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Man 'purchases' Palm Springs in online game

Katie Ruark
Palm Springs Sun
April 20, 2007

Steve Moy bought Palm Springs for \$5 about seven months ago.

Residents don't need to worry about having a new mayor in town though, as the Bostonian only owns the city as part of a virtual world.

People all over the country are taking part in that same world on Weblo.com, a Web site that allows participants to use real money to buy and sell cities, states and landmarks in a Monopoly-like game online.

Moy said he chose Palm Springs to keep a California connection.

"I lived in the Bay Area for several years before moving to the Northeast, but I miss a lot of things about California," he said. "Owning Palm Springs helps me feel like I'm still in touch with the West Coast, even though I'm in New England now."

Some people use the site as a way to play tycoon, but not Moy. Although he has had offers for more than he paid, he does not plan to sell Palm Springs.

"I think it's a great site that appeals to a lot of different people," he said. "You can use it as a traditional social network like Myspace or Friendster, grab a few things and hold on to them like I've done, or get really into it and play virtual property tycoon."

Basic membership to the Web site is free, but upgraded memberships are available.

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