

NewsRoom

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GRAND OLD HOTEL GETTING NEW LIFE

RICK BOWERS Herald Staff Writer

Politicians and civic leaders mingled with business executives and vacationers at poolside Friday, marking a milestone in the rebirth of one of **Broward's** grandest hotels.

The gathering at the historic **Hollywood Beach** Hotel marked the end of a crucial phase in the transformation of the 60-year-old landmark into a modern, \$40 million condominium, shopping mall and entertainment complex.

"It's nice. I'm glad to see something's being done with it," said Myrtle Gray, 87, who recalled an evening in the winter of 1926 when the hotel's original opening was feted in black tie and evening gowns.

Now the old hotel is coming back in a new form.

Condo owners are beginning to move into the refurbished peach-colored stucco building at 101 N. Ocean Dr. -- renamed the **Hollywood Beach Resort** -- and are using the new pool and health spa.

Construction is continuing on a shopping mall on the first two floors of the seven-floor building. Work is expected to begin next month on a separate five-story building with 10 movie theaters and an 850-car garage.

The hotel was built by **Hollywood** founder Joe Young 60 years ago and briefly served as an opulent playground for the rich. But a killer hurricane in 1926 much of the city in ruins and the building full of sand. Over the years, the landmark came back as a hotel, military school and Bible college. The new owners began refurbishing last year. They have sold almost all the 350 condos at prices ranging from \$49,900 to \$199,900. One penthouse apartment went for \$350,000.

"I can't believe what they're doing here," said condo owner Harry Raptoulis. "It's amazing."

PHOTO

Before a backdrop of construction, a party opens the renewed **Hollywood Beach** Hotel (b)

COMMUNITY NEWS + **HOLLYWOOD**

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