

Coming weeks to see Bloomfield take off

By Justin Fritscher



The Holiday Inn at Bloomfield in Pearl is still under construction but near completion Monday.

WHAT'S COMING

- **Holiday Inn and Alumni House Sports Grill:** Construction on these two projects near Trustmark Park should be completed by the end of the month. Both are located on Childre Road.
- **Sam's Club:** The store will be part of Bloomfield's large development that includes the outlet mall, Trustmark Park and Bass Pro Shops. Construction is expected to begin this summer. It will be located at Childre Road and Riverwind Drive.
- **Vantage Point at Riverwind:** The development, which plans to secure retail, medical, office and dining tenants, will be a community shopping center for the residents of Pearl. It will be located on Riverwind Drive, east of Pearson Road.
- **Outlets at Bloomfield:** The Jackson area's first outlet mall will feature between 70-80 stores once it's complete. It will be located on Bass Pro Shop Drive.
- **Online:** View artist renderings of the future Outlets of Bloomfield.

Several empty fields sit calm near Pearl's shopping epicenter before a storm of construction teams start building three new projects in coming weeks.

At I-20's Pearson Road interchange, a Sam's Club, an outlet mall and a strip mall plan to kick off construction by the end of the year, with Sam's Club beginning in the next several weeks.

The Sam's site, which will be near Trustmark Park and Bass Pro Shops, is prepared for the store's construction, which Pearl Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Deer said will be a big boost for upcoming developments.

Deer said Sam's is just waiting for a corporate construction company to arrive.

Pearl's future outlet mall - Outlets at Bloomfield - is still shopping for its first seven major tenants before kicking off its construction.

Rich Richardson, director of marketing and sales for Spectrum Capital, Bloomfield's developer, said the project is in the design phase, and there is a hope to begin vertical construction of its first phase by the end of the year.

"We are very aware of the excitement surrounding this project and are working diligently to deliver as soon as possible on a level which surpasses even the highest of expectations," Richardson said.

The outlet mall's first phase will be 220,000 square feet of retail that will house 50 stores. Once the outlet mall is done, it will have between 70-80 stores, Richardson said.

Its lineup already includes Reebok, Ann Taylor Factory Store and Ann Taylor LOFT Outlet. Richardson said a more comprehensive list of stores will be announced in the next two months.

Richardson said Outlets at Bloomfield will be more than a shopping destination. He said it will have entertainment, too.

An outdoor gathering area will allow space for kids to play and a large screen and stage to house concerts and other events.

"After all is said and done, even though we are developers, we like to have fun too, which is what Bloomfield is all about," Richardson said.

The Sam's and the Outlets at Bloomfield are part of a larger Bloomfield development, which included Trustmark Park and Bass Pro Shops. Also part of the Bloomfield development, the Holiday Inn and Alumni House Sports Grill are expected to finish construction this month, Richardson said.

While Bloomfield will hopefully draw shoppers from across the metro area and state, an upcoming development east of Pearson Road hopes to cater to local clientele.

"We're trying to complement Bloomfield rather than challenge it," said Vishal Barot, chief marketing officer for New Vision Ventures.

Vantage Point at Riverwind hopes to secure retail, medical, office, hotel and dining tenants for its new project located on Riverwind Drive east of Pearson Road.

Like Bloomfield, the strip mall is still hunting for tenants. Construction is planned to start by the end of the year.

Barot, who works for his family's development company, hopes to have one part of the strip mall full of medical clients - like a pharmacy and different offices for specialized doctors. The development includes a five- or six-floor office building and up to two hotels.

The goal is to have a shopping center that will cater to the people of Pearl, said Barot, who has many family members who live in the area. The development will also marry the nearby residential neighborhood located north of it with roads that will connect to existing streets, Barot said.

"My whole vision is helping the people of Pearl," Barot said.