

New on the Scene

WHISTLE STOP. In an ornate former train station built in 1900, the downtown Union Station Hotel, a Wyndham Historic Hotel, last year underwent

a \$10 million renovation project that revamped all 125 guest rooms (no two are

alike). (615) 726-1001; unionstationhotelnashville.com

stay
here



From trains to check-ins: Union Station Hotel

Go Greek

Party at the Parthenon, a re-creation of the storied Athenian temple. nashville.gov/parthenon

CENTER OF ACTIVITY. In June, the Nashville Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority approved contracts to start work on a new 1.2 million-square-foot convention center called Music City Center in early 2009. Aiming for completion in fall 2012, the \$635 million project will be LEED-certified and feature a 1,000-room anchor hotel and 375,000 square feet of exhibit space. The convention center will be funded by several new tourist taxes,

including a 1 percent increase of the hotel/motel tax to 6 percent; a \$2.50 per room, per night flat tax on all occupied hotel rooms; a \$2 flat tax on all limos, shuttles and taxis leaving the airport, and an additional 1 percent tax on some car rentals. According to city officials, the 175,000-square-foot Nashville Convention Center will remain open for the time being, but future plans for the old center have not yet been determined.

Going Green, Literally

THE 139-ROOM HOTEL INDIGO Nashville-West End opened in October 2007 with six meeting rooms, a fitness center and

free wireless Internet. The lime-green property features martini and coffee bars and quirky furnishings in the guest rooms. Another Hotel Indigo is due to open in the downtown district in 2009. (615) 329-4200; hotelindigo.com



in the
works

Local Update:

■ The Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center Nashville plans to add 400,000 square feet of meeting and convention space and an adjacent 400-room, all-suite hotel to its complex. Upon completion, the entire resort will offer 3,281 rooms and one million square feet of meeting space. A timeline and design plans will be released in spring 2009.

■ The Aloft Nashville-Cool Springs opened in October with 143 guest rooms, an indoor pool, a gym, a bar and a boardroom for 12 people.

■ The Doubletree Hotel Nashville completed a renovation in September of its 337 guest rooms, Swank's Martini and Wine Bar, and the Meritage Grille restaurant. Swank's now has a stage for nightly local entertainment.

■ The 225-room Westin at the Meridian Cool Springs development in Franklin is on hold. The property was supposed to open in 2010.

■ The 65-acre Meridian Cool Springs development opened the 122-room Courtyard by Marriott Franklin Cool Springs and a 124-room Residence Inn this month. The mixed-use complex features seven restaurants and 68,000 square feet of shopping.

■ The 283-room Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel & Conference Center opened in October with an 80,000-square-foot conference center, a pool, a 250-seat restaurant, a fitness center and a business center.



Meeting Hotels: Among the many properties in the city are the 2,881-room Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center Nashville, 673-room Renaissance Nashville Hotel, 474-room Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, 410-room Sheraton Music City Hotel Nashville, 392-room Nashville Airport Marriott, 382-room Holiday Inn Select Opryland-Airport, 340-room

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