



The Griffin Grille added seating to the clubhouse at The Club at Gateway.

(Photo: Amanda Inscore/The News-Press)

In 2013, Fazio returned to oversee minor improvements. That's also the time when Ron Garl, another notable course architect, came in to redesign the driving range.

"We have a big, 20-acre driving range," Garrett said. "It also has two practice holes. That's very unique," adding the entire golf course spans 223 acres.

Today, The Club has nearly 500 members, through a mix of membership types. It employs as many as 70 people during peak season, then scales back for the summer months.

The Club also offers six Har-Tru clay tennis courts. The planned upgrades are designed to help grow membership, "but not to the point it affects the member experience," Garrett said. "We do not want to dilute the value of the membership, we want to make it more valuable. It's a private club, and members expect certain privileges."

A Top Golf location expected to be constructed near I-75 and Colonial Boulevard is no competition, Garrett and Lynn said. If anything, such ventures help to attract more people to the game.

[Gateway always meant community, now it also means jobs](#) (link)

Gateway's demographics, as well as business and residential growth there, played a role in the buying decision.



Renovations are planned for the front entrance of The Club at Gateway in Fort Myers.

(Photo: Amanda Inscore/The News-Press)

"There's a lot of good things going on in the neighborhood," Lynn said. "Gateway is our largest market. Any more than a 15-minute drive is probably outside our wheelhouse. The majority are going to be right here in our backyard because it's convenient."

They are in the process of putting together corporate membership packages, wishing to partner with local businesses on corporate functions. It was a long process, however, for them to acquire the club, which attracted interest from many other parties. The board gave its unanimous support, with a presentation to the membership garnering 98 percent approval.

"In this industry, that's unheard of," Lynn said. "The members have been very welcoming."

They think it was a combination of factors, from members' familiarity with the pair to their strong reputations, that allowed them to emerge as the winning bid.

"We're thrilled to be here," Lynn said. "We're very excited to be a part of the community."