

# Triangle finally comes together



Ralph Barrera photos AMERICAN-STATESMAN

New tenants at The Triangle at Lamar Boulevard and Guadalupe Street are helping shape the development's character. From left, nationally known chef Damian Mandola and his wife Trina plan to open Mandola's Italian

Market early next year. Randy Murphy has Mama Fu's Asian House restaurant in the works, and Kelly Chappell and Chris Courtney are planning the second location of Galaxy Café.

## Neighborhood on board, tenants filling project, green space set aside

By **Kate Miller Morton**  
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Nearly 10 years after a local developer announced plans for a major shopping center at the intersection of North Lamar Boulevard and Guadalupe Street, the first businesses are finally moving into The Triangle.

Among the first expected to open early next year is Mandola's Italian Market, a restaurant and imported food and wine store that is the latest



**Damian Mandola**

venture of Damian Mandola. He's the nationally known chef, co-founder of the Carrabba's Italian Grill restaurant chain and co-host of the television cooking show "Cucina Amore."

Described as a one-stop shop for everything Italian, the 6,000-square-foot market will sell a wide variety of food to eat in or take out including pizza, pasta, sandwiches, soups, pastries, rustic breads and gelato along with items such as olive oils, wines, cookbooks and pottery.

"This is something I've wanted to do for almost 20 years," said Mandola, a Houston native who now lives in Driftwood.

Mandola said his goal is to replicate the cozy markets he's seen on trips to Italy. The Triangle, with its dense urban feel, was an ideal location, he said.

Also set to move in are local eatery Galaxy Café, which is opening its second location, the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium and Mama Fu's Asian House.

The restaurants and other businesses will occupy about 24,000



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Developers worked closely with the neighborhood around the Triangle to create a retail space benefiting both groups. The result is a plan for multi-story, mixed-use buildings and two smaller retail-only structures.

