

# THE DAILY NEWS

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## Hospital set to expand in Carson City

*By Elisabeth Waldon - Daily News staff writer*

**CARSON CITY** -- On the verge of its 70th anniversary, Carson City Hospital (CCH) has announced it is embarking upon a \$15.2 million expansion and renovation project.

The five-phase master plan will include a new emergency department, a fixed magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite and an expanded medical imaging department. The hospital also plans to construct a new medical office building and complete several key renovations.

Three vacant houses at 121 Second St., 309 Elm St. and 319 Elm St. are scheduled to be demolished in July. Actual construction work is slated to begin in August. The work is expected to be completed in September 2008.

The hospital will pay for 90 percent of the project with assistance from the Michigan State Hospital Finance Authority. The hospital is conducting a capital campaign with a minimum goal of \$1.5 million to finance the remaining 10 percent of the work.

"Since a state-of-the-art, accessible emergency department is one of the most important criterion for citizens choosing a hospital, and our emergency department at CCH is 30 years old, this construction project will be completed in the early phases," Bruce Traverse, the hospital's chief executive officer and president, said Wednesday. "The current space of 4,325 square feet will nearly be doubled to 8,300 square feet.

"It will enable CCH to streamline patient flow and reduce waiting times, increase privacy for patients and families and provide faster access to other hospital services," he said.

A new building for a fixed MRI will be constructed on the south side of the hospital near the existing emergency department. The facility eventually will become part of the new, state-of-the-art, 13,400-square-foot medical imaging department.

The new two-story medical office building will be located on the north side of Elm Street between Second and Third streets and will provide 19,400 square feet of space. The building will house space for the Carson Family Care Center, Dr. Lawrence Evans Ophthalmology, outpatient mental health, general surgeons and the visiting physicians office along with additional parking adjacent to the building.

As these projects are completed, a new hospital entrance, lobby, patient registration department, short stay unit, pre-op testing area, enlarged Apothecary Shoppe, healing garden, coffee shop, chapel and gift shop will improve access to the hospital and patient registration.

All hospital pedestrian traffic will be routed through the new entrance and lobby with the exception of walk-in emergency patients and those arriving by ambulance.

Renovations will be completed in the final phases.

On the first floor, areas will be renovated to provide additional facilities for dietary services, the cardiopulmonary department, medical records, information systems, sleep lab and volunteer services.

On the second floor of the existing hospital, areas will be renovated to improve the medical/surgical nursing unit, outpatient surgery, inpatient pharmacy, inpatient physical therapy and the obstetrics department.

"It is important that members of our community receive quality health care close to home," said Brent Wilson, the hospital's board chairman. "An extra 25 to 40 miles can increase health issues as well as expenses for patients. That's why the renovation and construction are so critical to Carson City and the hospital."

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