Military plans to open oceanfront layout in Va. Beach

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The Army is marching ahead with plans to build an 18-hole course along at Fort Story overlooking Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The Army would like to have the facility open by 1999 for military and civilian golfers. The course would have at least three beachfront holes and would become the eighth of Virginia Beach's public courses. Officials at Fort Story have been looking to build a course since 1991. They have received 14 inquiries from potential builders. Ground could be broken on the course within a year and could take 18 months to two years to build. The site of the course promises to please. About 250 acres of the 1,450-acre base overlooking the mouth of Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean is available for the golf course. Army planners have left a stretch of tree-covered high ground running nearly two miles through the middle of the base. The bulk of the course may be built over the top of a series of World War II-vintage underground bunkers and cover most of two public parking lots near the east gate which are now used in the summer by civilian beachgoers.

Course planned for northern Vt.

WATERBURY, Vt. — A group of developers looking to build a world-class golf course in rural northern Vermont have set their sights on a 400-acre parcel in Waterbury not far from Interstate 89.

The group, known as Country Club of Vermont, was initially interested in building a course in the Stowe area but couldn't find a suitable parcel, according to Stu Campbell, the group's director-at-large. They then started searching up and down Route 100 and found a site they liked south of Stowe in Waterbury.

The group has been working with Canadian course designer Graham Cook, who has walked the Waterbury site twice. The parcel would be big enough for a 27- or 36-hole facility. But so far, anyway, Cook and the group are leaning toward an 18-hole course.

Campbell and his investors have contacted the company that owns the land. They have also initiated discussions with the district's environmental commission and Waterbury town and village officials. Any deal is also contingent on getting an Act 250 permit. Act 250 is a state statute regulating development. The group still has hopes of opening a course for play by spring 1998.

Trump plans to build links on $7.5 million site

BEDFORD, N.Y. — Eight months after paying $7.5 million for the 213-acre Seven Springs estate, mega developer Donald Trump has formally proposed building a 7,000-yard course across the hilltop site, along with 14 tennis courts and 15 exclusive homes.

The development—which lies in New Bedford, New Castle and North Castle—also would include a helicopter landing area and parking for 278 cars. The golf-tennis club would have 300 members.

Trump's project will require 24 permits from 12 local, county, state and federal agencies. He expects construction to take up to 36 months.

Vermont finally opens first muni golf project

SHERBURNE, Vt. — After 5 1/2 years of planning and a $5.5 million investment, Vermont's first 18-hole municipal golf course is open.

The Green Mountain National Golf Course, one of the most highly-anticipated golf course construction projects in the state, opened for play in mid-July.

The wooded, mountainside course is located off the scenic Route 100, not far from Killington Ski Area.

The state's newest course will be tested early. The Futures Classic tour, which features young women shooting for the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour, will bring 125 to 135 women golfers for a tournament the first week of August.

Green Mountain National's grand opening is scheduled for that same week.