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New Marriott Slated for South Atherton Street, Will Create Hundreds of Jobs

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Marriott Hotels, a prevalent brand in the hospitality industry, announced their plans today to begin construction for a new resort in Centre County. Funded by Nittany Partners, the finished project will result in 225 new jobs.

“We have four Marriott properties in the State College area already and they are kept busy throughout the school year and also during the summer months,” said Marriott CEO Bill Marriott. “There is room for one of our high-end hotel complexes in this market. We see a bright future for this and all our hotels in the State College community.”

The property currently known as Hills Plaza on South Atherton Street, where the complex will be built, is only three miles from the Pennsylvania State University campus. Bus stops can be found a short distance from the location, providing guests with feasible transportation to the campus.

In the area surrounding Hills Plaza, there are several dining options including Faccia Luna Pizzeria, P. J. Harrigan’s Bar & Grill and State College Diner. However, for the guests who prefer to remain at the hotel for meals, there will be 3 restaurants on-site: an upscale eatery featuring Asian cuisine, a vintage 1950s-style diner and a steakhouse.

The six-story hotel will be comprised of 350 guest rooms, meeting facilities, an exercise room and an indoor pool. There will also be an underground parking garage, where guests can leave their vehicles during their stay.

The \$21 million project will include a glass-covered atrium and 100-yard walkway through the center of the structure with the lobby at one end. At the opposite end, the walkway will open to an indoor area with trees, fountains and seating. In this atrium is where the dining options will be found, as well as six storefronts: a general store, a jewelry shop, both men’s and women’s clothing stores, a spot that features Penn State attire, and one location that has not yet been determined.

The top floor of the resort will be a dance club and bar with panoramic views of the beautiful Penn State campus and iconic Beaver Stadium. Additionally, a rooftop bar with light dining options and seating will be open to guests during the summer months.

Construction is expected to begin in March but site work will start as early as this winter. Such site work includes removing the strip mall and McDonald’s franchise that are currently on the property. While some local residents may be concerned about the loss of jobs that the community will see by the closure of these establishments, site developer Steve Patton is consciously aware of avoiding such an issue.

“Every effort will be made to identify potential jobs at our new resort for employees currently working at stores now on this site. We hope to minimize the financial impact on those employees who lose their current jobs,” Patton said.

The job opportunities created by the new resort will be both full and part-time. Offering positions at the hotel to current employees of McDonald’s and the strip mall is one way that the developers and builders are working to reduce any potential negative effects of the new construction.

Penn State is well-known by many for its Big Ten football team, delicious ice cream that is made and sold on campus and active downtown nightlife. Even Marriott recognizes the possibilities of increasing the number of resort locations in State College.

“Penn State is one of the great American universities,” said Marriott. “It is financially strong and we see more growth and opportunity for the institution and for the businesses that serve it.”

About Marriott Hotels

With over 500 hotels and resorts in nearly 50 countries and territories around the world, Marriott Hotels is evolving travel through every aspect of the guest’s stay, enabling the next generation to Travel Brilliantly. Boldly transforming itself for mobile and global travelers who blend work and play, Marriott leads the industry with innovations, including the Greatroom Lobby, Future of Meetings and Mobile Guest Services that elevates style & design and technology. All Marriott hotels participate in the award winning Marriott Rewards frequent travel program that allows members to earn hotel points or airline miles for every dollar spent during each stay. For more information, visit www.MarriottHotels.com to join the ongoing Marriott conversation, like us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/Marriott](https://www.facebook.com/Marriott)) and follow us on Twitter ([@Marriott](https://twitter.com/Marriott)).