

Moving into spring will mean a variety of new projects beginning around the Medical Center. Over the winter, crews worked diligently to complete the re-routing of all the necessary utilities, finished a 320-space parking lot for St. Rita's employees, began preparations for construction of the patient tower and made significant progress on the six-bay loading dock. In addition, the new Central Sterile Supply is on track to be finished and begin operations by the end of March. It's been a busy winter and springtime will be no different.

March will mark the beginning of work on road improvements around St. Rita's specifically designed to improve traffic flow and make traveling in and out of the Medical Center more efficient. Charles Street will be widened to three lanes and a new entrance and exit out of the Medical Office Buildings onto North Street will also be added. Two sections of High Street will become two-way on either side of the patient tower construction site. You'll notice a permanent construction fence going up soon that will secure the construction zone for work on the patient tower. We're excited about beginning construction on the focal point of this \$130 million project and hope the entire community will join us for this special groundbreaking event on March 22 at 1 p.m.

Again, I would like to thank everyone for the positive feedback on the project as well as the newsletter. Please continue to send your comments or concerns. Your feedback will help make the project even better!

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HIGH STREET BECOMES TWO-WAY

Soon, warmer weather will give way to new street improvement projects around the Medical Center. Earlier this month High Street between Metcalf and Baxter Street changed to two-way traffic. For vehicles on the road it means those visiting the Allen County Museum, Allen County Library or Medical Office Building IV at 750 W. High Street, may now enter and exit those buildings from High Street. Vehicles will only be able to travel on High as far as Baxter Street. Baxter remains closed to all through traffic for several more months.

Beginning March 1, Charles Street between Market and North streets will be closed for the widening project. The widening will create the new main entrance to the Medical Center and add a turning lane for easier traffic

flow. Expanding this street will also better accommodate cars traveling north and south through the city.

During the widening project, High Street between Collett Street and Charles Street will also become two-way. This will allow vehicles to access parking in visitor lot 1 off High Street.

At the same time a new three-lane entrance/exit will be created at the intersection of North and Baxter streets with one lane dedicated to traffic coming into the Medical Office Buildings. Vehicles eastbound on North Street can make a simple right turn into the parking lot while westbound travelers can utilize the center turning lane on North Street and turn left into the parking lot.

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In the Spotlight

Todd Wigginton, Project Superintendent with McCarthy started in the construction trades as a teenager. He was first a general laborer, then carpenter, equipment operator, mason and on and on. Now 15 years later his background of hands-on experience is one of the reasons he is so successful coordinating the general building in the project.



Wigginton, who attended Central Missouri State University, is the first in his family not to have chosen a career in healthcare. "It's pretty ironic that as a child I used to travel to many Kansas City hospitals making rounds with my father. Now, instead of making rounds as a doctor, I make rounds in the hospitals as a construction manager," he said.

"One of the most complex aspects of the St. Rita's project is the remodeling and phasing. Removing a portion of a building and then adding on is extremely challenging. It is much more common to just build additions and remodel interiors," he said. "To accomplish these goals we are coordinating the efforts of nearly 40 subcontractors. We're focused on how the job can be completed with the least impact on the patients and staff while keeping infection control a top priority."

Todd has been with McCarthy for five and a half years and has relocated four times! He and his wife, Joy, have an 18-month-old girl and another child due this July.

HIGH STREET BECOMES TWO-WAY

(continued)

Two lanes will be dedicated to those exiting the parking lot. There will be a right turn option or vehicles may continue straight northbound on Baxter Street or turn left onto North Street. A traffic light will be installed later this summer and synchronized with the other new traffic lights for improved traffic flow.

Also on March 1, work will begin on the new tower with a permanent

construction fence going up to secure the construction area. The fence will go up along the east edge of Collett Street, continue down along the 830 building and include a small portion of the main entrance. The construction fencing will not impact patients and visitors coming into the Medical Center through the main entrance but will remain in place for the duration of construction on the nine-story patient tower.



Community Invited to Groundbreaking/Skybreaking

The official groundbreaking/skybreaking of the nine-story patient tower on Tuesday, March 22 at 1 p.m. will mark the beginning of visible progress as St. Rita's continues construction on The Medical Center of the Future. The "skybreaking" event will include 100 members of the community, local leaders, Medical Center officials and dozens of volunteers equipped with shovels to dig in and get started with the construction of the patient tower situated at the corner of High and Collett Streets.

Those in attendance will have the opportunity to sign a 25-foot beam that will be placed on the top floor of the tower. It will be the last one put in place as the steel framework for the tower is completed.

Skybreaking festivities will take place under the tent at High and Collett streets. Parking is available in lot 18 by entering from North Street or lot 1 by entering from Market Street. The public is invited to attend. Please RSVP to St. Rita's Call A Nurse at 419-226-9000 or 1-800-437-4827 by March 14.

Did You Know?

When building materials change temperature (for example: 90 degrees in the summer to below 0 in the winter) they expand and contract at different rates. This causes problems when the building materials are not all the same.

So why doesn't the re-enforcing steel or re-bar inside the concrete of buildings cause problems? Concrete and steel expand and contract at the same rate making them the ideal combination for construction.

South Expansion Taking New Patients

St. Rita's employees and physicians had the opportunity to take a look at the new surgery suites and imaging areas in the newly completed South Expansion. The first floor of this addition houses two state-of-the-art MRI's (magnetic resonance imaging). While the second floor adds two new operating rooms bringing the total number of surgery suites now available at St. Rita's to twelve.

"St. Rita's has some of the finest radiology technology in the country," says Brian Nye, Administrative Director, Radiology. "The 3-tesla MRI produces images in greater detail than any other MRI. The superior image quality of this MRI

distinctly reveals even the slightest change in body functions or structures to significantly help establish a diagnosis."



A crane was used to lift the 13-ton 3T MRI out of its temporary location and relocate it to its permanent home in the South Expansion.

The second new MRI, an Avanto 1.5 is quieter with a shorter tunnel so people feel less restricted.

"The 3 tesla and Avanto 1.5 are the perfect complements to our technology at St. Rita's," adds Nye. Having multiple MRI's available gives physicians' options to choose a test based on the patient's individual needs and preference.

"St. Rita's is one of only a few medical facilities in the country outside of research and teaching facilities with this sophisticated technology," Nye added.

The two additional operating rooms will allow the Medical Center to help meet the growing demand in surgery. "The new operating rooms are even larger than our current ones," explains Jo Shough, Surgery Director. Additional storage and square footage in the South Expansion will help Surgery to keep up with the increasing demand St. Rita's continues to see.

"The community has also recruited a number of new surgeons," adds Shough. "This expansion will provide even more opportunity for patients to have their surgical services completed at St. Rita's."

"The South Expansion brings a new standard of design and construction quality to the Medical Center" adds Ron Connovich, Director of Facilities and Construction Services. "We will continue to see this same level of quality throughout The Medical Center of the Future."

St. Rita's Construction
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Q&A Question and Answer

Q: Are there quality controls for construction?

A: Yes. To ensure the soil and concrete is strong enough to support the buildings, independent engineers have been contracted to do inspections and testing. Engineers take samples of the concrete, fill and back-fill compaction and inspect and count the re-bar (re-enforcing metal rods) during the concrete pours. These samples are then taken to the laboratory and tested for proper density, mixture, etc. Numerous other inspections and tests will be also performed as we proceed through the project to ensure the work is properly completed.



Trivia question from the January 2005 newsletter

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

A: Cured concrete weighs 150 lbs per cubic foot or 4,050 lbs per cubic yard. There will be 2,300 yards of concrete used in the project or over 9,315,000 lbs of concrete (4,657.5 tons). That does not include the 327,000 lbs of re-bar inside the concrete.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2,300 \\ \times 4,050 \\ \hline 9,315,000 \end{array} \text{ or } 4,657.5 \text{ tons of concrete}$$

Matt McMaster, St. Rita's Compliance Revenue Coordinator guessed the closest at 4,000 tons. Guesses ranged from 1 ton to over 20,000 tons.

Ardex is a new treatment being used on finished concrete. It is sprayed onto freshly poured concrete and dries in about four hours. It helps level the floor before the final flooring is put down and provides a higher quality floor finish. This technique is being used on the loading dock project as well as in Central Sterile Supply which will be completed and operational the end of March.

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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