

Demolition of a Bethany landmark

The Blue Surf Motel is being torn down to make way for oceanfront condos

By Andrew Ostroski

Staff Writer

BETHANY BEACH -- An oceanfront landmark is being demolished and owners are making plans to construct new luxury housing where the 48-year building once stood.

The Blue Surf Motel, constructed at the end of Garfield Parkway in 1959, will be replaced with a new condominium and townhome complex, officials said.

While the construction of the new complex has been in the works for quite some time, Patty and Gerald McCabe, the owners of the Blue Surf Motel, have been having a difficult time with the demolition of the current building. Decades of memories are coming down with the walls, Gerald said.

"We won't even go down to Bethany Beach until the demolition is finished," said an emotional Gerald. "It's been really hard for us to even think about."



John King photo

The Blue Surf Motel in Bethany Beach is being torn down and will be replaced with new shops and oceanfront condominiums.

The 20-unit residential building, being built by Bunting Construction, will be three stories high. According to the Blue Surf's Web site, the new housing units will be geared toward retirees, with units facing east and west for views of the boardwalk and Bethany Beach, and townhomes facing north and south.

According to the Blue Surf's Web site, the new condominiums and townhomes will feature amenities such as stainless steel finish kitchen appliances including bottom freezer, 22-cubic foot refrigerator, glass-top electric self-cleaning range, microwave and dishwasher, as well as a full washer and dryer.

The new complex will also offer a private pool area, a parking garage with two assigned spaces per unit, owner storage closets, as well as two elevators and access to the beach and boardwalk, officials said.

While the lion's share of units have currently been sold -- with the most expensive listed at \$2.8 million - seven units are still available. Prices on the remaining properties range from \$1.4 million to \$2.2 million.

The demolition of the Blue Surf Motel has brought much attention to the boardwalk. Residents have stopped to watch the deconstruction of the Bethany Beach landmark.

Dick and Joyce Pool of Bethany Beach stopped along the end of Garfield Parkway to watch as a backhoe clawed at the remnants of a second floor motel room.

"I think it's fine," Joyce said. "If there's going to be shops there, it'll really be a nice addition to the boardwalk area. You like to see a little bit of a motel combination for people, but it looks like it's going to be a very nice addition to the town."

Dick agreed with his wife, welcoming the new structure at the end of Garfield Parkway.

"It seems like there will be something for everyone down here," he said. "I think it's going to be really nice."

As a Bethany Beach landmark disappears, residents remember fond times at the Blue Surf Motel. Joyce recalled guests to their town who had positive experiences at the well-known facility.

"We've had friends stay there, and they really enjoyed it," she said. "In fact, a relative of ours stayed there just last summer, and she thought it was kind of neat that she was going to be one of the last guests to stay at the Blue Surf."

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