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Hospital Plans Future Expansion

Delano Regional Medical Center has announced plans to construct a new three story Outpatient Services Center on current hospital property that will include a fresh, contemporary front entrance.

Designed by Ordiz Melby Architects, Bakersfield, the new 15,000 square foot structure is another step toward fulfilling the goal to expand and improve care, access and services for patients. “The Center will be more convenient for patients,” says Amy Scroggs, Chief Nursing Officer. “Patients will be able to access a full range of services under one roof and allow us to work better as a team to coordinate care and enhance the patient experience.”

The Center will bring all radiology and laboratory services plus new, leading edge technology into one convenient location. Other services will include a convenient retail pharmacy, sleep study program, spacious waiting areas and more, all designed with the need of the patient in mind. In many cases patients will find it unnecessary to check into the main hospital for various outpatient services.

According to hospital officials, groundbreaking is anticipated the beginning of 2016 and construction will be completed with a year.

Growth in the healthcare industry at many levels has surpassed expectations of many within the medical field. That growth often requires expansion. To prepare for future development DRMC recently acquired the VFW Hall.

Since the purchase of the building, the hospital has engaged companies to determine the state of the structure. “The VFW Hall was constructed in an age when there were very few building code and safety regulations,” says Joe Aguirre, Director of Engineering Services. “With structural issues, the prevailing presence of asbestos and lead paint, the building is in an unsafe condition and subject to vandalism.”

“The hospital Board of Directors considered numerous options for the building,” said Linda Hylton, Board member. “Notwithstanding the enormous cost of bringing it up to code, it was determined the structure in its current form, would significantly limit use for medical services and the technology necessary to meet the needs of our community.”
After review of reports and much deliberation, the decision was made to remove the building in order to open doors for a new, safe structure. Local civic organizations such as the American Legion have acquired salvageable items that are beneficial for their organizations and maintain the historical heart of Delano.

The hospital’s mission is to provide the community with the best in medical care and the latest in medical technology. “We are excited about the future and are confident that, even though we will lose a long standing building, it will open up even more opportunities to bring much needed medical services to our community,” stated Bahram Ghaffari, hospital president.

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