Viola adds twist of golf to Bavarian destination resort in Michigan

By MARK LESLIE
FRANKENMUTH, Mich. — A taste of Bavaria came to this Michigan community years ago. Now it will add golf.

The Timbers will be an 18-hole, public golf course with villa-type housing units snuggled in lots on the thickly forested, 270-acre site. The project is a new twist in this town two hours northwest of Detroit, which centers its tourism draw on the German heritage of its settlers. A Bavarian tourist village and breweries are the order of the day.

Developed by B&Z Enterprises, The Timbers course is being designed by Lorrie Viola of L.A. Links Inc. in Farmington Hills.

"The character of the development itself will be very different from what's in the area," Viola said. "It will be an entirely planned community with a secluded feeling because all the residences will have an amenity whether golf, a lake or woods, and with a theme — timbers, with post-and-beam construction on some units."

Much of the property is heavily wooded, while about 40 percent is wetlands, and several parcels once were farms. Builders will create seven or eight small lakes.

"I foresee a lot of movement," Viola said. "I will plateu some of the fairways, raising them above wetlands areas, so there is a feeling of movement within the hole itself."

Heavy mounding will prevail in the open areas, while golf in the woods will have less, in order to preserve as many trees as possible, she said. The wetlands will force some carries, but Viola intends to keep them short and to ample landing areas.

The par-72 track will measure 5,000 to 6,300 yards from four or five sets of tees.

Viola expects the driving range will be ready to seed by fall and open next year. The golf course itself must receive state Department of Natural Resources approval for holes in the wetlands, but she intends to begin construction next April and projects an opening in the summer of 1996.

B&Z Enterprises is a partnership of Michael Bergman, a landscape irrigation contractor whose father, Stony, was a golf course builder, and Timothy Zehnder, who owns Bavarian Builders here.

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GCBAA certifies eight builders

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) has announced the addition of eight new members to the 1994 Certified Golf Course Builders list.

They are: Atlantic Golf Course Construction Ltd. in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, G.A. Blocker Grading Contractor of Oswego, Ill., Eighteen Construction of Jacksonville, Fla., G.C.R.I. of Ft. Pierce, Fla., Golf Works of Austin, Texas, Holmes & Company of Orlando located in Eatonon, Ga., Kenova Construction Corporation of W. Palm Beach, Fla., and McDonald & Sons of Jessup, Md.


GCBAA certification is an ongoing process and companies are recertified every year. All members on GCBAA's list have been in the golf course construction business for at least five years, and were the primary contractor on three complete golf course projects or the equivalent in the last five years. They also provided references from a financial institution, credit agency, insurance company, bonding company, and individuals in five of the following seven categories: owner/developer, golf course architect, engineer, irrigation designer, golf course superintendent, municipality, or certified golf course builder. They also passed a 100-question exam and were interviewed by the GCBAA Certification Committee.

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