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Ground broken in Mishawaka for condominiums **Work starts at old Uniroyal/Ball Band site.**



From left, Mishawaka City Council President Gregg Hixenbaugh and developers Frank Darnell and Bob Stephens watch Mishawaka Mayor Jeff Rea speak before ground is broken for The Townes at Kamm Island Park condominiums on the old Uniroyal/Ball Band site. Tribune Photo BARBARA ALLISON

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MISHAWAKA -- There used to be a coal yard and old industrial buildings east of 100 Center on the south side of the St. Joseph River.

Now it looks like it would be a pleasant place to live.

And by the end of the year there should be people living in 19 condominiums there.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for The Townes at Kamm Island Park took place Wednesday with developers and city representatives manning the shovels.

The condominiums will be at the western end of the former Uniroyal/Ball Band site. The area was industrial until Uniroyal closed in 1997. The city bought and cleared the site, and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency cleaned pollution from the ground.

Now Ironworks of Mishawaka, a firm headed by Bob Stephens, has undertaken the job of developing it.

Their first project will be The Townes at Kamm Island Park, which will overlook Kamm Island.

Prices will start at \$262,000.

Stephens said work will start in the next two or three weeks, and residents should be living in their new homes by the end of the year. He will tell members of the Mishawaka Redevelopment Commission about plans for the next phase of development at their meeting June 25.

Stephens said Wednesday it could be residential, commercial, offices or some combination of the three.

Former Mayor Robert C. Beutter, under whose leadership the site was cleared, was there to man a shovel.

"This is where we were headed," he said of the planned development. "It's satisfying."

Mayor Jeff Rea, under whose leadership Ironworks was chosen for the job, pointed to Kamm Island over his shoulder and said, "You see why people are attracted to downtown Mishawaka."

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