

Celebrate Virginia to build five courses in major plan

By PETER BLAIS

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. — Construction has begun on a 2,100-acre commercial development along Interstate 95 between Richmond and Washington, D.C. that will eventually include five golf courses and serve as a starting point for historical tours of the area.

In addition to the five courses, Celebrate Virginia will include 2.4 million square feet of commercial space; a 600-acre visitors campus offering first-class accommodations, on-site historical and cultural attractions; an eco-center and conference facilities; and a world-class office campus.

The golf courses will be located across the Rappahannock River from the main commercial center.

Enclosed gondolas will ferry golfers across the river to the links.

The Silver Companies, a major Fredericksburg firm, is developing Celebrate Virginia.

The company's chief executive officer, Larry Silver, expected to choose by the end of the year between several different golf development firms to oversee the golf component.

The golf developer would choose five different architects to design the courses and be

expected to operate the golf resort once it opened, Silver said.

Silver said he planned to start construction on the first course by mid-1999 and have all five open within five years.

Between 150 and 300 two-bedroom golf villas may be built to accommodate those doing business with corporations in the office campus.

Childs busy in Michigan

SYLVAN LAKE, Mich. — Don Childs Associates is working on several projects in Michigan. Work is nearly complete for the total renovation of Selfridge Air National Guard Golf Course in Mount Clemens.

The project was a \$2.6 million renovation. The old facility existed on an extremely flat site with very heavy soil conditions. Many rounds were lost each year to wet conditions in the spring and fall.

The federal government contract was awarded to Golf Course Construction, Inc. of Howell. Working under the guidelines of a federal contract brought many challenges and requirements in how the project was to be built, administered and handled, Glenn Caverley of Golf Course Construction retained the services of Childs and Design 3 of Lansing.

The two firms maintained separate responsibility for adhering to the strict quality-control requirements of the government contract and the renovation design of the new golf facility.

Construction began the first of May, and was completed in November, except the seeding of two golf holes and the driving range. To eliminate the drainage problems of the old golf course site, the builder excavated a series of five ponds to capture storm and sub-surface drainage.

The entire site is graded so that there is a minimum of a 3-percent grade change. Surface water is captured by a series of storm-water collection basins that tie into the ponds. The five ponds that were excavated accounted for approximately 140,000 cubic yards of earth that was then used to construct the new green and tee complexes.

Nine holes will be available for play mid-spring, with the remaining holes available by mid-summer. The facility will also offer a new clubhouse and conference facility, and a new maintenance facility.

Meanwhile, Bay Valley Resort in Bay City is undergoing a complete bunker renovation and restoration program.

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