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RexCorp starting \$40 million Marriott makeover

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The Long Island Marriott Hotel in Uniondale, first built in 1982 and expanded since, is to receive a \$40 million makeover beginning this month, the giant developer RexCorp Realty said Wednesday.

The upgrades to the 612-room hotel are part of the Lighthouse project, a plan to develop the aging Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum and turn the coliseum's parking lot into a center that is to include twin office towers, homes and retail shopping and entertainment venues.

RexCorp., which is partnering in the Lighthouse project with Charles Wang, founder of Islandia-based software company CA Inc., said in an announcement that the Marriott's lobby will be transformed, guest rooms will be renovated, and banquet rooms will get makeovers.

The first phase of the project is to begin later this month, with work to be done on the main lobby and the ballrooms. That part of the project is to be completed by March.

Guest rooms are to be finished by mid-May. The second phase, which includes re-skining the exterior facade of the building, is to be completed later in conjunction with the Lighthouse project.

The hotel will remain open during the renovations, a spokeswoman said.

"The Long Island Marriott is currently operating at a high capacity and with the Lighthouse on the horizon, this is the opportune time to push our capabilities even further," Mike Johnson, the Marriott's general manager, said in a statement.

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