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By Sandra J. Pennecke
sandra.pennecke@insidebiz.com
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Steve Earley | The Virginian-Pilot

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The Cavalier Hotel photographed during remodeling on Oct. 30, 2015.

“If you build it, they will come” is certainly the anticipated mantra with the rise of several new hotels taking shape throughout Hampton Roads in 2016.

THE CAVALIER

The city of Virginia Beach is undergoing a renaissance of its own with the restoration of the historic Cavalier Hotel.

Established in 1927, the iconic Oceanfront hotel, at 42nd Street and Pacific Avenue, has been visited by numerous U.S. presidents, celebrities and guests throughout its lifespan of almost nine decades. In 2014, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, which qualified it for tax credits.

The new Cavalier will feature 85 rooms and suites, three restaurants, event space, a distillery, spa and pool at the Cavalier Beach Club.

According to a Virginian-Pilot report from April, the budget for demolition, rehabilitation and restoration increased from approximately \$50 million to close to \$74 million.

Cavalier Associates LLC is spending more than \$200 million on the project, which includes preservation of its historic elements while transforming it into a member of Marriott's Autograph Collection, a luxury hotel chain.

In November, The Pilot reported the hotel would open in spring 2017.

"Like all big restoration projects, The Cavalier has required far more work than originally anticipated, but I am passionate about the meticulous restoration that will undoubtedly enliven the Virginia Beach Oceanfront and strengthen Hampton Roads as a resort leader in the Mid-Atlantic," said Bruce Thompson, CEO and president of Gold Key | PHR Hotels & Resorts.

THE MAIN

An elegant hotel in the heart of Norfolk's downtown is under construction at the corner of Main and Granby streets.

The Hilton Norfolk The Main, which is a 21-story building, overlooks the Elizabeth River and will feature 300 hotel rooms when completed early next year. It is slated to open on or around April 1.

The hotel will have three dining establishments: Saltine, serving fresh seafood and locally inspired cuisine; Grain, a rooftop beer garden; and Varia, a modern Italian trattoria, wine studio and piano bar.

The Main also will feature a 100-foot tall glass atrium, two ballrooms, a conference center and a swimming pool.

On the Main's website, <http://themainnorfolk.com/>, Thompson said team members visited Miami, Denver, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York in search of the best design features to incorporate into an iconic building representative of the renaissance of downtown Norfolk.

"In early 2017, I'm thrilled to open The Hilton Norfolk The Main in downtown Norfolk," Thompson said. "This sleek and modern property will offer state-of-the-art meeting and conference space, luxury hotel accommodations and multiple outstanding dining options. I know that our efforts will shine a spotlight on the place I call home and bring people from across the country and around the world to enjoy Hampton Roads."

THE WILLIAMSBURG INN

In September, Colonial Williamsburg announced renovations plans at the Williamsburg Inn.

The landmark property, conceived and built by John D. Rockefeller Jr., opened in 1937. In the past 79 years, its guest registry has included royalty, heads of state, military leaders and celebrities worldwide.

The renovation proposal, sporting an \$8 million price tag, focuses on the historic hotel's exterior while maintaining its architectural richness.

The proposal includes a reflecting pool in the front oval area, improved rear terrace with a formal fountain, an outdoor bar and fire pit lounge, expansion of the Queen's Terrace with a pagoda and event lawn for weddings and an outdoor pool deck area. The renovations are anticipated to be completed by late spring 2017.

"With the city's approval, these enhancements would ensure the inn

remains not only the region's premier hotel property, but a key driver of the local economy," Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell Reiss stated in a September news release.

HYATT HOUSE OCEANFRONT HOTEL

The first Hyatt brand hotel in Virginia Beach is anticipated to make its debut to guests of the Oceanfront in the spring of 2017.

The Hyatt House Oceanfront Hotel, at 27th Street and Atlantic Avenue, which is 19 stories and 130,000 square feet, will feature 156 rooms when completed. It also will feature meeting spaces, fitness center and indoor pool.

With approximately 10,000 hotel rooms already in the Oceanfront area, A. Russell Kirk, managing director of development group 27th Street Hotel LLC, said in an Inside Business story from August that the Hyatt House will fill a niche when its doors open.

Sandra J. Pennecke, sandra.pennecke@insidebiz.com

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