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## Starting on the Finishing Touches

Drywall is being installed on the lower and lobby levels while electrical and plumbing work continues on the upper floors. Durable, eco-friendly and visually soothing materials will be used to put the finishing touches on the Northwest Addition:

Howard Grote & Sons, McFarland, is painting the lower level using a low-VOC ceramic-based paint. Ceramic paints contain tiny “marbles” that create a tough, stain-resistant skin, similar to epoxy-based paints, for half the cost. Lobby flooring will be a mixture of terrazzo tile and carpeting in shades of brown, green and ochre. The carpet is made from 100% recycled material with a low-VOC bonding agent. The low-VOC materials improve air quality.

### Systems save energy costs

In the central utility plant and mechanical room, state-of-the-art heating and cooling is conserving energy. When finished, Monroe Clinic will be one of the most energy-efficient hospitals in the nation. Installations include:

- A frictionless chiller that uses magnetic bearings, making it oil-free, extremely quiet, easy to maintain and more durable. It will decrease energy costs by 35%. The chiller uses the same technology as European maglev trains.
- Modular heat recovery ventilators use heat generated inside to warm incoming fresh air. For example, the computers in Monroe Clinic’s data center produce a lot of heat. Recycling this heat helps cut costs 30-35%.

### Hi-tech call system will cut response time

Nurse call systems allow patients to push a button to alert medical staff if they need assistance. After evaluating several nurse call options, Monroe Clinic selected a Rauland system. It integrates traditional nurse call functionality with wireless technology such as smart phones and pagers. Benefits include:

- Direct communication among patients, caregivers and providers, no matter where they are in the hospital. This should cut response time by a third.
- Quick access to electronic medical records at the point of care
- Increased patient safety as providers use barcode readers to scan medicine and wristbands
- Increased workflow efficiency through automated systems that let staff know what rooms need to be cleaned or prepared

To learn more, visit [monroeclinik.org](http://monroeclinik.org) and click on the “expansion” button at the bottom. And make sure to check out the construction webcam for a live view of what’s happening.