

Schools May Purchase Golf Course

District to Make \$900,000 Offer for Fire Damaged Site

BY DON SNYDER

Times Staff Writer

GLENDALE — An offer to buy the 37-acre Chevy Chase Country Club for \$900,000 will be made by the Glendale Unified School District.

The school board Tuesday night unanimously voted to request a sale of bonds to acquire money for purchase of the regulation nine-hole golf course.

Dr. James H. Williams, school superintendent, recommended the land be used for construction of an elementary school, junior high school and senior high school, the latter two projects to be developed as population in Chevy Chase Canyon increases.

Richard Krotz and Raymond Freschi, co-operators of the country club who have 35 years remaining on a lease of the facilities with an option to buy, said Wednesday they would withhold comment on the proposal until the school district officially contacts them.

Not Official

"The proposal comes to us out of the blue," said Krotz. "We haven't seen the offer yet nor have we been approached by the district. If an offer officially comes to pass we would sit down and discuss it."

Krotz said matters concerning negotiations with the present country club owner, Charles H. Corbett of Palm Springs, and certain existing commitments in the rebuilding of the partially burned clubhouse would have to be considered.

Part of Chevy Chase clubhouse was gutted by fire last July 27. Recently, the operators announced an insurance claim settlement of \$89,000 for damages. The clubhouse, they said, would be rebuilt as it was before.

The school board action also came as a surprise to Dr. Kelso Grant Barnett, president of the 800-member Chevy Chase Estates Property Assn., and City Manager C. E. Perkins.

Recreational Needs

Barnett, whose group has campaigned over the years against rumored subdivision of the golf course and fought to retain recreational and/or open-air space in the canyon, said it would be regretful to see the links disappear.

"Certainly we welcome schools in Chevy Chase Canyon, but not at the expense of losing all the recreational atmosphere in the only flatland in the area.

Perkins said the city has always hoped the property would remain as a golf course, but nonetheless recognizes need for additional school sites.

"If it comes to a choice, golf or schools, perhaps the greater number of people would be served by a school site," he stated.

Future Planning

"As far as city planning in Chevy Chase Canyon goes, there are also fire stations, libraries, access roads and other items along with the school sites to consider.

"I think if these school sites are established, it will be more helpful in planning the future of the area. The potential growth in the canyon is very great. That growth is now being held up because of inadequacy of access roads.

"As growth comes in the next few years, the area will need schools. Maybe the board is doing some very good long range planning."

At present, Chevy Chase Dr. and Linda Vista Ave. are the only roads for traffic ingress and egress in the canyon located in the San Rafael Hills of east Glendale.

The north-south portion of the Glendale Freeway is

Please Turn to Pg. 7, Col. 4

CHEVY CHASE

Continued from First Page large enough for expansion. The district proposal isn't new. School officials say a similar proposal was discussed six years ago when rumors of subdividing the golf course existed.

The school district recently acquired the services of architects A. C. Martin and Associates to make a study of projected population and growth of Chevy Chase Canyon.

George Pujdak, member of the Martin firm, told school district trustees Tuesday that the residential population of the canyon stands to increase from 550 present dwellings to a total ranging between 2,675-3,408 residences by 1980.

A population increase from 8,000 to 10,000 is projected, he pointed out.

Pujdak said the present site of Glenoaks Elementary School at 2015 E Glenoaks Blvd. in the canyon isn't