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FALL 2009



"The circular entrance to Spencer Park we have planned will have a fountain and beautiful landscaping. It will be a real community asset when we're finished."

—Mark Boer
DeMotte Council
President

A Park With Pizzazz

The Hamstra Group works with Town of DeMotte on Spencer Park project

Spencer Park has long been a focal point for the citizens of DeMotte, Indiana. The park, which features a community swimming pool, ball fields, a playground and other amenities, will be an even bigger attraction when the Town of DeMotte and The Hamstra Group complete the attractive new plan for its redevelopment.

The Hamstra Group will donate much of the infrastructure the park will need, including a new circular entrance to Spencer Park, parking and other items. The company's Park Centre,

Hamstra's commercial development adjacent to Spencer Park, will be more fully integrated into the larger, open, landscaped gathering place that the area will become.

"We're creating a new town center and it's very exciting," says Mark Boer, DeMotte council president. "It will be

a place that bridges our commercial and recreational offerings, that brings together the old with the new, and that provides residents with many more benefits."

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12028 North CR 200 West
Wheatfield, IN 46392
Tel: (219) 956-3111
Fax: (219) 956-3570
website: www.HamstraGroup.com

The 
HAMSTRA
Group, Inc



12028 North CR 200 West
Wheatfield, IN 46392
Tel: (219) 956-3111
Fax: (219) 956-3570
www.HamstraGroup.com



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Boer, who has served on the town council for 25 years and helped DeMotte grow and prosper, believes the Spencer Park/Park Centre plan is just what the community needs.

“Our master plan calls for amenities such as an event area with a stage, sidewalks into and throughout the development so people can walk or bike from just about anywhere in town,” Boer explains. “The circular entrance to Spencer Park we have planned will have a fountain and beautiful landscaping. It will be a real community asset when we’re finished.”

The timetable of approximately five years will allow the park’s redevelopment to be done in stages. The Hamstra Group’s five adjacent commercial lots will be more fully integrated into the town center and will house, among other entities, a new 9,500-square-foot St. Anthony’s Medical Clinic. In addition, DeMotte State Bank, which has offices nearby, will locate a bank operations center and drive-thru facility at Park Centre, according to bank president and CEO Donald E. Goetz.

“It’s a rewarding project and we’re pleased to be a part of it,” says project coordinator Greg Hamstra. “We enjoy working with the Town of DeMotte and we think this is a perfect plan for the community.”

The master plan incorporates many improvements, including separating cars from the interior of Spencer Park. Additional parking outside the roundabout entrance will allow residents to park and then enter a safer, car-free area. Extensive landscaping, as well as the proposed fountain at Spencer Park’s entrance, will create a peaceful garden ambience residents are certain to appreciate.

“We think this is a place people will really enjoy,” Boer emphasizes. “We have considered every detail and want to

make sure the revamped Spencer Park offers more beauty, more convenience, and more amenities for the citizens of DeMotte.”

The event area, with proposed stage and pavilions, will allow for more community concerts, festivals and other happenings in space specially tailored to serve the town.

The DeMotte plan is state-of-the-art when it comes to the development of attractive town centers. The greater connectivity for bicycle and foot traffic, the number of vibrant and useful amenities, the integration of recreational and commercial areas, the landscaping and “greening” of the park, the accommodation of all ages of town residents and other facets of the plan put it at the forefront of cutting-edge municipal land use projects.

“The revamped Spencer Park and Park Centre will create a renewed focal point for our community,” says Boer. “It will be a central point in DeMotte that everyone can enjoy for many years to come.”

Greg Hamstra agrees. “This project is an example of wise land use planning that will create a significant asset for the town.”

The Hamstra Group has worked with the Town of DeMotte on many past projects, including the construction of its town hall in 1995 and numerous residential and commercial projects within the municipality. The company is also currently reworking the Sandy Pines Golf Course, for which the Town of DeMotte sought and received a state grant from the Indiana Brownfields program, an organization dedicated to redeveloping abandoned or inactive parcels of land. Several holes of the course are being redesigned to attractively cover a defunct landfill.



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