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Construction on schedule at MTMC site

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Middle Tennessee Medical Center had quite a year in 2008 — groundbreaking in April, a topping out ceremony just six months later and masonry work has already begun.

Workers are now focused on sealing off the exterior of the building. And all steel work will be complete by the end of this week, according to MTMC project director Jennifer Garland.

"It's a long process," she said. "There will be some miscellaneous steel work that needs to be done, but the main structure will be complete."

Masonry on the five-story tower is scheduled to be completed by the end of January, at which point workers will begin putting up the exterior dry wall, Garland said. This process will be complete at the end of February, followed by the commencement of masonry work on the seven-story tower.

By mid-summer, all the masonry will be finished on both patient towers, she said.

"Interior build-out will just continue in the meantime," Garland added. "And you'll also see us begin putting asphalt down for the parking lot (this) week."

According to Gordon B. Ferguson, president and CEO of MTMC, construction is progressing better than planned.

"We are tracking slightly ahead of schedule and within the approved budget, so we've had no surprises in terms of any kind of cost escalation," he said.

The \$267 million project is expected to be completed by August 2010, and ready for patients three months later.

Since MTMC's initial agreement to relocate to Medical Center Parkway, a plethora of other businesses have moved to the area — most notably, The Avenue and Embassy Suites.

Even Thompson Lane has seen and will continue to see growth, with the recent approval of a new hotel and shopping and residential village.

Ferguson said he anticipates additional businesses to join the area.

"I would expect so, although I think we've been pleasantly surprised by the development that's already taken place even before we are at the new location," he said.

If history is any indication, new businesses will continue to expand the Gateway District, much as Sam Ridley Parkway has grown since the addition of StoneCrest Medical Center.

"I think just given the level of activity that goes with a large medical center, that would be another catalyst for even more development there," Ferguson continued. "We're also still hopeful of Destination Rutherford's goal to have some corporate headquarters join the Gateway area."

While completion of the new MTMC is nearly two years away, Garland emphasized the importance of the brightly lit Christmas tree and cross outline that shine throughout the night.

"It represents such a milestone for us from a construction standpoint," she said. "And it reminds us what we're building, why we're here and what's to come in the future."

Both will stay up indefinitely.

"I think by having that on our structure at this point, it's a nice reminder of what we're all trying to accomplish," Garland concluded.

Additional Facts

MTMC By the Numbers

- The two patient towers, designed presently to be 5 stories and 7 stories, can be expanded to eight stories each, should the need arise for additional space in the future.
- In all, the building will provide 286 patient beds. This includes 27 beds in the post-partum unit, 16 neonatal intensive care beds, 32 beds in the intensive and cardiac care units combined and 40 beds in the exam rooms in the emergency department. Each room holds only one bed to allow for patient privacy.
- The new MTMC will also house three radiology or X-ray rooms, two computer tomography (CT) scan rooms and three Cath labs, or radiological suites where cardiac catheterization is performed. There will also be one magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) room and 10 operating rooms.
- The design includes additional interior space for another MRI and two operating rooms, should they be needed in the future.
- Currently, the staff at MTMC is comprised of 1,100 individuals, all of whom will be moving to the new hospital upon its completion. Should overall volume increase, so will the number of beds and ultimately, staff.
- By the end of the week, a total of 32,000 tons of steel will have been used to build the structure.
- The frame for the hospital consists of 4,000 steel beams.
- Construction requires 2.8 million man-hours. One person working 40 hours a week would take 1,346 years.
- 30,955 truck loads of soil and rock fill the site, enough to cover a football field 210 feet deep.
- The 2.3 million square feet of drywall is enough to build 250 houses.
- The total linear feet of electrical wiring used could stretch 738 miles, or from Murfreesboro to Houston, Texas.
- More than 9,000 trees and shrubs will comprise the landscape.

— Data courtesy of Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

On the Web:

www.mtmc.org
www.thenewmtmc.org
