

Sale of land for 3rd hotel at baseball campus expected

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A luxury Hyatt or Hilton will likely become the third hotel project planned for Surprise's spring-training campus, eventually bringing the number of hotel rooms near the stadium to about 350.

The sale of 2.5 acres near what will soon become Young Street and Stadium Way is expected to close Monday at around \$2 million, said buyer Bruno Salamone.

Salamone and Stadium Village LLC also own the stadium campus' other hotel projects, both off Bullard Avenue: a 115-room Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, expected to open Dec. 27, and a 117-room Marriott Residence Inn expected to break ground in January.

Construction on the third hotel will begin at the end of 2008 or in early 2009.

All three hotels will be within walking distance of the stadium and part of a 69-acre urban campus that blends retail, restaurants and Class-A suburban office space.

Salamone has not yet confirmed the third hotel chain but said he is leaning most toward a Hyatt, followed by a Hilton Garden Inn or a Marriot SpringHill Suites.

Each of the projects would include luxury upgrades, an effort to get ball players staying in Surprise rather than Scottsdale.

Salamone said his goal is to strike a service deal with the city's ball teams, the Kansas City Royals and the Texas Rangers. He also hopes to lure tourists attending events at University of Phoenix Stadium as well as baseball, softball and tennis tournaments at the adjacent Surprise Recreation Campus.