

Isle Dauphine Golf Course Will Reopen New Year's weekend!! Volunteers to Maintain the course..

(Email message sent to DIPOA membership)

(Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011) Word of the closing of the Isle Dauphine Golf Course may have been a bit premature! The "Calvary" arrived in the form of a work force with several dozen volunteers!

The Board has approved the matter and Jack Gaines, II, DIPOA President announced today the golf course will reopen Thursday, December 29. Operations of the golf course and the GulfView grill will be Wednesdays thru Sundays until further notice.

The Dauphin Island Property Owners' Association Board of Directors cut expenses and several obligations in the golf course operation in a December, 2011, executive meeting. A decision was made not to reopen the golf course after the traditional Christmas break. Financial concerns were explained as the primary reason. Word quickly spread early in December of the "shut down" of the golf course.

On Monday night Dec. 12, an email blast went out calling for volunteer action. On Thursday morning, Dec. 15 a gathering of 53 individuals appeared at the Isle Dauphine and enthusiastically planned maintenance and committed to the daily upkeep of the golf course. Those assembled included home builders, contractors, a draftsman, two engineers and other professionals, real estate, retired business men and women, a couple of PhD(s), and a golf course general manager with over 30 years experience.

Tuesday, Dec. 20, one week from the call for action, at 7:30 in the morning, the first group of volunteers met for instruction on equipment operation and golf course maintenance techniques. Jobs described were daily mowing greens and tee boxes, operation of the irrigation system, reworking and raking sand traps, moving the green cup locations on a scheduled basis and general golf course clean up. Volunteers were asked to give one day a week, 8 am until 12 noon.

Volunteer, Jim Hall of Dauphin Island said, "This response is amazing. People are truly interested and committed. We may very well pull this thing off!" Continuing, Hall said, "The first three days of volunteer work has been very productive. We have mowers, a tractor and the watering system working. " Hall added, "We will have the public golf course open five days a week. If thing go really well, people come and play, maybe we can talk the Board into a seven day schedule."

The Dauphin Island Property Owners' Assoc. President, Jack Gaines, set the goal for the volunteers to keeping the golf course operating for 90 to 120 days. "Following that period, there may be some financial assistance on the horizon and we can hire a manager and staff" he said. When questioned with specifics, Gaines would not comment.

Plans call for the GulfView Grill to remain open Wednesdays thru Sundays. In the spring, the swimming pool and beach will be open to the public.