



The Times

National recognition for Mt. View

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TRENTON --The new clubhouse at Mercer County's Mountain View Golf Course has been recognized as one of the top clubhouses nationally by Golf Inc., magazine, Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes announced yesterday.

The recognition by Golf Inc., the leading monthly golf magazine for golf course developers, owners, operators, and management company executives, puts Mountain View on par with 15 of the most prestigious and beautiful clubhouse facilities in the world.

Mountain View was one of four runner-ups nationwide for the 2007 "Clubhouse of the Year" competition in the Daily Fee category, which featured winners from golf-rich states such as Arizona and Florida, said Hughes. It was also the only New Jersey golf course recognized this year.

"Mountain View has become a shining jewel in our crown of public golf facilities here in Mercer County," Hughes said in a press release. "We knew from hearing from our residents who have enjoyed it how special the new clubhouse was, and being named in such select company by a leading industry magazine proves that we were successful in creating a beautiful, exciting building."

Since its opening on June 20, 2007, Mountain View's clubhouse has been solidly booked with corporate luncheons, weddings and private parties.

The 9,000-square-foot clubhouse and pro shop were completed earlier this year after about 10 months of construction and replaced the course's original clubhouse that was nearly 50 years old. The new clubhouse was constructed by contracting firm Waters & Bugbee and designed by architects The Spiezle Group.

The \$2.9 million project has enabled the County to provide a modern, expanded venue for the use of the golfing community and other groups. The amenities of the new clubhouse include a fully outfitted, professional kitchen, a larger and more diverse pro shop, all new seating and furniture, and a modern, airy décor.

"This clubhouse has been everything we had hoped for, and more," said Kevin Bannon, executive director of the Mercer County Park Commission in a press release. "It is wonderful to see such a diverse number of activities and events occupying the building on a daily basis."

The clubhouse is just one reason to play at Mountain View Golf Course, which is enjoying a record year on all levels, Hughes added.

In fact, Mountain View's annual revenue and patronage are up, according to Bannon. Gross revenue is up 44 percent over this time last year, from \$787,891 to \$1,137,362. Additionally, play is up 11.5 percent, going from 30,883 rounds in 2006 to 34,462 in 2007-- an increase of 3,500 rounds. And revenue from outings has increased a staggering 202.5 percent over last year, from \$55,247 to \$167,123.

The 15 winning clubhouses will be published in January's issue of Golf Inc., magazine and will be honored at an awards dinner in April at Doral Resort and Spa in Miami.

Clubhouse of the Year (Honorees were recognized in three categories: daily fee; private clubs and renovations; and remodeling):

Daily fee category - The TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Private clubs category - Pine Canyon Club in Flagstaff, Ariz.,

Renovation and remodeling category - Arizona Country Club in Phoenix, Ariz.,

Other finalists in the daily fee category:

Runner-up - The Ridges at Mountain Harbor, Hayesville, N. C.

Finalists - Heritage Shores Club, Bridgeville, Del. ; Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Resort, Kiawah Island, S. C.; Mountain View Golf Club, Ewing.

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