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Marriott Courtyard coming to East Valley

By David Woodfill
Tribune

A Marriott Courtyard planned for Falcon Field Airport will be the first hotel built in east Mesa in a generation and the first within the city limits in 10 years. The four-story hotel, which is operated under the Marriott International brand name, will likely be the first of several hotels sprouting up throughout the city, a tourism official said.

The Courtyard will include 114 rooms and encompass 72,000 square feet on a 2.8-acre lot near the intersection of McKellips Road and 48th Street.

Harold Decker, Mesa economic development specialist, said the hotelier has the full support of the city and will likely break ground soon and open by the end of the year.

"(There's) a real demand for rooms out there," he said.

Marriott Courtyard is a chain of "select service" hotels that are set apart from Marriott higher-end facilities because their rooms are less costly, they have fewer amenities and services like room service, they're smaller and tend to be located in suburban areas as opposed to downtown urban cores.

"I don't think they are considered 'luxury,'" said Laurie Goldstein, a Marriott spokeswoman. "I would call them moderate-tier."

Robert Brinton, executive director of the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, said a number of factors, including a rallying post-9/11 tourism industry and completion of the Red Mountain Freeway portion of Loop 202, have generated demand for hotel rooms in the area.

He said Mesa has been resistant to hotel construction in the recent past because prospective hoteliers tended to be of lower quality.

Brinton added that the Marriott will be the first in a string of similar hotel chains opening in Mesa in the near future. He didn't specify which companies were looking at Mesa, but said they were interested in southeast, southwest and northeast parts of the city.

Lois Yates, executive director of the Falcon Field Area Alliance, said the area is suffering from a critical lack of hotel rooms, with Boeing workers alone renting up to 8,000 rooms a year.

The Marriott Courtyard's restaurant and meeting rooms will also provide much-needed dining options and more convenient meeting space, she said.

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