

## Students in stalled Amity development have walk to the bus

### Boone buses won't enter High Meadow because streets not dedicated to township

**Stephanie Weaver**  
*Reading Eagle*

<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=413151>

The alarm clock goes off a bit earlier for some Daniel Boone School District families living in Amity Township.

In addition to getting dressed, brushing teeth and eating breakfast, students living in the High Meadow development off Pine Lane also need to factor in the time it takes to reach bus stops at the edge of the development.

The roughly 145-lot development that began in 2004 still is awaiting several improvements to streets along with the completion of another full phase of homes.

However, like many other local developments, work halted when the economy took a turn for the worse and the developer, Heritage Building Group, couldn't afford to continue, Amity officials said.

Efforts to reach Heritage officials for comment were unsuccessful.

Until improvements to the first two phases are completed, the township will not take ownership of the streets, which includes maintenance and plowing.

And New Rhodes Transportation, which provides busing for Daniel Boone schools, cannot send its buses into the development until the streets are dedicated to the township.

Instead, buses stop at three spots along Pine Lane, meaning that students in High Meadow must trek through the development to reach them. In some cases, that distance is nearly a mile.

"From a transportation standpoint, we would like to get off of Pine Lane," said Ron Smith, a transportation coordinator for Rhodes. "It would be much nicer for everyone involved to make a couple stops in the development."

The Amity supervisors discussed the topic at a recent meeting after several residents called in to complain.

"Anybody that buys a house and lives there as long as some of those people have shouldn't have to deal with this," Supervisor Paul Weller said.

Township Solicitor Brian F. Boland said he's been in contact with representatives for Heritage and Sovereign Bank, but hasn't been able to reach a compromise regarding the repairs.

Whenever a developer begins construction, escrow funds must be set aside for future improvements to the site.

Boland explained there is about \$380,000 remaining for the first two phases of the High Meadow development.

However, finishing the work would exceed that amount by \$75,000 to \$150,000.

The third phase, which has not been started, has a balance of \$1.07 million in its letter of credit, but the township cannot spend that money for work on the initial phases.

Supervisors are hoping to cut down the list of improvements and work out an agreement with the developer to at least pave the streets and install streetlights.

"I understand the people's frustration with the bus stop," Supervisor Terry Jones said. "You would think with the



property taxes they're paying back there, they'd be able to get a bus back there."

Contact **Stephanie Weaver**: 610-371-5042 or [sweaver@readingeagle.com](mailto:sweaver@readingeagle.com).