

FEB. 19, 2018

New Cricket Fields Complex Coming to Prairie View

PRAIRIE VIEW, TX (Feb. 19, 2018) – Wolff Companies announced that a new cricket complex is coming to Prairie View, in the form of a 68.8 acre development just northwest of Houston. This Prairie View development is located at the interchange of U.S. 290 and Liendo Parkway between Hempstead and Prairie View. The U.S. 290 corridor has been experiencing unprecedented investment in anticipation of the opening of the new and expanded U.S. 290 at the end of this year.

Tanweer Ahmed, who owns numerous KFC and Pizza Hut franchises and other interests, closed the transaction with Wolff Companies. Ahmed is an avid cricket player who learned the game in his native Pakistan and plays on team GACCI in the Houston Cricket League. He plans to have two fields playable by April 2018 and all 12-14 cricket fields, including two for evening matches, ready for play by the second quarter of 2019. The sheer number of cricket fields in one location will make this development a “one of a kind” cricket complex in the United States, according to Ahmed.

The City of Prairie View is the future “field of dreams” for the Houston Cricket League where Houston businessman Tanweer Ahmed will build 12–14 cricket fields.

David Wolff, Chairman and President of Wolff Companies, purchased Liendo Park Property several years ago in anticipation of growth in northwest Houston and because of the property’s natural beauty, particularly several old growth live oak trees. While he expected the land would likely be developed for multiple uses, such as retail and service businesses over the course of a few years, he appreciates Ahmed’s foresight in buying the entire parcel prior to the re-opening

of U.S. 290. Wolff commented, "The completion of the new U.S. 290 is going to have the same effect on northwest Houston as the completion of Interstate 10 did on west Houston – it will open the area to unprecedented levels of high-quality growth."

"In more than 50 years of business, this is one of our most exciting and gratifying transactions," said Wolff. "The deal hits a personal chord for me because Tanweer is a Muslim immigrant who came here for the same reasons as my Jewish father came to the United States almost a century ago: work hard, achieve financial security, raise good families, and help others. When Tanweer told me of his plans to use Prairie View to build a non-profit foundation to encourage the growth of cricket among Houston's youth, I was thrilled."

"More cricket fields are badly needed in Houston and the Prairie View area offers a perfect, easily accessible location to meet the League's needs," said Ahmed, a Houston area resident since 2007. "There are numerous cricket leagues and teams in the Houston area and only nine fields between Humble and East Bernard. A player has to drive considerable distances to different fields scattered over a large area. This new cricket complex will be more convenient and allow us to more easily hold tournaments. Also, we will be able to add 40-50 new teams to the league that, right now, cannot join because we simple don't have enough fields."

Wolff says the timing to develop Prairie View is ideal following improvements to Grand Parkway and the impending completion of the U.S. 290 widening and reconstruction project, which will improve traffic flow and commute times. According to Texas Department of Transportation officials, most major construction – including all widened lanes and new bridges – along the main lanes of U.S. 290 will finish in 2018. When complete, U.S. 290 will have eleven lanes, including a reversible HOV lane, from Loop 610 to Texas State Highway 6, and nine lanes from there to Waller County.

Wolff concluded, "This transaction between Tanweer and Wolff Companies and the City of Prairie View is demonstrative of Houston's past and future growth. Houston is one of the most diverse cities in America. Many of our citizens didn't grow up here. When I arrived in Houston in 1970, the city gave me ample opportunity to build my business. In 2007, it provided the same opportunity to

Tanweer. We are both now in the position to give back to our community and I am glad that Tanweer chose Prairie View as a place to leave his mark.”

Tanweer is pleased to work closely with Prairie View’s Mayor, David Allen, who suggested the name – Prairie View Cricket Complex to make this initiative one of the best cricket complexes in the nation. Mayor Allen explained his plans to collaborate with Prairie View A&M University’s Architecture Director of Service Learning, Professor Barry H. Norwood, to include student input in the basic site planning phase. Prairie View’s Economic Development Director, Dr. Veda Brown, expressed excitement about the potential economic impact this cricket complex will have locally. Mayor Allen stressed that the overall benefits of the project offer a “win-win” situation for all involved – including Tanweer Ahmed, the Houston Cricket League, the City of Prairie View, as well as Prairie View University’s Architecture students.

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