

Timbers: first female-designed course in Mich.

TUSCOLATOWNSHIP, Mich. — When Tim Zehnder and Mike Bergman broke ground for the Timbers Golf Club, they also broke some barriers.

Zehnder and Bergman hired golf course architect Lorrie Viola, making her the first woman to design an 18-hole golf course in Michigan. The front nine at Timbers is expected to open this month with the second nine to follow in August.

Viola lives in Farmington Hills but also works in Boca Raton,

Fla., with L.A. Links, which has built courses in Florida, Pennsylvania, California, the West Indies and the United Arab Emirates. Viola has more than 12 years experience in golf course design and has worked with Jack Nicklaus, Jim Fazio and Gary Player.

Viola's design philosophy reflects the changing demographics of golf.

"There was the old-school, old-time thinking that you designed a course for male golfers and

then threw in the women's tees," said Viola. "That's changing now because of demographics. Everything has changed in design because 40 percent of new golfers are not men.

"So we've designed this course with five sets of tees and have given a lot of thought to the front tees."

Viola does not refer to the front tees as the women's tees. She says the front tees are an important aspect of the course and can be used by seniors and junior golfers.

Seattle raises fees at its three munis

SEATTLE, Wash. — Greens fees at Seattle's three municipal courses are going up from \$15 to \$17.50 for 18-hole rounds.

Municipal Golf of Seattle (MGS), a non-profit corporation that operates Jackson Park, Jefferson Park and West Seattle, announced the rate increases to help pay for long overdue improvements.

Upcoming capital improvement projects at the courses include:

- New maintenance facilities at Jefferson for equipment, storage and supplies.
- New irrigation systems at Jackson and West Seattle, and completion of the computerized irrigation system at Jefferson.
- Restoring the bunkers at all courses.
- Construction of new tee complexes and bridges.
- Major renovation of the Jefferson Park driving range.

NGF charter members reach century mark

JUPITER, Fla. — Black Rock Golf Corp., manufacturer of "Killer Bee" drivers and fairway woods, recently became the 100th Charter member of the National Golf Foundation (NGF). This brings the number of active NGF Charter members to 100 for the first time in the Foundation's 60-year history.

Charter members are industry leaders who actively support the growth of golf.

Black Rock was preceded by a long list of companies that have elected Charter membership dating back to the NGF's inception in 1936. In that year, four companies helped form the NGF: Hillerich & Bradsby (H&B Powerbilt), MacGregor Golf, Spalding Sports Worldwide and Wilson Sporting Goods. Sixty years later, all four companies are still Charter members.

During NGF's first 50 years (through 1986), Charter membership grew to a total of 33 companies, with most of them being equipment manufacturers.

"Today, in addition to the equipment companies, we're seeing a lot of management companies, turf and other product suppliers, media publishers and apparel companies," said NGF Vice President of Membership Services Barry Frank.

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police were unarmed during the protest. But a video taken by a protester showed officials with guns drawn and recorded what sounded like gunshots. Six officers have been arrested on homicide charges and 54 others with abuse of authority.

The developer's withdrawal of the project comes after a year of protests that at one point included several government officials being taken hostage. Opponents said the project — which was projected to bring money and jobs to the Tepoztlan, a town of 17,000 — would ruin the character of the colonial town and cause irreparable harm to a national park.

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