



Local News

State Supreme Court to hear golf course arguments Friday

[Print Page](#)

The cart path bridge leads to the seventh tee at The Golf Club at Harbor Shores, one of three holes built at Jean Klock Park in Benton Harbor. John Madill / H-P staff

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LANSING - Two Benton Harbor residents will have their case against the city and the Harbor Shores golf course heard in the Michigan Supreme Court on Friday.

Carol Drake and Clellen Bury are appealing a judge's ruling that found the three Harbor Shores golf course holes built on Jean Klock Park constitute a public use.

Drake and Bury contend that the lease between the city and the golf course violates a restriction in a 1917 deed and a judgment from a 2004 lawsuit.

The 2004 lawsuit between Drake and Bury and Benton Harbor ended with a settlement allowing the sale of 4 acres along Grand Boulevard for residential development in exchange for the rest of the then 90-acre park being permanently protected from further development.

Oral arguments for both sides are on the court's docket for Friday at 9:30 a.m.

The Golf Club at Harbor Shores is an 18-hole course designed by golf great Jack Nicklaus. Having holes that overlook Lake Michigan are considered critical to the course's success, thus developers sought to use part of Jean Klock Park for three holes.

The course is the centerpiece of the 530-acre Harbor Shores development, primarily in Benton Harbor.

Developers anticipate about \$500 million in residential and commercial development in the corridor, which reaches into Benton Township and St. Joseph.

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