

FOCUS 2008: MISCELLANEOUS

Holiday Inn aims to be 'destination hotel'

Set to open in August, 151-bed hotel will be near city attractions and will also be lab for IPFW's hospitality majors

BY ASHLEY SMITH
asmith@news-sentinel.com

An addition to the "center of the city" is how Rob Evans describes a new hotel rising across the street from the Memorial Coliseum.

This 151-bed Holiday Inn is expected to open in August, said Evans, the hotel's general manager.

"It's 95 percent complete," he said. "We're on schedule."

Construction began on this complex – which will include a hot tub, an indoor pool, three patios, meeting spaces and a

restaurant – in May 2007.

Special to this hotel is that students studying hospitality management at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne will be able to use some of the facilities to further their studies.

At the hotel, a laboratory will be made available for cooking demonstrations, a dining room, a lecture hall and even as a makeshift casino.

"Rather than study the theoretical, students will be able to connect to the community and get hands-on practice in

the subject matter," John Knight, a professor in the hospitality and tourism management program at IPFW, said during the groundbreaking last year. He is also the president of the Northeast Indiana Hospitality Association.

More conventionally, though, the hotel will offer the needed space for those attending a sporting event at the coliseum or listening to a lecture at IPFW or even just shopping at Glenbrook Square.

"It's the first destination hotel that Fort Wayne has," Evans said. "It's really what

this part of town needs."

The close proximity of the hotel – located directly across the street from Memorial Coliseum on Coliseum Boulevard – will prove to be a benefit, as well, Evans said.

"You can literally hit a golf ball from our property and hit all three," he said, referring to what he called the "three icons" of Fort Wayne: the coliseum, IPFW and Glenbrook Square.

The next step now is just opening its doors, and from what Evans says, it is well on its way.



Courtesy illustration

Construction on the 151-bed Holiday Inn on Coliseum Boulevard next to the American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana could be finished this summer.

Kids have fun here – and learn

Science Central offers summer day camps.

BY JONATHAN YOUNG
jyoung@news-sentinel.com

At Science Central, learning does not end with the school year.

In fact, the learning is just getting started at Science Central's summer day camps, the first of which began Monday.

According to Julie Tutwiler, manager of marketing and development for Science Central, the purpose of the camps is to integrate learning and fun. She said attending a camp continues the school year's education in science, engineering and math in a fun way.

Children who attend camp "have activities and experiences that they're not necessarily going to be able to have in the classroom, and they're definitely not going to be able to have at home on Mom's kitchen table," Tutwiler said.

Depending on which camp children attend, those experiences might include making their own slime, super-freezing items in liquid nitrogen, building a working LEGO robot, or participating in an archaeological dig.

The museum, located at

Science Central

Address: 1950 N. Clinton St.

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday

Admission: \$7, free ages 2 and under

Exhibits

Kids Central (for ages 2-7)

Measurement Gallery

Observation Gallery

Investigation Gallery

Prediction Gallery

Mind's Eye Gallery

1950 N. Clinton St., offers a number of camps, geared for kids in preschool, elementary school, middle school and a special-needs camp. There are also three overnight "Snoozeums," which provide a private night at the museum, an optional activity, pizza, a movie and breakfast in the morning.

All the summer camps are really an extension of the museum's goal throughout the year: to provide family-oriented, hands-on education about science, math and technology in an enjoyable manner.

Museum preserves firefighting's past

Memorabilia, old engines in original Engine House No. 3

BY FAITH J. VAN GILDER
fvangilder@news-sentinel.com

The Firefighters Museum is a hidden gem in Fort Wayne's collection of visitor attractions. Tucked next to the Allen County Public Library and across the street from the Grand Wayne Convention Center, the museum is in the original brick Engine House No. 3. It was built in 1893, when traffic on the city's unpaved streets consisted mostly of horse-drawn vehicles, including those that fought fires.

When the station opened, it housed six men, four horses and two wagons; additions in 1907 and 1909 made it the largest station in Fort Wayne. It closed in 1972 when the new Main Street station was built, and the museum was organized two years later.

Museum director and firefighter Dennis Giere pointed out a board near the entrance that lists highlights in the museum's history, along with items on its wish list.

"We're one of a number of firefighting museums in Indiana," he said. A Web search at www.firemuseumnetwork.org shows almost

Firefighters Museum

Address: 226 W. Washington Blvd.

Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday

Cost: \$4 adults, \$3 students

(K-12), free age 5 and under.

Group rates available for scheduled guided tours.

Phone: 426-0051

Web: www.fortwaynefiremuseum.com

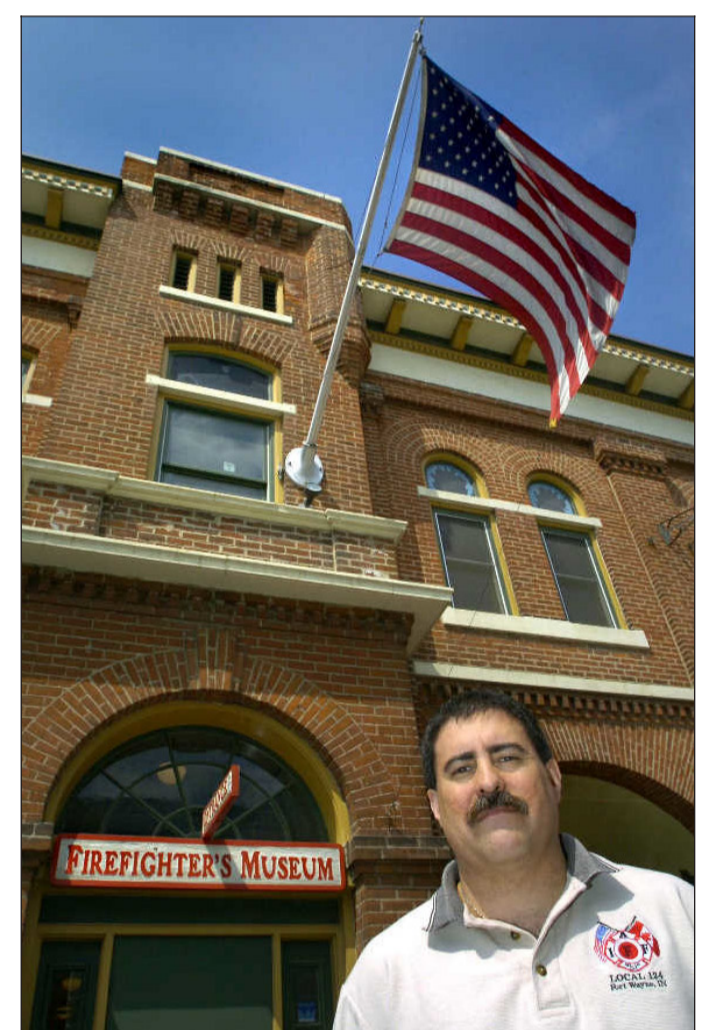
300 in the U.S. and Canada, and seven in Indiana.

Giere's pride is obvious when he shows off the museum's attractions. On the lower level reside several old fire engines, an 1893 steamer and an 1848 hand pumper, restored and polished to a sheen and all once used by the Fort Wayne Fire Department.

In the back, one of the original horse stalls has been restored. You can peek up the hose tower, where canvas hoses were once hung to dry for three to four days.

Renovated in 2004, the upper level consists of a large display area with glass cases of firefighting equipment – hats, badges, tanks – and panels showing dramatic photos of noteworthy Fort Wayne fires, including the Aveline Hotel in 1908, Wolf & Dessauer department store in 1962 and Bowser Street tire depot in 1997.

A newly opened area in the back includes a kitchen and bedroom where young visitors can learn about fire safety rules for those rooms. Thanks to a recent donation



By Brian Tombaugh of The News-Sentinel

Fort Wayne Fire Department Capt. Denny Giere, vice president of the Board of Directors of the Fort Wayne Firefighters Museum, 226 W. Washington Blvd., said the museum will be well-situated when the Harrison Square ballpark opens next year.

from the Patricia Mae

Franke Foundation, a 30-

seat children's fire safety theater was formally dedicated in May. The original bin that held oats for the horses contrasts with state-of-the-art video technology, large screen and sound-absorbing

corn floor.

Museum projects still on the drawing board and awaiting funding include adding an elevator and renovating the former coal storage building behind the museum. In the past, the museum hosted a hog roast fundraiser after the Three Rivers Festival parade in July. But since the parade route changed, foot traffic by the museum decreased and the event has been discontinued.

"It was a lot of work and not much profit," Giere said. "We're looking at some other things to replace it."

Giere said one challenge for the museum has been lack of visibility as motorists zip by on Washington Boulevard. A new sign being built outside the entrance should go a long way toward solving that. Designed by Creative Sign Resources, the 14-foot-tall brick column will have a flame on top that is illuminated at night.

Another drawback is lack of parking. A recent agreement with the library allows school buses to park on the west end of the library and children to walk a block to the museum.

Giere expects visits to increase once the Harrison Square downtown redevelopment project is finished next year. "We're really in a good place here, with everything going on," he said.

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