

Major medical center slated for Georgetown

By JOHN-MICHAEL HAINES

Negotiations are in progress for a 90,000 square foot, three-story complex designed for medical professionals and located one-and-half miles south of the downtown Square on Austin Avenue.

The Austin Avenue Professional Plaza, which is being backed by a group of medical professionals, will offer a new look for the area, said Mark Thomas, director of economic development for Georgetown.

"Now we'll have a glass office building in an area where it's been traditionally concrete," Mr. Thomas said.

Some possible services offered at the facility could include oncology, an ambulatory surgical center, a food service vendor and a major banking institution. It is unclear how much the project will cost or when construction will begin.

One and a half miles north on the same street is Tamiro Plaza, a building designed to be a one-stop healthcare destination. Slated for a soft opening in October, and full opening in February 2009, the 36,500 square foot building is expected to have dentists, doctors, rehabilitation services and a pharmacy.

Mr. Thomas said though they are both medical related,

Tamiro Plaza is more about wellness, while the Professional Plaza is more about individual doctors consolidating their offices into a single location.

"I think there is a difference of who they are trying to market to," Mr. Thomas said.

With the two plazas, St. David's, the Texas A&M Medical School, the Texas Life-Sciences Collaboration Center and, in nearby Round Rock, Seton Medical Center Williamson and Scott & White. Mr. Thomas said the area is poised to become a medical mecca.

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with the biotech and medical fields," Mr. Thomas said. "We are at the beginning of what could be a very strong cluster for our economy. I think these buildings are the first wave of that."

The building is designed by Beaty Palmer, an award-winning San Antonio architecture firm which specializes in civil, commercial and corporate projects.

Phase 2 would be a second 60,000 square foot building, two stories high, adjacent to the first. Both buildings would be L-shaped, and would face away from one another.

Plaza developers declined to comment for the story.

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