

New Hilton bringing coveted services, facilities

Hotel/conference
center scheduled to
open Aug. 29

By **STEFANIE ACKERMAN**

Special contributor
to *The Allen American*

The new Hilton Garden Inn going up at 705 Central Expressway offers Allen a level of facilities that should help economic development,

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officials say.

After two years of dealings between the city of Allen and Second Century Investments, construction began on the new hotel/conference center in May 2001.

Now days before the planned Aug. 29 grand opening, the conference center already has events scheduled, including Allen Business Appreciation Week activities in mid-September.

Larry Masi, the principal partner in the deal to land the hotel, calls it "a more causal environment" that is designed to attract business "road warriors" and expos.

"It has really nice rooms, and it's a comfortable hotel," Masi said. "It provides reasonable economic comfort — but all first class."

The hotel offers the Hilton tradition with a design

focused on serving the needs of businesses and other large convention style events. The hotel will accommodate the needs of the business community in the Metroplex, something that has been ignored for years now.

The Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Allen features 150 rooms, including 20 suites, each equipped with a desk. Rooms feature two dual-line speaker phones with voice mail and data ports and high-speed Internet access.

A hospitality center in each room includes a microwave, refrigerator, and coffee maker. Iron/ironing board and hair dryer are also standard in all rooms.

The hotel has a business center that is complimentary to guests and accessible 24 hours a day. The restaurant serves a continental and full buffet breakfast each morning, and the Pavilion Pantry is open 24 hours.

An outdoor heated pool with whirlpool is also available in addition to a state-of-the-art fitness center.

The conference center has more than 9,000 square feet of function space, with a ballroom accommodating up to 500 guests. In addition to the ballroom, there are two boardrooms and four additional meeting rooms, some with natural lighting.

Hilton

From IA

Inclusive meeting packages are available, along with on-site audio-visual services.

The premises feature a

self-laundry and same-day dry cleaning services.

The new inn is bringing more than just another place to rest for weary travelers. Officials tout the conference facilities as a key addition to the city.

"From the perspective of

the chamber, it's providing a conference center. It fills the dire need of adequate social space," said chamber president Sharon Mayer.

She added that with the new hotel and meeting/banquet facilities, Allen residents now don't have to

leave home for weddings, anniversary parties, or other social functions.

Interest from Allen businesses keyed the pursuit of a hotel for the area. And the hotel will serve family members of patients at the nearby Presbyterian Hospital of

Allen.

The hotel's meeting capacities are already being booked. On the weekend of Sept. 4, Ducks Unlimited will christen the new meeting space. To follow are the chamber's Business EXPO and the Allen Economic

Development Corp.'s Millennium Awards luncheon.

Stefanie Ackerman is a 2002 graduate of Plano East Senior High School. She is an intern at The Allen American this summer. In fall, she plans to attend the University of Missouri and major in journalism.