

# 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 facility will be 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 plateau 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 5,600 to 6,900 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.

## GCBAAs certifies eight builders

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAAs) 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 Eatonton, Ga., Kenova Construction Corporation of W. Palm Beach, Fla., and McDonald & Sons of Jessup, Md.

These are in addition to the 14 already on the 1994 list. Those already included are Buky Golf of Mt. Washington, Ky., Central Florida Turf of Avon Park, Fla., Paul Clute & Associates of Harland, Mich., Dye Construction of California located in Denver, Colo., Environmental Golf of Santa Ana, Calif., Fairway Construction of Temecula, Calif., Golf Development Construction of Louisville, Ky., Greenscape Ltd. of Menlo Park, Calif., Guettler & Sons of Ft. Pierce, Fla., Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., Moore Golf of Culpeper, Va., Pierman Golf Company of N. Palm Beach, Fla., Prince Contracting Company in Plainfield, Ill., and Wadsworth Golf Construction Company of Plainfield, Ill.

GCBAAs certification is an on going process and companies are recertified every year. All members on GCBAAs 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 GCBAAs Certification Committee.

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