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Marriott promises more luxury

The 120-room hotel is scheduled to open in February 2009.

By Richard Wilson
Staff Writer

Saturday, August 16, 2008

HAMILTON — The large ballroom, heated indoor pool and Italian bistro aren't there yet, but the promise of the city's most luxurious hotel is creating buzz.

Work stopped for a day at the Courtyard by Marriott Hamilton for a VIP preview Friday, Aug. 15, hosted by the Hamilton Community Foundation.

Renovations on the former Hamiltonian Hotel on Riverfront Plaza began in November 2007 and are scheduled to be complete in about five months. The 120-room hotel is scheduled to open in February 2009.

Executives with the foundation, Concord Hospitality Enterprises and Messer Construction Co. unveiled the first floor plan inside what will become a 5,500 square-foot ballroom.

Dennis Walsh, trust officer at First Financial Bank on High Street, said "it's a great improvement" from the Hamiltonian.

"The ballroom will be 100 percent better," Walsh said. "The rooms have a nice, clean feel. The color schemes are excellent."

The hotel will feature 60 double-bed rooms and 60 king-size rooms, four of which will be large suites. The sprawling first floor will feature an indoor pool, whirlpool spa, an exercise room, a cafe/bar and a restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Additional features will cater to business travelers and organizations, with a 24-hour business center, 7,200 square feet of meeting space and high-speed wireless internet in the guest rooms and lobby.

Through donations from the Hamilton community, the foundation has put up \$6 million on the \$12 million project, which will be paid back with interest over time by Concord Hospitality Enterprises, said John Guidugli, the foundation's president and CEO. The money will be put back into the Community Development Fund, Guidugli said.

Contact this reporter at (513) 820-2122 or rwilson@coxohio.com.

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