



October 28, 2010

Buttoning up the Building for Winter

The cranes that dotted the Monroe skyline are gone. The week before they left, they loaded and placed 22 semi loads of mechanical equipment. Crews are now working hard to enclose the Northwest Addition by Thanksgiving:

- The brickwork is nearly complete
- More than a third of the windows are in place
- Mechanicals, drains and insulation are being installed, starting in the lower level

After Thanksgiving, activity on the job site will shift indoors. When the interior work begins, the number of workers on site will nearly double to around 200 per day.

5th Street shuffle

After being torn up for a few weeks, 5th Street has a new look. Now there are 15 permanent stalls with six reserved for handicapped parking. A new crosswalk, aligned with the handicapped stalls, provides a safe, straight path across the street. A second crosswalk was added from the current hospital building to the clinic's employee entrance. New sidewalks were installed as well. In the spring, green space will be added to further spruce up the area.

Skywalk connection moves departments

Connecting the clinic building to the new hospital building has caused departments to shift. Patient accounts is now located in a direct path from the main clinic's (east) entrance. While the buildings are being connected, pharmacy and optical will be accessible through a corridor.

Calling all armchair critics

You could be the Roger Ebert of recliners! We're testing furniture for the new building including lobby chairs, sofa sleepers, rockers/recliners and patient transport chairs. We will be trying out furniture in the current hospital lobby, family birth center and fourth floor waiting room until November 12. Come in, put your feet up, and tell us what you think!

Going down (and up) the tubes

Six-inch wide pneumatic tubes are being installed throughout the Northwest Addition to quickly and securely move materials around the building. The tubes operate like a bank's drive-thru system. For example, pharmacy fills a medication order for oncology and puts it in the tube system. When an oncologist swipes their identification card, the medications are sent up the tube to the oncology department. The tubes will save time for patients and steps for staff.

To learn more, visit monroeclinic.org and click on "expansion news" at the bottom of the page. Make sure to check out the construction webcam for a live view of what's happening.