

Developers bring hotels to downtown Bozeman GALLATIN COUNTY



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BOZEMAN, Mont. - The race is on to develop in downtown Bozeman, as builders work on plans for a few new hotels.

One has already opened and two more are on the way. The Lark, on the corner of West Main and Willson opened in April. Construction is well underway for the Element, on Mendenhall between Tracy and Black. The Etha will be in the old armory about a block away.

As you drive down Main Street Bozeman, you'll see The Lark just before you hit the heart of downtown. It just opened in April. Right now, it's the only open hotel downtown.

"Three months and we have become the No. 1 hotel on Trip Advisor," said manager Keith Comiso. He said since they opened, business is booming. Their 38 rooms are frequently filled.

"The response from people, our guests, is just so positive, we couldn't have asked for anything more," said Comiso.

Other hotels are following in The Lark's footsteps.

"We have several hotels, one open, another one under construction and a third about to commence construction," said Executive Director of the Downtown Bozeman Partnership Chris Naumann.

All these hotels are classified as boutique hotels, not owned by a chain business.

"Different styles, different price points, and I think that's important to have a mix, because we have visitors of all types coming to Bozeman and downtown, and now they'll have choices," said Naumann.

Naumann said the hotels will bring business to downtown shops.

We asked Comiso if he's worried about staying busy with more and more hotels popping up. He said all three hotels are working together rather than competing against each other.

"We just want to bring more business to downtown Bozeman, and we as properties are going to work together to get to do that," said Comiso.

The Element hotel plans to open by the end of this summer. The Etha has a longer timeline, with an opening 18 to 24 months after construction starts.