

New hotel coming to Center Township

By Jared Stonesifer

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Another new hotel is coming near the Beaver Valley Mall.

CENTER TWP. — Another new hotel is coming near the Beaver Valley Mall.

The same company that recently opened the Home2 Suites hotel on Wagner Road Extension plans to build the new hotel adjacent to that property. The new hotel is expected to be a Hilton Garden Inn and will feature 140 rooms.

Marcus Piatt, the president of Millcraft Investment's hotel division, said Friday that the new hotel will feature an upscale restaurant that serves lunch and dinner.

The facility will also feature a 3,000-square-foot meeting space that can be tailored to wedding receptions or other large events.

Piatt said it made sense to build another hotel in the area. The Home2 Suites that opened in October was going to be built regardless of Shell Chemicals' final investment decision to build a \$6 billion ethane cracker plant in Potter Township.

But according to Piatt, Shell's decision was the impetus to bring another hotel to the area.

"Once the cracker plant was finalized, we determined that the Hilton would be the highest level of hotel service within 15 miles of Beaver," he said. "It can really accommodate a lot of the workforce that is coming in for the Shell plant. We're hoping a lot of corporate people will fill that space, along with weddings and other events."

The new hotel is expected to cost \$20 million to build, and Millcraft could break ground on construction as soon as the new year. Piatt said he expects the hotel to open in the first quarter of 2019.



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