

Hilbert's new subdivision taking shape

By Ed Byrne
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HILBERT – The new Village Meadows Subdivision, on the south side of Hilbert west of the St. Vincent de Paul stores, is taking shape.

One home is framed in, and work on construction of another home is expected to begin soon.

The first street, which runs from Eighth Street (State 57/32) to the west, is roughed in and topped with gravel. It will not be paved for two years, to allow the ground to settle completely first.

The sub-grade utilities are all in.

There are several street lights – designed on a 1920s mode – and there is a large storm water detention

pond that looks more like a decorative pond.

Last week, members of the village's Plan Commission met at the site to begin considering improvements that could spur more lot sales in the subdivision, which is located just south of the Hilbert School District campus and stadium.

The first project will be an aeration system for the storm water pond. The village, which is developing the subdivision itself, is also considering a fountain in the middle of the pond.

"We got a couple of estimates [from vendors] to give us ideas and ball park prices," Village President Mark Breckheimer said.

One contractor gave an estimate of \$2,500 for an aeration system – to

keep water from stagnating and algae from growing – and a similar figure for a decorative fountain that would recirculate water.

A fountain would have no value in aeration, Village Administrator Dennis DuPrey said.

"The fountain is more for looks," DuPrey said.

Once the whole 50-acre site is subdivided and developed, several storm water management ponds will be needed.

Trustee Tim Keuler said he wants to see working aeration units and working fountains before any decisions are made.

The aerator would have to be put in the pond each spring, then taken out in the fall, cleaned and repaired,

and stored over the winter. The commission also wants to see a warranty as a bid consideration.

"It is the first thing a person will see after pulling off the highway," Breckheimer said.

The commission also looked at the entire first phase area of the subdivision to look at moving earth in order to level lots.

Land on the south side of the street needs to be scraped off and moved to the north side of the street, where the lots are below the street grade and need to be built up. That could cost as much as \$20,000 to move that soil.

"I really think we need to get fill in here to bring it up to grade," Breckheimer said.

The village will also look at other sources to obtain fill dirt.

Keuler said the work needs to be outlined in stages, with a sign at the subdivision entrance and a fountain in the pond getting first attention.

But other lots need to be leveled off and graded so potential buyers are motivated to make the purchase.

Some landscaping is also in the immediate vision.

"Around the pond here, we need to get this leveled off and get grass planted and maintained," Breckheimer said.

He wants to see that work started this fall.