

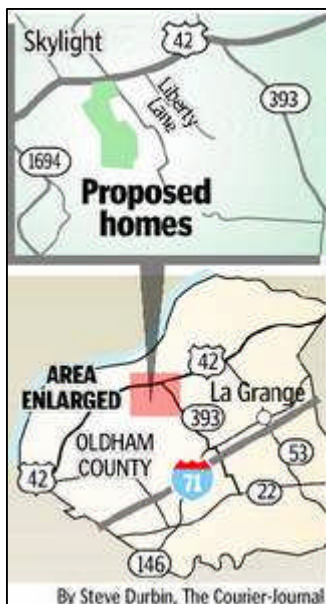
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Goshen
Equine development OK'd

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Before voting in favor of a planned equine development in Goshen, Commissioner Jan Horton called it "the best application and development" on U.S. 42 he's considered while on the planning commission.

"This is absolutely excellent," he said with a smile before the unanimous vote.



The Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission approved a preliminary plan last week for a 40-home development on 273 acres off Liberty Lane and U.S. 42. (The approval is final, because no zoning change was proposed.)

The development, which will be near Liberty Elementary School and the North Oldham Fire Department, will have space for residents to ride and keep horses.

Before the vote, commissioners praised several aspects of the plans, including the 50 acres of open space -- much of which is along the scenic byway of U.S. 42.

"We want to maintain the character of the area," said Jere Kiesel of Kiesel/Meyer Engineers in Louisville. "We want to preserve the U.S. 42 corridor."

The drive on U.S. 42 in Oldham County is scenic, with a number of horse farms, barns and trees. While more homes have been built in the area, much of it is still undeveloped.

Poe Companies, which is working on the development, has done Louisville's 21C hotel and a similar concept in Austin, Texas; the Museum Plaza project in Louisville; a golf course community in Henryville, Ind.; and other projects.

According to its plans, the average lot size will be about 5 acres. A 1.25-mile bridle path will circle the development, and barns near the entrance will be renovated so homeowners can keep horses there. The homes will be served by septic tanks, but the developer will leave an easement for sewers.

The property has many lush trees that will stay.

Traffic studies show there will be no major impact on nearby roads, and turn lanes are not required at the entrance. However, the developer is donating a 50-foot right of way along U.S. 42 in case a right-turn lane from U.S. 42 to Liberty Lane is ever needed.

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