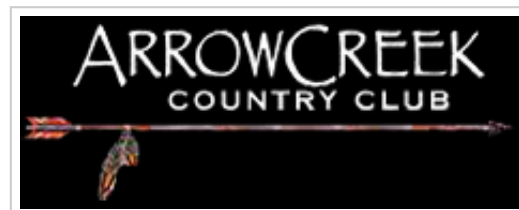


Saving Arrowcreek: Plans for the Course's Future

By: Rebecca Kitchen - Email

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RENO, Nev. It has been in peril for years, but now that Arrowcreek Country Club has been rescued by 32 of its residents, things are looking up for the struggling golf course.

Purchased by The Friends of Arrowcreek, LLC, the residents began planning the purchase when the former owners declared Chapter 11 Bankruptcy after Washoe County placed a tax lien on the property for unpaid taxes.

"Our main concern was preserving the course and keeping it from going brown to help preserve the property values in Arrowcreek," Gary Pestell, Chairman for The Friends of Arrowcreek said.

There was also concerns about Arrowcreek suffering the same fate as two other golf courses in the area; closing down and turning into an eyesore.

"Northgate was back in 08 and this past year has been D'andrea and that has been devastating," Pestello said. "We don't want the course to go brown."

With the purchase, it's estimated that home values will increase by as much as 30%.

Under a new name, The Club at Arrowcreek, the new owners have big plans to secure the future of the club and course. But there are challenges ahead.

"We are a group of business men, but we don't operate golf courses," Pestello said.

Another challenge is trying to drum up new business for the financially strapped club.

"It's tough to run a golf course these days," Samuel Fox, Arrowcreek HOA President said. "A golf only club has tremendous challenges as golf has declined in popularity over the past 6 or 7 years."

So The Friends of Arrowcreek plan to do this right. They've hired Arnold Palmer Golf to manage operations and hope to get the Arrowcreek HOA involved. A community vote is expected in the next few months. If approved, residents would pay an extra \$99 a month in dues to operate the golf course.

But The Friends of Arrowcreek also say they success of the golf course will hinge on members as well as outside community members.

Some aspects of the club will remain the same. The Challenge course will remain private, and the Legends course semi-private, but the new owners plan to make the community feel more welcome. And that, they hope, will generate new revenue.

"We envision a community club that is put together for the use of the entire community," Pestello said.

Fox agreed. "It's available to all members of the community for social events, for parties, for gatherings, a place to have lunch and dinner and also if they are golfers, a place to golf."

The deal is expected to go through by the end of October.

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