

Q & A on Pelican Valley Building Project

November 2015

We have been hearing from many people within our building and in the community that they aren't sure what we are doing at the nursing home. We have tried to keep everyone as well informed as possible through the newspaper, staff newsletters and our community newsletter. If you ever aren't sure about what's going on, please attend a board meeting or speak with Executive Director Barbara Axness. Here are some of the most frequent questions we're hearing:

What are you doing?

We are doing a \$3.6 million addition to our nursing home. It will add about 10,000 square feet to our building and is only skilled nursing. We are not adding beds (will still be a 36 bed nursing home) but adding space to create more private rooms. We are also upgrading and modernizing a lot of our mechanical features. We are getting a brand new generator that will provide full power to the nursing home, Riverfront Manor and Sanford. Most of our electrical work is being completely upgraded and a lot of our plumbing is being updated. We are getting a brand new boiler and air exchange system. We are adding a brand new tub room, new nurses station, more storage and community areas. All new rooms will have showers in them and have much larger bathrooms. All existing rooms in our old building will become private rooms. Our new double rooms will be separated by a wall instead of a curtain.

Are you building a memory care unit?

No, this project is strictly nursing home. Memory care has been added at Riverfront Manor and at this time, no other memory care additions are being considered.

Is the addition going to be a transitional care unit?

Yes and no. We are hoping with a modernized building, we can attract more short term stay residents. However, the new addition will be utilized for long and short term stay residents.

Why are you doing this project?

Demand for private rooms has been growing and right now, the vast majority of our new admissions are requesting private rooms. We don't always have them available and have lost admissions due to this. Our building itself is aging rapidly and some critical pieces of our mechanical system are obsolete. Our generator and boiler have needed to be replaced for many years already. In order to meet the needs of our current and future residents and be able to compete with newer, surrounding facilities it is critical we do this project. We need to do this project to stay competitive, provide privacy, dignity and quality of life for our residents and modernize our building. Our building is aging and due to its condition, it has been harder to compete with newer, more modern facilities in the area. Our rooms are extremely cramped and due to increasing resident needs, our rooms are simply too small to function in. Our project will address all these concerns.

Why is there a wall in the dining room now?

We have a temporary wall built in the dining room right now because crews will be removing part of the roof and removing the wall/windows facing 108. They will be redoing some of the foundation and plumbing in that area as well. Please see the copy of the floor plan to show why this is being removed and what it will look like after. The dining room will be walled off for the majority of the project.

How long will the project take?

The project began on October 29, 2015. We are hoping to be moving in to our new addition by October of 2016.

Any other questions? Please contact Executive Director Barbara Axness via phone or email:

218-863-2991 x27712 or

BarbaraGarrity@ecumen.org