

Dillon Center Construction Under Way

Nicole Formosa
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DILLON — The project the town of Dillon hopes will be a catalyst to revitalizing its downtown core is officially under way.

Developers broke ground last week on the Dillon Center renovation project which will add 37 condominiums on top of the existing structure - home to Lakeside Bowl and about a dozen other businesses.

“This project, with your vision and your practicality, will really help spur the growth our town needs,” Mayor Barbara Davis told developers Abbas Rajabi and John Barna, Jr.

The hope is the new building, with a mix of retail shops and residential units, will bring a much needed human presence to Dillon’s quiet town core.

The new addition will nearly double the size of the existing building, adding 46,000 square feet, including a two-level parking garage and a multi-colored, contemporary exterior. Construction should be complete by late 2005.

“It’s an aggressive schedule, but one that’s basically planned out,” Barna said.

After the work is done, the building will be renamed La Riva del Lago Condominiums, or “the shore of the lake” in Italian.

Rajabi created the new moniker after a trip to the Swiss Alps last winter. The concept came to him while visiting Lake Como in Italy. “I was standing at the shore of the lake, looking around at the green mountains and the whole thing and I said this is Dillon. This is so beautiful,” Rajabi recalled.

He wanted to name the condos Lugano in a tribute to one of the lakeside towns in Italy, but that name was already taken by a Brazilian company so he thought of La Riva del Lago.

The new condos include four one-bedroom units, 26 two-bedroom units and seven three-bedroom units. Prices range from \$219,000 to \$435,000. According to Omni Real Estate, there has been a lot of interest. Contracts have already been signed on 14 of the units. “A project like this with lake views in Dillon hasn’t happened in years,” said broker associate John Kroger.