

COMMUNITY CONNECTION: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ...

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Where: Aksarben Village, 67th and Center Streets

What: Commercial and residential development. The first phase of the project includes about 200 apartments, a 135-room Marriott Courtyard Hotel, a five-acre park, 135,000 square feet of office space and 65,000 square feet of retail and restaurants.

When: The project's first phase should be done in the summer of 2008. The entire project will take six to eight years to complete.

Cost: about \$200 million

Details: Motorists have been noticing a large dirt pile that resembles a wall. Beyond that, there are several other piles of dirt. The piles are temporary. Developers say they brought in the dirt to raise the property above the flood plain. Once they spread the dirt, it has to be given time to naturally settle and reach a density that would support construction, said Jay Noddle, president of Noddle Cos., the lead developer of Aksarben Village. It can take eight to 16 weeks to achieve the necessary height and density.

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