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Merrill Gardens senior living development opens in Tacoma's Stadium District

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Merrill Gardens

Merrill Gardens in Tacoma's Stadium District has 15,800 square feet of amenity space, including a rooftop deck, lounge, courtyard and movie theater.

Merrill Gardens at Wright Park, a 133-unit senior living development in Tacoma's Stadium District neighborhood, opened in December

and is still in lease-up, according to its website.

The seven-story project at 5 S. G St. is a joint venture between Merrill Gardens and The Rush Cos.

"We are excited to open Merrill Gardens at Wright Park, which fills a critical gap for senior living in the South Puget Sound," said Matt Smith, president of Rush, in a news release.

The unit mix includes studios, one- and two-bedroom apartments. Levels of care include independent living, assisted living and memory care, which accounts for 18 of the units. The building can accommodate up to 159 residents.

A 2,600-square-foot ground-floor retail space houses an urgent care clinic. The building also has parking for 66 vehicles.

The project's 15,800 square feet of amenity space includes a rooftop deck, lounge, courtyard and movie theater.

Urbal Architecture of Seattle is the architect.

The 169,000-square-foot project has been in development since 2019, according to city records. Rush is listed as the taxpayer for the property, which has an assessed value of \$25 million.

Merrill Gardens will manage the community and Rush, which has a property management arm, will manage the retail space.

The property is roughly a block from the Stadium District light rail station, which is expected to begin service later this year. Just north of the Merrill Gardens development, the Weimann Maclise restaurant group opened Stadium Golf and Poquitos Tacoma in the former Rhein Haus space at 649 Division Ave. last summer.

Seattle-based Merrill Gardens has senior living facilities in 17 states, but has the greatest presence in Washington, where it has 10 facilities.

Merrill Gardens is part of R.D. Merrill Co., a family timber-holding company with Tacoma roots.

Pillar Properties, which is also under the R.D. Merrill umbrella, is active in the Tacoma commercial real estate market as well. It is set

to complete its 247-unit multifamily The Lex in the coming weeks. The 247-unit, 13-story development has nine levels of apartments and four levels of parking. It has been in development since 2017, according to city records.

The Rush Cos. is based in Gig Harbor.



Shawna De La Rosa

Reporter - *Puget Sound Business Journal*

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