

E-mailed statement from Valerie Garner, Countryside Neighborhood Alliance chairwoman:

**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2010 4:15 PM

**Subject:** Valerie's Statement on Countryside - BOLD is most important

As president of Countryside Neighborhood ...

The neighborhood is a victim of a poor decision made by city council in 2005.

A city council who never toured a property before agreeing to enter into real estate speculation by purchasing Countryside Golf Course for \$4.1 million of taxpayers money. Neither taking into account what it would do to the home values of the 100 plus homes surrounding the course.

The process began as far back as at least 2002 with a negative consultant report that the THEN COUNCIL and city administration ignored.

It was the height of the housing boom that went bust shortly after the purchase.

The loan of \$4 million with Carter Bank at 6.25% for 15 years has already yielded over \$1 million in interest only expense to the city of Roanoke.

Deterioration of the course began as soon as the city purchased it and began leasing it on a year to year lease hoping a developer would appear.

The city still owes on the property and now there is no potential for income from it.

**What is the plan "B"?"**

First the pool was filled in then the tennis building deteriorated and now the golf course closes. It will not be able to be revived as only a weedy layout will exist after a few months according to Scott Beasley, VP of Operations with Meadowbrook. Scott summed it up saying, "it is sad."

**The course is a source of pride for our diverse community. It will be hard to explain to this community why one of it's valued assets will cease to exist.**

**I DO understand when comparing a golf course to city school needs - well, there is just no comparison.**

**However, this community has taken the blow while other capital improvements continue. This is very hard to explain.**

Valerie Garner  
Chair, Countryside Neighborhood Alliance