

## IN BRIEF

**WORCESTER, Mass.** — City officials are planning to use excess funds from the city golf course to better maintain and improve the long-neglected 18-hole course at Green Hill Park. According to City Manager Thomas R. Hoover, the state is also prepared to direct two additional \$500,000 grants for improvements to Green Hill Park if the city can resolve a series of issues that led to the rescinding of its eligibility earlier in the summer. The state has objected to the lack of access by the general public to the golf course that is used primarily by a group of several hundred regular players.

**KINGSPORT, Tenn.** — City officials have officially accepted the donation of the 160-acre Cattails municipal golf course site, worth \$1 million, from the Eastman Chemical Co. The 18-hole Cattails course, now under construction, is part of the MeadowView Conference Resort and Convention Center Complex. In return for the donation, the city promised Eastman it won't sue the company if chemicals from an adjacent piece of Eastman property migrate onto the golf course site at some time in the future. Two ash landfills, used by Eastman years ago, are located on the adjacent property.

## Bethpage, USGA strike a blow for public golf

By J. BARRY MOTHES

**FARMINGDALE, N.Y.** — Next to Tiger Wood's professional coming-out, it might be the biggest golf story of the year.

After several months of postponements, apparent jiltings and behind-the-scenes wrangling, the United States Golf Association (USGA) has announced the 2002 U.S. Open will be held at the public Black Course at Bethpage State Park on Long Island. The historic decision means the country's most prestigious golf event will be held at a publicly-owned facility for the first time since the tournament was started in 1895.

Along with Tiger Woods' widespread appeal in recent PGA Tour events, the USGA's selection of the Black Course as an Open host is another strong sign that golf is moving towards a broader, more democratic identity and greater access for the public.

"It's hard to overstate our enthusiasm for bringing our national championship to a golf course owned by the public," said David Fay, executive director of the USGA, in a prepared statement. "Most courses and golfers today are public in orientation, and this news just underscores how important public golf is to the game of golf."

The 2002 Open will be held June 13-16,

Continued on page 33



Photo by John Johnson

**HARBOTLE UNVEILS OLYMPIAN, CITY-OWNED DESIGN**

The city of Bremerton, Wash. has opened its second 18: the Olympic Course at Gold Mountain, designed by John Harbottle (left). The track meanders through the wooded terrain of a Northwest forest and is named for the mountains surrounding it. While the first course is geared toward the average golfer and is annually rated as the best golf value in the state, the Olympic Course stretches to 7,003 yards, challenging the expert golfer as well as higher-handicapper. Harbottle routed the layout to challenge golfers with ever-changing wind directions.

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