

San Jose Mercury News

What's up with that?

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Katherine Conrad / Mercury News

A 6.5-acre multifamily housing development is under construction on Almaden Road in San Jose.

Where it is: On Almaden Road in San Jose, near the intersection with San Jose Avenue.

What it was: Mounds of dirt -- 2,500 cubic yards, to be exact -- have replaced an old commercial area that included a bingo parlor called Raiders, a roller rink, paint store and car wash, according to Gregory Scott of Barry Swenson Builder.

What's going on: Barry Swenson Builder started building the 6.5-acre multifamily housing development in February 2005 and plans to finish in December. The dirt will become a 2.5-acre park that will be owned and maintained by the city. The 225 apartments in six buildings will be rented to families on low, moderate and fixed incomes. The developers of the project are Simpson Housing Solutions, headquartered in Denver, and the **Las Palmas Foundation** in Encinitas.

-- Katherine Conrad