

The "Groundbreaking/Skybreaking" celebration in March marked a very visible phase of our Medical Center of the Future project. The community has seen much preparatory work going on, most visibly the street closings... the closing of Charles Street, followed by the closing High Street. The City made High Street two-way between Baxter and Metcalf and St. Rita's made High Street between Collett and Charles two-way when Charles Street was closed for widening at the beginning of March.

Although neighbors and others in the community have been impacted by these changes, over all, they have been very cooperative and supportive. The Library and Museum have said changing High Street to a two-way street has made it easier for their patrons to get in and out of their parking lots.

As the nine story patient tower is constructed the public will be able to see daily progress which has not always been visible during our infrastructure construction. The entire project is going extremely well—it is on schedule and on budget in spite of attempts by Mother Nature to test our resolve. I credit this to the dedication and cooperation of our crews, the City and the community as a whole.

Finally, thank you for your positive feed back on the newsletter and as always feel free to let me know if you have other suggestions or concerns.

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## "GROUNDBREAKING/SKYBREAKING" FOR ST. RITA'S NINE-STORY TOWER IS A COMMUNITY EVENT!

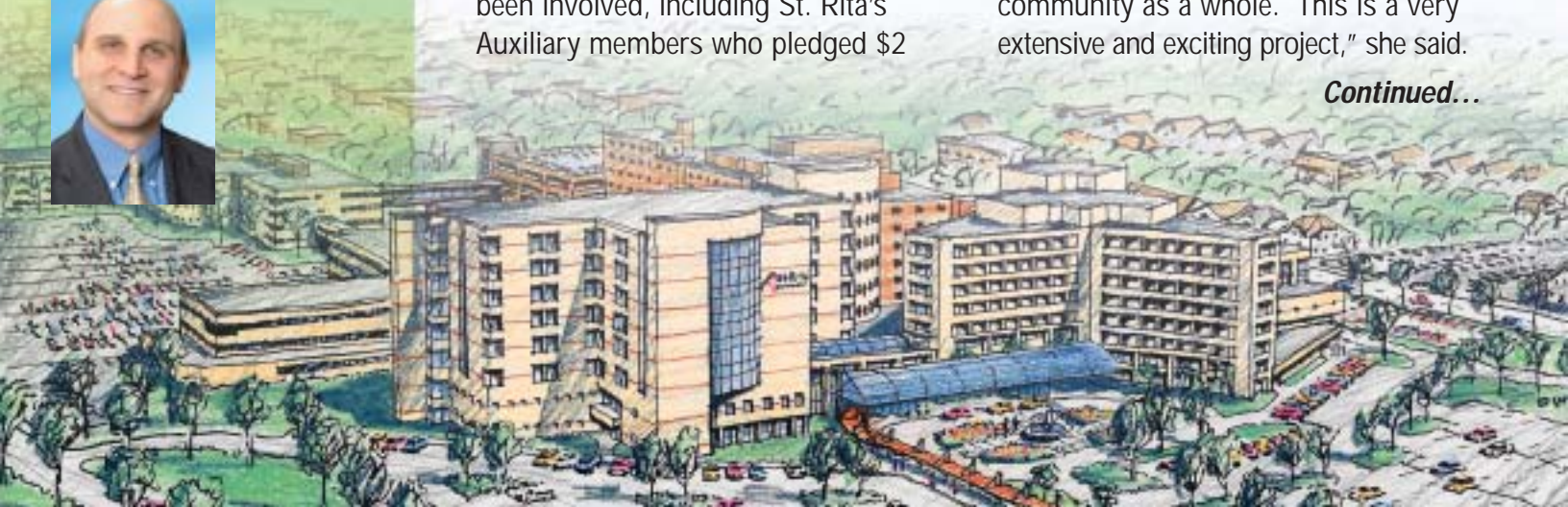


*More than 100 people dug in to take the first shovels of dirt.*

**P**lanning the 'groundbreaking/skybreaking' ceremonies for the Medical Center of the Future patient tower has been exciting," said Kathy Williams, St. Rita's Director of Development. "So many people have been involved, including St. Rita's Auxiliary members who pledged \$2

million dollars to the project, our own Board of Trustees and Development Council, elected officials, the committee who worked to the pass the referendum, our volunteers, doctors, staff, neighbors, neighborhood associations and the community as a whole. This is a very extensive and exciting project," she said.

*Continued...*



## In the Spotlight

**Brian Baldwin is Assistant Superintendent for McCarthy on St. Rita's Medical Center of the Future project. Originally hailing from Michigan, he attended Ferris State University majoring in Construction Management. Brian first worked in St. Louis at McCarthy's Midwest Home office in the Estimating Department. He was then assigned to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute project in Troy, New York as a project engineer overseeing construction of a parking garage, chiller building expansion and an underground sub station.**



**In July of 2004, Brian and his wife Kari moved to Lima for this project. The couple was expecting their first child and their son Benjamin was born here at St. Rita's on January 5, 2005... the day of the big ice storm! Moving three times in four years can be difficult, but according to Brian, it helps that the McCarthy group really is an extended family.**

**"We really are like family. Our spouses set up a support network and really keep things together. We become close friends with the other people on the job and we look out for each other. Most of us put in at least 60 hours a week when everything is running smoothly, so we have to have strong people at home."**

**Brian said one of the most challenging parts of the job is the coordination of staff, city officials, contractors and countless others who are involved in the process. He said it is also one of the most exciting parts.**

**Moving to Lima also put Brian and Kari closer to their parents in Michigan making it much easier for the grandparents to visit Benjamin.**

# GROUNDBREAKING/SKYBREAKING

*(continued)*

The gathering of representatives from all these groups "digging in" on March 22 marked a very visible phase of the building of the nine-story patient tower.

Weather balloons marked the corners of the top of the towers and a 180 ft. crane lowered a specially treated 25ft beam from what will be the top floor.

The new tower will be equipped with the most advanced technology including high-speed internet access and will feature spacious patient and family suites. Each floor will feature several family lounges and a fully equipped kitchen to accommodate families that want to remain close by. The two-story glass enclosed meditation area will be visible from blocks away.

According to Ron Connovich, St. Rita's Director of Facilities Management, the "Skybreaking" marks a big step in the Medical Center of the Future project. "People will see progress on a daily basis now," he said. Much of the infrastructure work was not visible even though the work had been going on for some time.



*St. Rita's paint shop added their golden touch to the groundbreaking shovels.*



*Weather balloons were launched by LCC advanced placement physics students under the direction of their instructor, Bob Sunderhaus. Here students start filling the 8 ft. balloons*

# STATE-OF-THE-ART CENTRAL PROCESSING IS UP AND RUNNING

**T**he new Central Processing Department was completed in March. Sandy Murphy, Central Processing Coordinator had high praise for everyone involved.

“The McCarthy construction people have been wonderful to work with. They made every accommodation to provide the least inconvenience possible and they even finished ahead of schedule! St. Rita’s Facilities Management, Infection Control, Maintenance, Housekeeping, Surgery, New Vision Lab and all the others have also been fabulous. And, everyone in Central Processing has been great. They really picked up the pace so I could focus on this project.”

The new area is in the D basement, directly under the new surgery suites. Designated Clean and Soiled elevators transport supplies including

linens and equipment to and from the surgery, keeping sterile areas sterile at all times. The state-of-the-art equipment and processes have built-in safety factors that benefit those working in the process as well as the end user. Customer service alcove and courier check-in areas provide additional convenience and efficiencies. The equipment is all computerized and it is anticipated that ongoing upgrades will keep it up to date for the next 20 years.

Central Processing sterilizes linens, equipment and other supplies used in surgery and other patient care areas. Some 10,000 pieces per month are sterilized through Central Processing.



*St. Rita’s Central Processing Tech, Jenny Miller, does a quality check on a sterilizer.*

## Did You Know?

**It takes much longer to build the forms for a floor than it does to pour the concrete. Each floor takes approximately three weeks to scaffold, form and tie rebar before concrete placement can occur. Our last concrete pour included over 250 cubic yards in less than three and a half hours. With concrete accelerators, it takes only three days to cure enough for the forms to be stripped. However the concrete is still not completely cured, so supports are added underneath the new deck to help support it for the next several weeks.**



*First floor of loading dock...deck shoring for the second floor.*

**St. Rita's Construction**  
**CORNER**

# Q&A

## Question and Answer

**Q:** What are all those “wooden boxes” for at the loading dock?

**A:** Those are called concrete pans and are basically upside down metal or wooden boxes that are nailed in place to the plywood deck. They are used to form the concrete beams and supports in the slab as the concrete is poured ... just like playing with play-dough. The deck (on top of the pans) will only be 6 inches thick with an additional 12 inches for the beams (between the pans). Once the concrete cures (sets up), the plywood forms are removed from underneath to produce a “waffle” slab that is much stronger than a simple flat deck.

To view or print copies of *St. Rita's Construction Corner* visit our website at [www.stritas.org](http://www.stritas.org)



*First floor of the loading dock; deck form work being dismantled off of second floor concrete deck.*



*First floor of loading dock after removal of deck formwork.*

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