Mass. course project set for bidding process

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — The town will go out to bid in January for construction of a high-end, daily-fee 18-hole municipal course, practice facility and related infrastructure here.

The South Hadley Golf Course project sits on 244 acres along the Connecticut River with views of Mount Tom.

Golf Realty Advisors (GRA), which was recently acquired by Willowbend Golf Development Corp., is the project manager for the Howard Maurer-designed layout. Construction is slated to begin this spring.

The town will eventually select a golf course management firm to grow in, manage and maintain the facility, which is scheduled to open Aug. 15, 2000.

For more information, contact GRA's Mark Milton at 617-630-4949.

PHILADELPHIA — Three courses are due to be finished in 1999 and one more is set to begin construction this year in the Philadelphia area.

Pine Barren Golf Club in Ocean County is an 18-hole, high-end, daily-fee course designed by Eric Bergstoll on 230 acres of land that he owns. The course is grassed in, but will not open to the public until June.

Bellewood Golf Club in Chester County is a Tom Fazio-designed, 18-hole private course due to open by July 2. Earth Enterprises is the construction firm.

Scotland Run Golf Club is a par-71, 6,900-yard Stephen Kay-designed course being built in an abandoned sand mine in Gloucester County. The course is slated to open June 1.

Looking further into the future, ground has been broken for the Blue Heron Pines East course, Blue Heron Pines' companion course. The daily-fee course, which is near the Atlantic City International Airport, is scheduled to open in spring 2000.

Hoosier golf cart bandit strikes

MARION COUNTY, Ind. — An unwitting burglary suspect fleeing the scene of a crime, aborted his getaway car in favor of another, albeit slower, four-wheeled vehicle — a golf cart.

After Marion County police officers cornered the man's car, he bolted for the green fairways of Meridian Hills Country Club in search of alternative transportation.

Foiled by a club repair cart that failed to start, the criminal then fled through the clubhouse and sped off in a golf cart. A deputy followed in hot pursuit in another golf cart and eventually apprehended the thief just south of the course.

The suspect, who had a prior record of burglary and auto theft, can now add breaching golf course etiquette to his resume.

Monarch builds Ottawa course

TORONTO — Monarch Development Corp. is proceeding with an Ottawa-area golf course housing project.

The first phase of the Jockvale golf-course community in Nepean, Ottawa, will include as many as 700 homes, the first nine golf holes and clubhouse. The property features more than a kilometer of frontage along Jock River.

"It's ideal for a golf-course community," said President and Chief Executive Officer John Latimer. "It will also appeal to people who simply enjoy open spaces and the natural beauty of the Ontario countryside."

Pending final approval of the subdivision plan, construction could begin next summer, with the first homeowners taking occupancy in the spring of 2000.

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