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Luxury condos slated for LBK

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LONGBOAT KEY — A multi-million luxury condominium is on pace to join the small town of Longboat Key.

Developers this week demolished the former Holiday Beach Resort, 4765 Gulf of Mexico Drive, to make way for the development that is to be completed later this year.

Bleu Claire is one of several condo conversion developments to take place on Longboat Key over the past eight years.

Longboat Key has lost 250 tourism units since 2000 due to condo conversions.

The most major one included the Holiday Inn, which had 140 units, and was bought by developers to construct The Positano Condominium, which has 29 units.

Due to the overwhelming number of condo conversions, the town of Longboat Key is working on implementing a referendum to help restore the 250 tourism units lost.

The Bleu Claire condo will be developed by Atlanta-based Crossgate Partners with residences ranging between mid-\$3 million to \$5 million.

Units will range in size from 3,900 square feet to 4,700 square feet.

In July, Michael Saunders & Co. sold one of two penthouse residences at Bleu Claire for \$5 million.

Michael Saunders could not be reached for comment Friday.

According to Crossgate Partners' Web site, Bleu Claire will be an environmentally friendly development, as construction will adhere to standards set by the Florida Green Building Coalition.

"Going green will not only help retain the natural beauty of the community's surrounding environment, but also will provide long-term health benefits, cost savings and higher property values," said Randy Moore, managing partner for Crossgate Partners, in a news release.

Bleu Claire will be modeled after some of the classic architecture of the French Riviera.

The five-story condo will include recessed archways, stone bases and columns and wrought iron detailing.

Residents will have beach front terraces, personal garages and private elevators to each unit.

Other amenities include a swimming pool and spa, an entertainment pavilion, fitness center, tennis courts and rooftop decks.

"The location is perfect for our interpretation of classic French coastal architecture," Moore said.

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