

During the month of January, Mother Nature did her best to slow progress on the Medical Center of the Future. I am however, pleased to announce she did not succeed! Construction crews weathered rain, snow, sleet and ice to keep the project on track.

You may notice the new paved parking lot located at the corner of High and Collett streets. Temporary lighting was installed with permanent lighting to be placed in February. The new lot has helped to ease the parking congestion around the Medical Center, freeing space for patients, visitors and staff of St. Rita's four medical office buildings to park in the parking garage.

Thank you to those dedicated individuals who worked through adverse weather conditions to complete the parking lot and to employees who helped us successfully make important parking transitions.

Thank you as well for all of the positive feedback on last month's newsletter. It was very well received throughout the community. As a result, we will begin publishing Construction Corner monthly in an ongoing effort to keep you informed of the latest construction related news.

We anticipate a lot of progress in the coming month, and hope you'll mark your calendar now for a community-wide groundbreaking on our new nine-story patient tower on March 22, 2005. Look for additional details in next month's newsletter.

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TOWER GROUNDBREAKING PLANNED FOR MARCH

Utility work continues as construction crews work toward a March groundbreaking of the patient tower. On Tuesday, March 22, St. Rita's Medical Center will host a community-wide

groundbreaking to initiate the building of the nine-story patient tower – the focal point of St. Rita's \$130 million Medical Center of the Future project.

Situated at the corner of High and Collett streets, the tower will open with 84 new patient rooms nearly twice the size of our current inpatient rooms.



This three dimensional picture illustrates how the new patient tower will fit into the existing Medical Center making the expansion project complete.

The new rooms will feature the very latest technology with internet access. A complete redesign of the main entrance will accommodate a new canopy three cars wide to allow patients and visitors to safely enter the Medical Center under a covered area. The main lobby will be expanded to include an outpatient services area for

Continued...



PLANNED FOR MARCH

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A new parking lot at the corner of High and Collett streets is helping to make room for the number of patients and visitors coming to the Medical Center. Patients and visitors entering any of the medical office buildings along High Street may park in the lots surrounding the building or use the parking garage. Vehicles may also use the St. Rita's parking garage. Vehicles may enter and exit the garage from Market Street with the option of exiting onto High Street to the east.

Ongoing Construction

The complicated task of establishing the foundation for the loading dock just off Baxter Street is now complete with the first floor foundation also nearing completion. A new Central Sterile Supply area in

the basement of the D wing is also making progress with the metal framing in place and work beginning for mechanical and electrical lines.

The area is located directly under Surgery. It will take care of cleaning and processing all of the equipment used in surgical procedures. Dedicated elevators will run between Surgery and Central Sterile in a circular pattern. This will allow Surgery staff to send equipment down for sterilization and then receive sterilized equipment back up in Surgery for a more efficient sterilization process.



The new Central Sterile Supply area is beginning to take shape. Crews have now installed walls and are preparing to paint.

Did You Know?

...that concrete was invented by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago for the construction of their aqueducts.

The Romans developed the material by firing a clay and limestone mixture and then grinding it into a powder which was later added to water to form the concrete. Most people think that concrete becomes hard or cures as the mixture dries. However, the hardening process is actually a chemical reaction called hydration.

The hydration reaction can be evidenced by the heat that is produced as it cures. Within 12 hours of the concrete being poured the structure is sufficiently hard and the forms can be removed.



Forms hold the newly poured concrete in place until it has "cured" during construction of the loading dock off Baxter Street.

St. Rita's Construction
CORNER

In the Spotlight

Another new face at St. Rita's Medical Center is Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Superintendent Mac Dunn with McCarthy. Dunn is responsible for the coordination of construction activities involving the subcontractors, local public officials and St. Rita's staff. Dunn works closely with other members of the McCarthy team and St. Rita's to develop schedules for the various projects included within the Medical Center of the Future project and monitors daily construction activities.



Dunn studied electrical engineering technologies at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. He has extensive training as an electrician and an in-depth understanding of the building trades allowing him to coordinate work and maintain the project schedule. Additionally, Dunn has experience working with AutoCAD, lighting and power design and mechanical work.

Over the past 18 years he has advanced from electrician to project manager to currently Superintendent with McCarthy and spent four years with McCarthy. During his career in healthcare, Dunn's experience has taken him to a Pediatric Rehabilitation Center, two Alzheimer's facilities, Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky and Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky.

The first phase of construction at St. Rita's has been heavily focused on utility work which has kept Dunn busy. "I am personally motivated by the intricacy of our work - the more complex, the better. Working through the issues created by such extensive utility work has been challenging," says Dunn. "Together with the city and St. Rita's officials it has been a real team effort," he concludes.

TOWER GROUNDBREAKING

laboratory, X-ray, CT scanning and MRI for the convenience of our patients.

In order to prepare the area that will ultimately house the patient tower, two office buildings are being torn down over the next several weeks. What many remember as the MED-CARE building and then Disease Management at 850 High Street and Dr. Hradek's former office at 848 High Street will come down in February. St. Rita's officials are coordinating demolition efforts with American Electric Power which has caused some delays due to the weather affecting the greater Lima area.

Utility Work

The combination storm/sewer line on Market Street is complete with crews now focusing their attention on bringing all the lines together. To help accomplish this, High Street between Collett and Baxter streets is closed. This closure will allow the lines brought from the north and south to be connected tying the new utility loop together around the Medical Center campus.

Patients and visitors accessing the 830 and 770 W. High Street buildings should enter and exit from North



Following the completion of utility work on Market street, crews turned the corner to run utility lines north on Baxter street. All of the utility lines will connect at Baxter and High streets.

Street. The driveways to High Street are blocked with signage reminding drivers to use North Street. Pedestrians and drivers should also be aware of ongoing utility work within those parking lots. Construction areas are clearly marked but please use caution.



A total of 1,600 tons of asphalt were laid down to complete the new parking lot at the corner of High and Collett streets. In the spring, an additional 800 tons of asphalt will be added to create a two inch topcoat and completely finish the new lot.

Q&A

Question and Answer

Q: Why is concrete sprayed after it is poured?

A: After the concrete forms are removed the concrete is sprayed with a "curing compound" which is designed to seal and retain the moisture inside the concrete. This prolongs the hydration process and actually makes the concrete stronger. In cold weather, the newly poured concrete needs to be insulated so the water in the concrete does not freeze and crystallize creating cracks and other problems. Thermal blankets are also used to trap the heat generated from the hydration process and keep the concrete from freezing.

Q: Can you guess how many tons of concrete will be poured to complete the new loading dock?

A: E-mail your estimates to cmdugan@healthpartners.org. The answer along with the name of the reader who most closely identifies the answer to this question will be in the next issue of St. Rita's Construction Corner.

TRIVIA

A total of 16,000 cubic yards of dirt were removed from the site where the new parking lot was created.



Thermal blankets are applied to newly poured concrete.

If you would like to receive *St. Rita's Construction Corner* on a regular basis, please drop us a message with your name and address and you will be added to the mailing list:

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Or drop us an e-mail with your name and address to: tlprofit@health-partners.org



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