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5 things to know about the new Hilton Garden Inn in Statesville

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Forty-seven high-definition televisions were delivered to the Hilton Garden Inn on Salisbury Highway on Monday afternoon, putting Statesville's newest hotel one step closer to opening.

Here are five things to know about the Hilton Garden Inn, slated to open in two weeks:

1. APRIL OPENING

Much like other construction projects in Statesville, poor weather conditions delayed the hotel's opening. Initially slated for a January opening, Pritesh Nagarji, the developer with ABC Investments of Huntersville, said he anticipates opening the first week of April.

“The weather played a large part in our setback,” he said. “There was a high demand for subcontractors that we had to meet. ... Now we’re about 98 percent finished with the guest rooms and 90 percent finished with the lobby and public areas. We have to do some final touches and do a final clean.”

2. DINING OPTIONS

Along with providing a place for travelers to stay, the Hilton Garden Inn -- off Exit 49B on Interstate 77 -- will have a full-service bar and restaurant open to the public.

The Hilton Garden Grill will offer a breakfast buffet with cook-to-order options and a dinner menu. Nagarji said prices are comparable to other American cuisine, at about \$7-\$10 an entrée.

Celena Nilo, a local chef and culinary professor, will head up the restaurant.

3. AMENITIES

Catering to both transient and corporate guests, the Hilton Garden Inn will offer a variety of amenities for guests from state-of-the-art meeting rooms to a heated saltwater pool.

With 25,000-square-feet of outdoor space and 24,000-square-feet of indoor meeting space, Nagarji said people are already requesting to use the hotel.

“We’ve received several inquiries about wedding receptions and rehearsals, family reunions and high school reunions, as well as corporate inquiries,” he said. “Statesville is in a central location so a lot of companies want to hold meetings here.”

The hotel will also be one of the first to have a digital key.

Each of the 104 rooms will have Bluetooth-enabled locks, meaning guests can use the Hilton Honors smartphone mobile app to unlock their doors.

The digital key will also streamline the check-in process.

“Guests can use the app to do a pre-check-in and select a room ahead of time,” Nagarji said. “The phone allows you to open your door without ever stopping by the registration desk.”

4. ECONOMIC IMPACT

The \$13 million development is expected to have a significant impact on the local economy through property and sales taxes.

Hotels in Statesville collect a 5 percent occupancy tax that goes toward the Statesville Civic Center and marketing for the city. City officials anticipate the Hilton Garden Inn will help Statesville collect more than \$1 million in taxes.

The hotel, which is fully staffed, also provided 50 new jobs to the area.

5. GATEWAY CROSSING PLAZA

The hotel sits on 6.5 acres that developers hope will house more than just the Hilton Garden Inn. While nothing is set in stone yet, Nagarji said ABC Investments is in negotiations to bring a service station, a restaurant and a mixed-use retail facility to the plaza.

Anyone interested in looking at parcels can contact ABC Investments at 704-598-6833.