



MOONRISE HOTEL

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Joe Edward's Moonrise Hotel Set to Open in April

By Walt Crocker

Delmar Boulevard starts in the deep, dark canyons of downtown St. Louis and shoots out west all the way past University City. It winds past old abandoned warehouses and historic homes, and then through the hospital district where Barnes Hospital, Children's Hospital, and the Washington University School of Medicine are.

You can see Forest Park, St. Louis' mini version of New York's Central Park, from one section of it. But where all of the action lies on Delmar Boulevard is right before it hits the outskirts of the city proper, and that area is called the Delmar Loop, or just "The Loop" after the old street car line that used to turn around there. The shopping and entertainment district there has earned the Loop the honor of being named one of the "Ten Best Streets in America" by the American Planning Association. (www.planning.org)

If you look real close, you can still see evidence of the old tracks, even though the last trolley car in St. Louis stopped running in the 60's. (www.wikipedia.com)

But Joe Edwards, the unofficial mayor and part owner of The Loop, (Blueberry Hill. Tivoli Theater, Pin-Up Bowl, Pageant theater), is bringing back a trolley line that will traverse the area from the border of University City all the way back to where the entertainment district stops, and that line is moving further east all of the time.

Joe has yet another major project in the works that's due to open this April. He's about to launch the grand opening of the Moonrise Hotel. According to Hotels STL.com (www.hotelsstl.com) and St. Louis Front Page (www.slfpc.com), The Moonrise Hotel is slated to open in April and will feature high class accommodations and will be visually striking with its ten-foot high illuminated moon on top of the roof.

Part of the moon will be painted in a light color and part in a dark color and people will be able to watch the phases of daytime and nighttime. The boutique hotel will feature 125 rooms, including 5 that will have a hot tub. there will also be ten suites and 10,000 square feet of meeting space.

I don't know if I will have any reason to stay at the Moonrise Hotel, since I live just a few blocks from the Loop, but I can't wait to sit outside at one of the many sidewalk cafes down there and gaze at the larger-than-life moon while sipping my cappuccino.