Lodge.

Lakes Lodge Manager Marie Simonsen said construction began this spring and will hopefully be completed by mid-September. It will include her office, a lobby, pool, hot tub and fitness loft.

"It will be for guests as well as the housing development," Simonsen said.

Guests at the Lakes Lodge will automatically have access to the building, she said, and area residents will pay a membership fee for use of the facility.

"We're not trying to compete with The Community Center [in Madison]," she said. "But it gives people an option if they want to exercise there."

The Lakes Lodge consists of two eight-unit buildings constructed in 2002. Simonsen said demand continues to increase, and the addition of the pool/fitness center will hopefully attract more families.

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