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AVON

U.S. 36 retail center planned

Developer expects spring groundbreaking, fall completion

By Rebecca Neal

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A new shopping center is planned to take the place of the Avon Recreation Center on U.S. 36, adding shops and a traffic light to Avon's growing retail corridor.

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The Avon Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at Avon Town Hall, 6570 E. U.S. 36.

The Gables of Avon would occupy 26 acres at the intersection of U.S. 36 and Gable Drive and would have a spring groundbreaking, said developer Greg Allen.

"This will provide more choices in restaurants and expand retail offerings," he said. Allen expects the center to be complete in the fall.

Allen Commercial Group of Greenwood will go before the Avon Plan Commission on Monday night for primary plat approval. The land already has been zoned for commercial use.

Developers will tear down the Avon Recreation Center -- after its assets are auctioned March 4 -- and several industrial buildings on three other parcels of land.

The Gables of Avon would feature a 150,000-square-foot strip shopping center for clothing, housewares and similar stores, Allen said. Five out lots, totaling 25,000 square feet along U.S. 36, likely would be used for national or local restaurants and a bank, he said.

Allen's firm is in talks with seven companies for leases, and he expects to announce tenants in the coming weeks.

A traffic light would be installed to control flow into the center, which is just west of the busy Avon Commons and Shiloh Crossing shopping areas.

The Gables of Avon first went before town officials in 2002, but the proposal raised concerns from residents of a small neighborhood off Gable Drive. They worried that noise and light from the shopping center would be disruptive.

Avon and the developers reached an agreement on several commitments for the land, including installing landscaping and an earthen mound to shield the homes.

Deloris Wuertley, a Gable Drive resident, said the commitments are vital to make The Gables of Avon a good neighbor.

"Business and residential can live next to each other," she said. "You can make it so everyone's happy."

This is the Allen Commercial Group's second retail project in Hendricks County. The company plans to break ground in late spring on Linden Square, a 51,000-square-foot retail and office center southwest of the intersection at 10th Street and Raceway Road.

Call Star reporter Rebecca Neal at (317) 444-2805.

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