

Community Connection

Edgerton Hospital & Health Services Newsletter

May, 2006

Land Acquired for "Healthy Village"

The Edgerton Hospital and Health Services, Inc. (EHHS) recently acquired over 70 acres of land near Highway 59 and Sherman Road not far from the Interstate-90, for the future construction of a "Healthy Village". Plans include a new hospital and nursing home to replace the current buildings, and a medical office building. Other community health facilities are under consideration for the future. Jim Pernau, EHHS CEO, stated, "we are extremely pleased that the Memorial Community Hospital (MCH) Foundation was able to purchase the land with generous contributions made to the Foundation in the past few years. We are proceeding rapidly with plans for our building project."

The MCH Foundation existed for many years to support programs and services provided by the Hospital. Members included: Jeff Roethe, Roy Hollenberger, Jane Nelson, Conrad Majorowicz, Rae Spirra, Myrtle Siebenbaum, and Karen Greene. They have donated countless funds to the hospital and nursing home for building projects, and service enhancements.

The MCH Foundation is currently in the process of reorganization to become the new Edgerton Hospital (EH) Capital Foundation. Most of the members of the former Foundation have joined the new Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation Board, along with some new members (see photo caption). The new foundation has adopted bylaws, policy/procedures, and audit guidelines under which it will

operate as a non-profit entity as part of the reorganization process. The Foundation will be conducting a Capital Campaign to fund a portion of the building project. "The new foundation has met several times and we find the 'Healthy Village' concept to be very exciting," reported Jim Schultz, Foundation Chair. "We are all anxious to get started with the new facility."

Letter from the CEO



Excitement is rising at Edgerton Hospital and Health Services as we continue to develop the plans to create a "Healthy Village". The plans for the project include a hospital and

nursing home to replace the existing structures, and an adjacent medical office building. The design of the facilities will take into consideration the beautiful rural setting. Additional considerations for the future include other health and wellness facilities.

Many questions have arisen about the project. We attempt to answer some of the most frequently asked questions in this issue. Given all the information that is available, I firmly believe this project makes the most sense for *continued*>



The new foundation board includes: **Front row 1 to r:** Jane Nelson; Jim Pernau, President; Jim Schultz, Chairman; Mari Anne Warren, Secretary / Treasurer; Steve Thompson, Vice Chair; Veronica Burns
Second row 1 to r: Conrad Majorowicz; Karen Greene; Carol Bice; Nancy Hoffman, Executive Director; Roy Hollenberger; **Third row 1 to r:** Rae Spirra; Fred Falk; Jeff Roethe

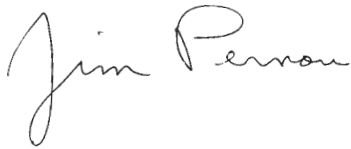
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the provision of quality health care services to our area communities into the future.

We are currently conducting a study to determine the actual needs for senior services including numbers of nursing home and assisted living beds needed by the communities we serve. We are also investigating energy efficiency measures to incorporate into the new facility in order to decrease our energy costs, enabling us to invest the savings into health care services instead.

The citizens of Edgerton, Milton and the surrounding area deserve the availability of modern high quality healthcare. A Capital Campaign will soon be started to help raise funds for the building project. Edgerton Hospital and Health Services is a vital community asset not just as a health care provider, but also as a driving force in the local economy as well. We will need the full support of the communities and its leaders to help us build a modern new facilities for the future.

I welcome feedback from our communities; please don't hesitate to call me at 608-884-1650.



Jim Pernau
CEO



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW HOSPITAL?

Changing times, new advances in medicine, and new technologies have made an enormous impact on the provision of health care across the nation. Deciding how best to serve our community's health needs in the coming decades was a complex decision. Our current hospital and nursing home facilities have served the Edgerton, Milton and the surrounding area well for decades and will continue to do so during construction of new buildings. Ultimately, we were faced with the decision of spending money to maintain an aging building or investing in expanded and enhanced services to keep pace with the health care demands of the growing communities.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR COSTS

- **Age** - Our current buildings are at least 35 years old, and we still use a section of the original building, constructed in 1923. We are faced with challenges related to aging plumbing, electrical, heating and air systems, and breakdowns that are becoming more disruptive.
- **Estimated Repair and Maintenance Costs** - We anticipate that general maintenance and repair costs will sharply increase over the next few years as parts and expertise to fix the older equipment become less available. And if state surveyors classify any maintenance project as major construction, that could trigger mandatory upgrades to current construction codes, which would cost up to \$8 million over the next five years—without adding a single improvement to the quality and accessibility of health care in Edgerton.
- **Utility Costs** - Our steam boiler systems were originally designed to accommodate a laundry and are oversized to heat the current buildings, which results in inefficiency and higher utility rates.

- **New Construction Standards** - Our hospital buildings were constructed prior to the enactment of new construction standards and code requirements. That means relatively minor equipment and system renovations trigger expensive federal and state-mandated code upgrades.



- **Hospital Not Designed to Accommodate New Information Technology (IT) Systems** - The current hospital was not designed to accommodate the growth of new computerized systems, communications equipment and other technology.

STAFFING AND DESIGN

- **Staffing Challenges** - A new facility design will improve efficiency by allowing us to employ cross-staffing coverage during peak volume periods in order to provide high-quality patient care.
- **Inadequate Space** - Health care has changed dramatically over the last quarter century, and our current facilities are neither large enough nor designed to accommodate new procedures and equipment. A new facility will increase needed space in some of our busiest departments: surgery, imaging services and emergency care.
- **Antiquated Patient Room Designs** - Our patient rooms were designed for a different era. Today patients and their families have increased expectations for comfort and privacy. The new facility will allow us to accommodate those needs, as well as promoting staff efficiency.

SAFETY

- **Ambulance Services** - The new location will enable more rapid access for ambulances from the area campgrounds, the interstate, and the Edgerton and Milton areas. Furthermore, the new emergency department will be designed to promote a smoother patient transition from the vehicle to the facility while providing improved medical emergency services.
- **Parking** - the new facility grounds will include expanded parking and safer access to building entrances. Visitors will not have cross a busy street to enter the facilities.

RECRUITMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Attract Competent Physicians and Staff** - A new hospital is considered vital to attract physicians and employees in the future. Newly trained physicians are especially interested in access to state-of-the-art technology and facilities with the potential for continued growth.
- **Ability to Grow with the Community** - Prospective residents and businesses assess the quality of local health care in deciding where to locate. New expanded facilities for Edgerton Hospital and Health Services will support economic development in the area and allow the hospital to continue to grow with our community.

WHY MOVE THE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME?

A new location is the most cost-effective solution to offer expanded health care services without interrupting operations and with minimum disruption to the hospital and our neighbors during construction.

- **Additional Land Requirements** - Recent research indicates it is more cost-effective to purchase undeveloped land for a new facility than to obtain occupied space just to develop additional property adjacent to our current location.

- **Loss of Helipad Services During Construction** - Building on our current site would shut down the hospital's helipad for 12 to 16 months, severely limiting our ability to transfer trauma patients for tertiary care.
- **Disruption of Neighborhood Traffic** - Heavy construction activity on our current site would significantly disrupt local traffic and parking at the hospital.
- **Inadequate Space for New Medical Office Building (MOB)** - Building on the current site would leave no usable land suitable to construct a medical office building adjacent to the hospital.



WHY BUILD EAST OF EDGERTON?

- **Convenience** - A sound business principle is to locate close to existing and new markets. The new site is conveniently located for existing Edgerton area residents and can better serve our wider health care community, which includes Milton, Neville and surrounding areas.
- **Safety** - Locating close to the interstate and Highway 59 allows easy access for patients, their families and ambulance traffic. Highway 59 is a major state route and thus has priority for plowing and maintenance during winter weather.
- **Community Commitment** - To maintain our designation as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), Edgerton Hospital and Health Services must be located in Edgerton in Rock County. The new site is adjacent to the city and we are seeking annexation.

- **Availability** - This is the best available site, with ample land to accommodate immediate plans to build a hospital, nursing home, and medical office building, with space for future expansion.
- **Long-Term Benefits for Edgerton** - Relocating and expanding the hospital on Edgerton's east side will help attract new businesses and increase accessibility for health services in the area. Our capacity to expand to meet future health care needs will be enhanced.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EXISTING BUILDING?

- The hospital and nursing home will remain fully open to serve the communities during construction of our new facilities. A subcommittee has been formed to investigate possible uses for the building once we relocate. We are committed to promoting the future utilization of the current facilities.

WHY THE NEW NAME?

- We became Edgerton Hospital and Health Services to more accurately reflect the range of services we provide. In the past most people referred to us as "Edgerton Hospital" so it was confusing to some. We have not forgotten that the original red brick building is a memorial to the veterans of World War I. An area will be established in the new facility to honor the memory of our community's veterans and others who contributed to the hospital's history.

Community Connection

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Continuum of Care

Acute Care / Medical-Surgical Unit
Emergency & Urgent Care
Outpatient Care
Swing Bed (Extended Care) Unit
Home Health Care
Long Term Care

Services available

General & Specialized Surgery
Rehabilitation – Physical,
Occupational & Speech Therapy
Diagnostic Testing
Sleep Study Program

Physician Specialty Clinics

Cardiology
Neurology
Podiatry

Emergency and Urgent Care
24 hours every day
Physician Staffed



Visit our web site at www.edgertonhospital.com.

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