

New Courses

Have Some Fun at The Mines



Photo courtesy of The Mines Golf Club

Hole Number 12 at The Mines

By Kelly Hill

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It is all about fun.

For course architect Mike

DeVries of Traverse City, the game of golf is fun. And designing a place at which to play it, also is fun.

DeVries has had great fun

designing and constructing The Mines Golf Club, a public course in Grand Rapids that is scheduled to open this fall.

Built over a portion of a former

gypsum mine on the west edge of the city, the land was designated strictly for recreational use, as countless mining tunnels traverse the property, 140 feet below the surface.

Rarely is such an opportunity available just five minutes from the heart of a city.

“What is exciting about this is that it’s so close to the metro cen-

ter,” DeVries said. “The golf course will have a lot of variety. It will be very playable for every level of player. You are going to need a wide range of shots to play there. People will have to make a real good variety of shots, so the fun factor will be there.

“It’s about having fun,” DeVries said. “It’s about having fun and trying something new.”

In addition to the 18-hole, par-70 course that will play anywhere from 4,660-6,662 yards, a nine-hole, par-3 course also is being constructed. “Because this was mine property, it has been there for 150 years, while they worked the ground under it,” DeVries said.

“This is exciting for Grand Rapids.” **MG**



Photo courtesy of The Mines Golf Club

Hole Number 15 at The Mines