

Construction Progress at Bethany Life

The *Building Tomorrow* project at Bethany Life continues to move forward. Phase one of three is almost complete. Projected timelines include project completion in a total of 16 months, an aggressive goal. Five months into the project, anticipated completion dates remain intact.

Set to open late spring 2015, the Transitional Care Unit will be the first part of the new building completed. Over the next 40 days, there will continue to be visual progress on this piece of the project. “The building comes to life in the next 40 days with glass going in, and sheeting going up on the outside. You will soon see the form of the building” states Dan Wood, Project Manager at Story Construction. This new unit was designed for older adults recovering from surgery, illness, or injury as a rehabilitative short stay space. The Julia’s Place addition and outdoor patio for second floor will be completed shortly after the Transitional Care Unit is open. The next phase of the project will include taking down the rest of the 1967 building and constructing the new long term care unit and Main Street. The entire project is on track to be complete in 2016.

Challenges faced in construction have included the historical find of the 100 year old foundation from the original building and buried utilities being in different locations than originally thought. Of course weather has also been an obstacle with extreme cold temperatures. “In our schedule we know that weather happens” states Jon Hand, Project Engineer at Story Construction. “We had a wet fall, which doesn’t help any construction project, then ran into a 100 year old foundation” adds Dan. In spite of these challenges, Story Construction continues to stay on schedule.

Many systems are in place to ensure that the project stays on track. The Story Construction crew meets to discuss daily tasks including what-if anything- is stopping things from being completed, and what needs to be done in upcoming days. The Story Construction and Bethany Life teams meet weekly for updates and to go through each and every detail of the project. In addition, Story Construction will soon be launching a new task tracking and planning system, CP20. This will allow the Bethany Life team to see each and every day the tasks that need to be accomplished and what can be done to help everyone meet the common goals. “The Bethany Life team has been excellent to work with,” adds Dan. “They’re always there and always engaging. That’s helped out a lot with the construction project.”

“The partnership with Story Construction has been great” adds Betsy Warburton, President and CEO of Bethany Life. “I am also grateful for the Bethany Life team that has been working so hard to make this vision a reality.” Warburton also expresses her gratitude for the community, stating “I cannot say enough how thankful I am for the Story City community and the support shown for this project. This is an amazing place and we are grateful to be a part of it.” “This is my third project in Story City and I really like working here” adds Jon. Other projects have included the athletic addition of the Roland-Story high school and the Charlson building. Tours of the new Transitional Care Unit will be available in the spring, prior to it being officially open to the public. Ongoing updates and photos of the project are available at www.bethanylife.org/construction.