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St. Charles project to offer 431 parking spots

April 16, 2008 By [STEVE LORD](#) slord@scn1.com

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ST. CHARLES -- It may not be evident to the naked eye, but there soon will be 431 more free parking spaces downtown here.

The Plaza, also known as Building 4 of the 1st Street Redevelopment Project, is about to open, and will feature the 431 spaces on five levels, as well as 55,300 square feet of retail and office space, a public plaza and two heated and air-conditioned elevator and stair towers. But someone just driving by might not see the parking, because it will be surrounded by the downtown facade of new buildings featuring those retail and office uses.

City officials and members of the press toured the new parking facility Monday, although parking is not expected to be available until June. That will be exactly one year after the project started.

There will be three entrances to the parking when it is finished, off Route 31, 1st Street and Illinois Street. There will be both long- and short-term parking inside.