

Swing or Swim

By Dale Leatherman Published Wednesday, April 01, 2009

You can dive into both golfing and swimming at many area golf-course communities

Living on a green fairway is a dream come true for some who live in golf-course communities. But according to studies by the Urban Land Institute, some two-thirds of their neighbors don't play.

Why do non-golfers choose fairway homes? Some are drawn by a course's open space and beauty and by the wildlife it attracts. There's security in knowing that the space beyond the backyard won't be developed further and that trails in buffer areas will always be available for walking or biking.

Developers also know that couples and families have passions other than golf. One of them is swimming—a good skill for youngsters and a low-impact exercise for all ages. A pool is a place where neighbors gather in a relaxed atmosphere and an amenity that many homebuyers enjoy.

Avid Washington-area golfers might commute 90 minutes to live on Maryland's top public course, Bulle Rock Golf (410-939-8887; bullerockgolf.com) in Havre de Grace, just off Interstate 95.

More than a few non-golfers have been drawn to the Residences at Bulle Rock (410-939-8700; bullerockresorthomes.com). Pete Dye's design is home to the McDonald's LPGA Championship.

Surrounding the course will be 2,200 houses and condos. House prices range from \$300,000 to \$800,000; all of the condos are sold.

Gwyeneth and Luigi Stamegna have owned at Bulle Rock for 2½ years. She works in Baltimore, he in DC. They live in Linthicum and drive most weekends to Bulle Rock, which may become their retirement home.

"The amenities sold us," says Gwen. "We don't play golf, but we entertain friends and business associates who do. Luigi swims laps in the indoor pool while I sit in the Jacuzzi and watch. In the summer, we spend every weekend at the outdoor pool."

Luigi had a hip replacement eight years ago—another reason to use the pool because he can't run. "A lot more people are using the pool to work out than just splash around," he says.

All are great places to raise the next Tiger Woods or Michael Phelps or to stay fit with a combination of golf and swimming.