

The Noon News

July 30, 2007

Published by



Waterloo Exchange Club

Allen Hospital Renovation Project - Sharon Droste launched the program today by introducing our speaker - Jay Willsher, Vice President of Regional Operations at Allen Hospital. Mr. Willsher, a UNI graduate - Waterloo resident since 1977 - Allen Hospital Associate for nine years, is leading a major renovation project at the hospital. The main focus of the renovation are new emergency care and cardiovascular facilities.



Arlan visits with Allen Hospital's Jay Willsher

Jay began his presentation by giving us a historical overview of Allen, including showing us a 1925 photo of Dack Hall that will be demolished to make way for the renovation project. At \$45 million, the project is

the largest in Allen's history and is expected to be completed in 16-18 months. Work is slated to begin in early August, with the demolition of Dack Hall. Funding for the project is coming from: (1) a capital campaign within the hospital that has a goal to raise \$1 million from employees and supporting organizations; (2) a capital campaign within the Cedar Valley and (3) funding from Iowa Health Systems, Allen's parent organization.

Although the new emergency and cardiovascular facilities will occupy 3 floors of a new building to be constructed on the south and west portion of the campus, the foundation and utility systems are being sized so that the building can be expanded in the future by adding additional floors. The new building represents a \$26-27 million dollar investment with the remaining \$18-19 million going for equipment and furnishings.

The 70,000 square foot first floor will house a new emergency care center. Jay illustrated the critical need for this new facility by sharing that Allen's existing emergency rooms handled 30,000 visits last year in a facility built to handle 15,000. Mr. Willsher says the new emergency care facility will be unique and innovative in a number of areas. In one innovation, a mini-radiology station will be fitted with CT/CAT scanners that will be able to detect heart attack conditions right in the emergency care facility, rather than having to move the patient to another part of the hospital for traditional coronary diagnostic procedures. Another innovation is a Critical Decision Unit where patients can spend 4-23 hours for more intermediate level diagnosis and care by their physicians, but still be in close proximity emergency services if needed. It sounds very state-of-the art.

The second and third floors will house a new cardiovascular facility. Practically everyone around here knows someone who has had a heart condition treated at Allen, so no need to expand on the merits of that program or the need to keep it up to date. Excellent program getting better.

Looks like a wonderful asset for the Cedar Valley. Mr. Willsher has a well-developed plan for Allen and seems like just the person to make it work.

NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

Program : Progressive Tool & Die Co.
Invocation : Sandy Goldsberry
Pledge : Rocky Buege

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

Aug 06: Orange Roughy
Aug 13: Chicken Fried Steak
Aug 20: Chicken Marsala
Aug 27: Beef Stroganoff
Sep 03: Labor Day - No Meeting

Order Chef Salad one week in advance

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Aug 06: Progressive Tool & Die Company
Aug 13: Closed Business Meeting
Aug 20: TBA
Aug 27: TBA
Sep 03: Labor Day - No Meeting

BIRTHDAYS

Jul 30: Dave Amend

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

President Neebel offered the following quote courtesy of club member Lloyd Hummel: "An optimist is a person who looks forward to the scenery on a detour."

Editor's note: Good one Lloyd!

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Family Picnic - The annual Family Picnic (yes, bring the kids too) will be held on *August 9th at Exchange Park*. We will gather at 5:30. Members are asked to bring their table service and a covered dish to share.



Kids have fun at the Family Picnic, too.

Mr. Cole reports that even though he didn't remember to bring the sign-up sheet today and you've not signed up yet - not to worry. He's already anticipated your participation and

made the necessary arrangements. See you there.

Guests - We had two returning guests today. Brad Thomas was back again after his visit last week. Waterloo Fire Chief, Doug Carter, also was back and submitted his membership application. Welcome again, Brad and Doug.

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Meeting each Monday at noon

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