

# Redevelopment Projects Proliferate on Jekyll

**Westin Hotel** - The 200-room Jekyll Island Westin Hotel opened on April 20, 2015. The upscale Westin will include meeting facilities, a full-service restaurant, a fancy bar, resort style pool, beach services and other amenities. Located along the beachfront just to the south of the Jekyll Convention Center, the Westin will be the most expensive hotel on Jekyll, with room rates starting at \$200, excluding 11% in taxes, \$5 per day state fee, and a \$15 per day resort fee. To check room rates and availability, [click here](#).



The Westin, which tops out at 67 feet in height, is the tallest building on Jekyll’s beachfront and is a poor fit for Jekyll Island State Park not only due to its size but because its room rates are out of place in a state park founded on an affordability principle.

Given that the Westin puts out more light and is closer to the beach than any other hotel on Jekyll Island, there is concern regarding the impact that lighting from the Westin will have upon sea turtle nesting along the beach in front of the hotel. While steps have been taken to mitigate the impact of light pollution from the Westin, the efficacy of these measures won’t be known for some time.

**Jekyll Club Suites** – The beachfront Jekyll Club Suites, which will be located on the south side of the Westin Hotel, is scheduled to break ground in early June and be completed within 10 months. Room rates are expected to be equal to or higher than at the Jekyll Club Hotel. The stretch of Jekyll’s beach along the Westin and the Club Suites might soon be named “Georgia’s Riviera.” Just kidding....

To see a sketch of the planned suites, [click here](#).

**Beach Village Retail Center** – Phase I of Jekyll’s new retail center is nearing completion, and some of the center’s shops are already open for business. Positioned between the Westin Hotel and Jekyll’s Convention Center, the retail center will include a variety of clothing and gift shops, an upscale restaurant (The Jekyll Island Seafood Company) an Irish pub/restaurant (The Wee Pub), and a café (The Club Café). Several long-time Jekyll businesses, including Whittle’s Gift

Shop, Maxwell's Variety Store and the IGA (renamed The Jekyll Market) will be tenants at the retail center along with Jekyll's two realty companies. Tonya's (a woman's clothing shop), Fuse Yogurt, Kennedy Outfitters, The Collection, and Ameris Bank are now open.

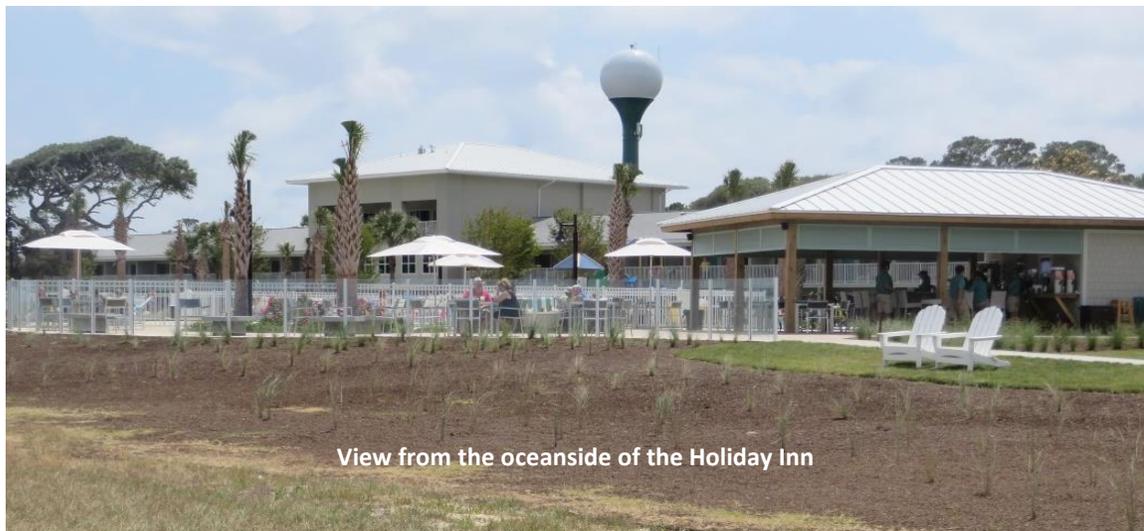


Postcard of the Jekyll Island "mall" across from the old convention center. Courtesy of Greg Lowery.



New Retail Center in Beach Village

**The Holiday Inn Resort** – The Jekyll Holiday Inn Resort, which is located on the site of the former Oceanside Inn & Suites, has been completed and is now open for business. The resort, which retains the two-story frame of the Oceanside Inn, includes a Tiki bar at the oceanfront pool, a Starbucks that serves as a bar at night, and a fitness center. Meeting space and a full service restaurant, to be named "The Beach House," are under construction. For pictures of the hotel, room rates and availability, [click here](#).



View from the oceanside of the Holiday Inn

**Trammell Crow Projects** – This past year, the Trammell Crow Company (TC) announced plans to build three hotels totaling 535 rooms on the sites of the former Buccaneer Resort and Georgia Coast Inn. At the January 20, 2015 JIA board meeting, however, the JIA reported that TC had defaulted on its lease for one of the three hotel sites and did not intend to make any more payments. At the April JIA board meeting, the leases that were held by Trammell Crow were reassigned to the investor group that owns the Jekyll Westin Hotel, the Club Suites Hotel, the Hampton Inn & Suites, the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Crane Cottage, Cherokee Cottage and Sans Souci Cottage. Monopoly, anyone?

**The Cottages at Jekyll Island** — The Jekyll Oceanfront Resort, which has been closed for over three years, is in the process of being demolished and will be replaced by 125 three-bedroom, cottage-style town houses that will be available for purchase as permanent homes. Priced in the mid-\$300,000 to upper \$400,000 range, the cottages will be 1,600 to 1,800 square feet in size and will be built in phases, with phase I scheduled to open in November of this year. In addition to the purchase price, cottage owners will pay a homeowners association fee that's estimated to be \$450 per month. For more information, [click here](#).



**Tortuga Jack's** — A new restaurant called Tortuga Jack's opened in early May. Located on the site of the former Fin's Restaurant, Tortuga Jack's has a Baja Mexican theme. Early reviews of the restaurant's food are favorable.

