Roosevelt Park Apartments, Longs Peak pub unveiled in Longmont

By Alicia Wallace
Camera Business Writer

LONGMONT — Roosevelt Park Apartments, a downtown mixed-use development that has been 10 years in the making, was officially unveiled to the public Thursday.

The event for the $20 million, 115-unit property off Longs Peak Avenue and Main Street — which includes the Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse at street level — coincided with the anniversary of then-New York governor and vice presidential candidate Teddy Roosevelt's Sept. 25, 1900, whistle-stop tour visit to Longmont.

As a nod to that visit, officials for developer Burden Inc. unveiled a life-sized Teddy Roosevelt statue. The bronze statue of Roosevelt standing on a railcar is meant to be interactive — passers-by can climb the stairs and stand next to the 26th president on the platform.

It's the second bronze statue of Roosevelt on the block. In 2003, a statue honoring the president's conservationist efforts was installed at the southeast corner of Longs Peak and Coffman Street, in front of Burden Inc.'s Roosevelt Place office building.

Burden commissioned artist Dan Snarr, of Tooele, Utah, for both statues.

Thursday also marked the soft opening for the Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse, a new restaurant from Boulder-based Mountain Sun Pubs & Breweries.

The 5,000-square-foot pub is similar in size and appearance to Mountain Sun's Southern Sun Pub & Brewery in south Boulder and will have a similar menu in addition to beers, wine and margaritas on tap, said Kevin Daly, a co-owner of Mountain Sun.

The Roosevelt Park Apartments are "such a cool idea," Daly said. "It's a nice downtown."

Daly said his desire is to have Mountain Sun complement the local craft brewers.

The 21 tap lines dedicated to beer will pour Mountain Sun suds as well as offerings from Longmont-area craft brewers.

Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse will have an official opening next week, Daly said, adding that the date would be revealed on the restaurant's Facebook page.

Sammy Henkin, 7, stands next to Longmont's newest Teddy Roosevelt sculpture after a dedication ceremony for the Roosevelt Park Apartments, 600 Longs Peak Ave., and the sculpture Thursday evening. The $20 million, 115-unit property off Longs Peak Avenue and Main Street includes the Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse at street level. (*Lewis Geyer / TIMES-CALL*)

When Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse opens, it will join the locally operated Modena Wine Cafe and Inspire Salon and Spa, which opened downtown this summer.

Longmont resident David Hollenbeck, who opened Modena on Aug. 1 with his wife, Christine, said they believe their business fills a niche not only in downtown, but for the city as a whole.

"There really wasn't anything like this," he said, "and it's a place we wanted for ourselves (as residents)."

The wine and coffee bar, pub and salon help lend some additional vibrancy to downtown Longmont and also complement the urban-style apartments, said W. Cotton Burden, president and chief executive officer of Burden Inc.

The market-rate Roosevelt Park Apartments consist of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units ranging in price from $900 to $2,300, officials said. The property wraps around a parking structure.

As of Wednesday, the apartments were 96 percent leased, Burden said, adding that leasing activity started in February.

The project, which received $3.5 million from the Longmont Downtown Development Authority, took about 10 years to come to fruition, Burden said. Most of that time was spent acquiring six properties on the block and then bringing it through the planning and development process.

"It has brought living opportunities to Longmont residents that didn't exist before," Burden said.

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The bar at Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse, 600 Longs Peak Ave. in Longmont. The 5,000-square-foot pub is similar to Mountain Sun's Southern Sun Pub & Brewery in south Boulder. (*Lewis Geyer / TIMES-CALL*)