

Welcome:  
dekalb co. boac

Change User Name  
& Password

Monday  
October 31, 2005

search

Advanced Search



NEWS



Print this Article



Email this Article

Home



The News-Sun  
The Evening Star  
News

Herald-Republican  
Advance-Leader  
Garrett Clipper  
Obituaries

Business News  
Sports  
Email Alerts

Keys to the Dream  
Entertainment



White Sox-World Series  
Katrina - a 360 degree  
view  
Life

Photo Contest  
Section E  
El Rincón Latino

Weather  
Editorial Staff  
Archive Search

Columnists

Opinion

Our View  
Letters to the Editor  
Send Us Letters



Friday, May 20, 2005

# Housing development raises airport safety issues

*By Bill Gisel*

AUBURN — The proposed Diamond Lake Estates subdivision south of the DeKalb County Airport falls within the airport’s zoning jurisdictional area — an area that the DeKalb County Commissioners want to protect.

The proposed subdivision would include two man-made lakes — features that airport authorities say will attract flying wildlife that could be detrimental to aircraft safety.

Plans for the subdivision along C.R. 64 include development of 102 acres into 64 residential home sites. The land now is zoned for county rural suburban use.

The proposal for the development comes at the same time that the DeKalb Board of Aviation Commissioners is reviewing plans to establish what would constitute compatible zoning for areas within its jurisdictional area.

Details of the uses those zoning areas could allow will be the subject of a presentation today, when the airport commissioners meet for their regular monthly meeting.

Brad Stump, aviation board treasurer and a former county zoning administrator, has been working with airport manager Russ Couchman and airport engineer Paul Schaffer of Butler Fairman & Seufert, Indianapolis, to come up with recommendations.

Stump said it is coincidental that the subdivision request is going before the Plan Commission on Tuesday night, at the same time that airport authorities are attempting to establish rules for airport land-use compatibility.

“I have some concern that people will think it is reactionary, rather than proactive,” Stump said, but the compatibility issue has been under study for some time, he said.

Stump has accumulated 1,600 pages of material, “pulled from every source possible,” regarding airport compatibility, use issues and safety issues.



**Classifieds**

- Automotive
- Business Directory
- Local Employment
- Merchandise
- Real Estate - Rentals
- Real Estate-For Sale
- Garage Sales
- Regional Classifieds
- Submit An Ad

**Smart Shopper**

**Legal Public Notices**



**Homes to Own**

**Hot Topics**

- Births/Weddings
- Events Calendar
- Health
- History
- Home & Garden
- Home Town Heroes
- Local Columnists
- Outdoor Life
- People in Our Community
- Police Blotter
- Real Estate
- Religion
- Seniors

**Reader Services**

- About Us
- E-mail Alerts
- Guest Book
- Photo Gallery
- Anniversary Form
- Birth Form
- Engagement Form
- Wedding Form
- KPC Employment
- Carrier Opportunities
- Delivery Concerns
- KPC Pages
- Newspapers in Education
- Renew Subscription
- Sign Up For EZ Pay
- Start a Subscription
- Vacation Stop/Restart

**Advertiser Services**

**Commercial Printing**

**Community Resources**

- Chambers of Commerce
- KPC Yellow pages
- Community Calendar

“When we started the comprehensive plan update process in 2003, we learned (from public input sessions) the second most common topic was the need to protect the airport, so as to not become the next Smith Field,” Stump explained.

“In May of last year, we started our research, and the development of airport zoning overlays,” he continued. The overlays uses geographic information systems data to identify the airport and surrounding area, with present and future airport features.

The airport zoning is required by the Federal Aviation Administration as a part of grant assurances for receiving federal airport improvement project funds, Stump noted.

One requirement deals with how tall structures can be in relation to their proximity to the airport and its approaches. The county already has adopted a zoning ordinance regulating height.

A second grant assurance, Stump said, requires land use compatibility zoning, which has not been accomplished.

A third reason for regulating the types of uses that are compatible with airport operations is safety, Stump said.

“Incompatible land use can cause safety issues. If a pilot has to put down (in an emergency) while either approaching or departing an airport, he looks for a wide-open spot,” Stump said. “If there is dense development, a pilot doesn’t have an open spot to aim for.”

Wildlife hazard mitigation falls into the third category, Stump noted. Land-use compatibility standards used by other states and the FAA recommend no standing water in the airport zoning jurisdiction.

The Diamond Lake subdivision request will go before the Plan Commission Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the DeKalb County Courthouse.

A second subdivision request for an area at C.R. 60 and C.R. 29 north of the airport is scheduled to go before the Plan Commission the following Wednesday, according to zoning administrator Sally Rowe.

**Article Comment Form**

Please feel free to add your comments.

Article comments are not posted immediately to the Web site. Each submission must be approved by the Web site editor, who may edit content for appropriateness. There may be a delay of 24-48 hours for any submission while the web site editor reviews and approves it.

**Note:** All information on this form is required. Your telephone number is for our use only, and will not be attached to your comment.

**Name:**

**Telephone:**

**E-mail:**

**Message:**

**Special Sections**

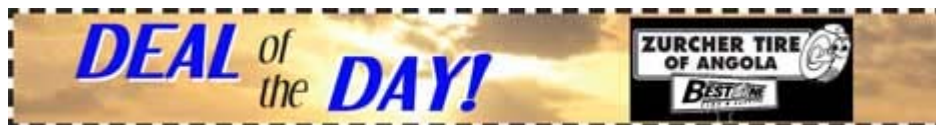
- ACD Festival
- Angola Chamber Guide
- Apartment Connection
- Auburn Cord
- Duesenberg Fest
- Basketball Collector Cards
- Butler Heartland Show
- Discover DeKalb
- The Dining Connection
- FACE
- Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Fremont Chamber Guide
- LaGrange 4H Scrapbook
- Ligonier's Finest
- Look at LaGrange
- Noble 4H Scrapbook
- Noble Co. Answer Book
- Our Story
- Outlook 2005
- Salute to Industry
- DeKalb & Steuben
- Salute To Industry
- Noble & LaGrange
- Steuben County 4H Scrapbook
- Steuben Co. Answer Book
- Summer Leisure
- Wedding Planner '05
- 2005 Graduation
- Sweepstakes Scams

**Submit**

**Clear Form**



Feedback  
 Subscription  
 Home



© 2005 KPC Media Group, Inc.  
 Contact KPC at 102 North Main Street, Kendallville, IN 46755  
 (260) 347-0400 • [webmaster@kpcnews.net](mailto:webmaster@kpcnews.net)  
 Software © 1998-2005 [1up! Software](#), All Rights Reserved