ST. LOUIS — A $12.5 million restoration of the Forest Park Municipal Golf Course, which finally got underway last year after several years of stalls, is scheduled to open in October 2003. However, the opening of the clubhouse, which was supposed to take place this fall, has been delayed after high winds caused the roof to collapse.

BURLINGTON, Vt. — ASL Golf Course Construction has broken ground on a nine-hole addition for Willowbend Golf Development in Maysville, Mass. After a long wait, Willowbend will become a 27-hole golf club with the addition to the private club on Cape Cod.

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Golf course architect Desmond Muirhead died May 2 at age 79. The innovative and often controversial designer worked in partnership with such greats as Gene Sarazen, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer and pushed the limits of golf course architecture with his own designs. Muirhead started in golf course design doing master plans for golf communities and published a book on the subject for the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. Some of his most notable layouts include Muirfield Village GC in Ohio, Mission Hills G&CC and Desert Island CC in California and Aberdeen G&CC in Florida.

MUSKOSA SANDS’ TABOO TO OPEN

GRAVENHURST, Ontario, Canada — At press time, TABOO at Muskosa Sands was scheduled to open to the public on June 28. The 7,123-yard Ron Garl design is the latest component of the resort’s $500 million, seven-year development program. Canadian pro golfer Mike Weir has chosen TABOO as the home of the first Annual Globe and Mail Charity Classic to be played Aug. 7 to benefit local children’s charities.

COLLAPSE DOESN’T SLOW RENOVATION

A grounds worker applies Basamid with a drop spreader for turf fertilization.
Shenandoah course,” he said. “This will give the resort a new look and a lot more to offer.”

The Oneida Nation has spared no expense in designing the two courses by hiring two of the biggest names in golf course design. Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Tom Fazio have designed the two new 18-hole courses and will oversee the projects. The Jones course is under construction with a June 2003 opening scheduled, and the Fazio course is slated to open in June 2004.

Joe Baidy, director of golf courses and grounds, will work with Landscapes Unlimited, which also developed the Shenandoah course, on the construction of the two new courses. Baidy said getting the Jones course opened by next June is going to take a lot of hard work.

“It is going to be intensive and it’s on the fast track,” he said. “All parties concerned are working together real well and things are moving.”

The Jones course will begin and end near the existing practice facility at Shenandoah. For Jones, the opportunity to work on a course in the upstate New York area is special.

“My father and mother attended college in the Finger Lakes region, and the Robert Trent Jones course at Cornell University, designed by and named for my father, established a legacy that I will endeavor to follow in this new project,” Jones said.

The Fazio course will be located about two miles from Shenandoah. Fazio said he sees that course as being an incredible place when it is completed.

“We’re only moving 150,000 cubic yards of dirt. That’s basically your tees, bunkers and green settings, and not much more,” he said. “We’re also doing a little sloping around the brooks to protect them and that’s all.”

Grooming and shaping is being handled by Jim Croom Sr. and Jim Croom Jr. of Hi-Tech Golf, based in Tampa, Fla. Working with builders who understand the concept, LandBank and Smyers are trying to achieve was key, Johnson said.

“You’ve got to work with like-minded people, and they’re on the front edge of the new concepts, and they’re interested in seeing construction done properly,” he said. “It’s good for their name as well.”

While that may be the case, Johnson said, it doesn’t make their job any easier.

“It’s definitely more difficult for them,” he said. “But this is our opportunity to do what’s right.”

In addition to the two 7,300-plus-yard courses, the resort is working on a 70,000-square-foot expansion of the casino, and recently completed a new 24,000-square-foot clubhouse at Shenandoah. Emery said these are not the only projects planned at the resort.

“The casino expansion is underway, and there will probably be additional developments down the road,” he said.

Baidy said all of the current and future projects are part of the nation’s overall plan to create the best destination resort possible.

“We constantly strive to reach the next plateau, and this will carry up through the other two courses,” he said. “These projects have been discussed for some time, and I think this was the opportune time to do them.”