St. Rita's Medical Center

St. Rita's Construction CORNER

Issue No. 5 • April 2005

The St. Rita's Medical Center campus is bustling with activity now that warmer weather has arrived. Safety fences have been set up around the construction site as well as the main entrance. During the month of April, crews set out to demolish the old laboratory and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) areas along High Street. Vibrations could be felt which we like to think of as "Good Vibrations" because they mark progress on the Medical Center of the Future project.

Every effort has been made to keep inconveniences to a minimum for our patients and visitors. Demolition work occurred during normal business hours so as not to disturb our patients' ability to rest. The majority of the demolition project has now wrapped up which means we are beginning to make way for the initial phase of construction work on our new nine-story Patient Tower.

Thanks to everyone who turned out to help us break ground on the $130 million expansion. We estimate more than 800 people participated in the ceremony making it a true community-wide celebration.

We appreciate the cooperation and understanding that has been displayed by our patients, visitors, staff, physicians and neighbors.

Ron Connovich
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WEST ANNEX DEMOLITION PART OF "GOOD VIBRATIONS"

Demolition of St. Rita's West Annex gets underway in April. This work begins to pave the way for construction of St. Rita's new nine-story Patient Tower.

Countless surgeries go on every day at St. Rita's, but surgically removing part of a building is not so common. The West Annex (former lab and MRI areas) was removed from the north side of the E building. Some of the removal was through demolition, but part of the building was literally peeled away… with the construction equivalent of surgical tools.

To begin the process a hole was cut into an exterior wall so debris could be hauled out and partitions constructed.

Continued…

Lori Laudick, RN, looks at the individual headphones made available to E building patients. The headphones helped reduce noise as they listened to CDs or DVDs in their rooms.

It was nothing but blue skies and fluffy clouds in Administration and part of Patient Registration as windows were boarded in preparation of removing the West Annex.

GROUNDBREAKING/SKYBREAKING CEREMONY PRAYER

Mark Skaja, Vice President, St. Rita's Mission Services, offered the following prayer to begin the groundbreaking/skybreaking ceremony:

Hope rides in the springtime air which signals once again the beginning of a new season.

As we enter into this holiest of weeks remember the message of finding hope and strength in the power of resurrected love. All creation comes alive.

So we pause at the door of a new time to ask a blessing. Send down your blessing on this Medical Center of the Future project oh Lord, may Your Holy Presence truly be the cornerstone giving strength and support to all who will contribute in any way to its successful completion.

Safeguard those who will do the building. Grant wisdom to all who will one day work here and bring healing to those in need who will one day enter our doors.

May we continue to build upon the healthcare ministry of all those who came before us.

Guide all of us to choose and rebuild life through our work. Continue Lord to bless St. Rita's with dedicated people of our area. We pray with faith and trust.

Amen.

New Contracts Awarded

Charles Street development:	***Shelly Company - Findlay, OH***
Landscaping for the west site:	***Howard/ Runkel – Lima, OH***
Parking lots for the west site:	***Shelly Company-Findlay, OH***
Electrical for the west site:	***Sidney Electric - Sidney, OH***
Deep excavations for the Tower:	***Hagerman Construction - Fort Wayne, IN***
Caissons and Foundation	***Toledo Caissons – Toledo, OH***

Upcoming Schedule

Deep excavations for the tower	***April 5- May 5, 2005***
Removal of north end of the front canopy	***End of April***
Award basement walls & foundation bid	***Mid May***
Bidding and awarding of structural steel	***Mid May***
Exterior enclosure for the Loading Dock	***Mid May***
Charles Street improvements	***May 30,2005***
Closure of Collett St. (between High & North)	***June 1, 2005***
Caissons drilled and poured	***Late June***

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In the Spotlight

Al Gomez, Project Engineer, joined McCarthy after graduating from the Milwaukee School of Engineering with degrees in Structural Engineering and Construction Management. A native of Chicago, he spent four years in the military including Airborne School at Ft Benning Georgia and three years of combat training in the California desert.

St. Rita's is his first project with McCarthy. One of the projects he is involved with is the construction of the new loading dock. Some loading dock progress pictures are in this newsletter.

"It is exciting and fascinating to see how all the trades come together," Al said. "From an engineer's perspective, seeing the skeleton of the buildings take shape, especially the loading dock and the patient tower, is really great."

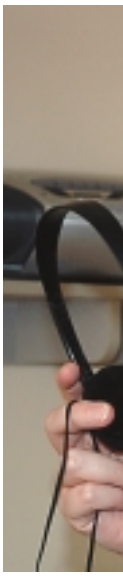
Many people also see Al around the campus taking documentation pictures with his digital camera. He is responsible for some of the construction pictures on St. Rita's Website as well as a contributing photographer to Construction Corner.

"I enjoy the documentation photography because it takes me out in the field where I can get a chance to see how things are going instead of just seeing the progress on paper," he said.

Probably the hardest part of the assignment is the many week-end miles he has driven back and forth to Chicago to be with his wife, Gwen, and son Christian, who was born last November. Fortunately they will be moving to Lima in the next few weeks... something he is very much looking forward to.

"GOOD VIBRATIONS"

(continued)



Once temporary support columns were constructed, the saw cutting to separate the floors, walls and ceiling began.

After the separation, the annex was "peeled away" from the main building.

MRI area removal

Metal, brick, concrete and other materials were then separated to be hauled away. When possible, materials were recycled.

While it is not uncommon to add on to or renovate an area by removing one wall, removing an entire annex is considerably more challenging... especially when business needs to go on as usual.

The construction crews were extremely conscientious as far as keeping the interference to a minimum…. including only working on the area until 4:00 p.m. They also finished ahead of schedule.

"In addition to the challenge of the operation, it is also a very noisy process," said Mac Dunn, McCarthy Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Superintendent. "We have an exceptional team working together and the staff has been very understanding. That's what made it possible to complete this phase several days ahead of schedule."

Although there was an increase in noise and some vibration, advance notice, good communication and some noise reduction aids kept patients, staff and visitors reassured that these were "good vibrations" as we continue to build to the Medical Center of the Future.

Initial hole in annex wall

Q&A Question and Answer

Q: Will There Be Extra Dirt That Needs To Be Hauled Away?

A: Yes there will. We started the deep excavations for the tower on April 5 and it will only take us 1 month to remove the 1,188,000 cubic feet of dirt necessary for the basement and foundations. There will be over 4,400 truck loads of dirt hauled away.

Northeast view of loading dock; concrete cement being pumped on the south end of the building.

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Did You Know?

. . . that the new loading dock is a "poured-in-place concrete structure." We have finished all the concrete pours for the new dock and they made it look so simple. But did you know that all the forms are placed and leveled to precise tolerances (measurements) using lasers? Even as the concrete is poured for the floor slabs, the forms and supports are continually adjusted to maintain the proper level. The concrete is placed into the floor pans using a concrete pump or crane and bucket. It is then vibrated to ensure there are no air pockets and then leveled out using a "screed" that is run across the surface. As the concrete starts to cure, a "trawler" is then used to ensure a good floor finish - an extra-smooth topping will also be applied later. And finally, curing compounds are added and everything covered until it is sufficiently hard. Imagine all that work - just for a floor. The Loading Dock will be operational in June.

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