

# KRCC eyeing late August move-in for new facility

Tours for area businesses and government set for Friday

By Kathy Tandberg

Construction of a new nursing home continues to be on schedule and within budget, despite rainy weather that caused a short delay for outdoor work due to mud, but a move-in date for late August may soon be a reality.

“They’re working like crazy up there, finishing details like electricity, light fixtures, the smaller projects, the finishing things,” Knife River Care Center CEO Neil Ostlie said.

Ostlie said it’s also good news when it comes to looking at the project numbers.

“We’re still within the budget and the contingency that was set aside for incidental small increases. And we are past the point where we don’t foresee any large item changes anymore. There should be no large things that need to be added,” Ostlie said.

If this continues, Ostlie said the project will have about \$90,000 left over that will be used for landscaping that wasn’t there before.

“We found savings in other areas,” Ostlie explained, adding that the project actually came in about \$1.6 million lower than what the state would have allowed for a new building.

Of the three households, Whispering Winds, the new Alzheimer’s neighborhood, is the most completed. Ostlie said all that remains in that wing are mainly the bathroom vanities, cupboards and carpeting. Harvest Lanes and Shady Lanes are progressing, but still need a big more work to catch up.

The entire building has been painted, with resident rooms all painted in a shade of yellow. The hallways and other rooms of the “households” are painted in varying shades of greens, blues and browns. The tile work in all bathrooms is also finished.

Everything except the carpeting is expected to be completed around mid-July. Then a deep cleaning of the facility will need to be accomplished so carpeting for the entire building can be installed.

“Once carpeting is in sometime in July, we can add the final touches. The new equipment, fixtures and furniture are scheduled for delivery,” Ostlie said.

A tentative date of early August has been set for the Fire, Life, Safety Survey that must be completed by the North Dakota Department of Health.

“Everything depends on that inspection. They inspect everything. The moving date depends on this inspection, but we’re still shooting for an end of August move-in,” Ostlie explained.

In the meantime, other details are being worked out, including who gets which of the 79 rooms, all private rooms with the exception of six doubles that are actually quite large in size. Ostlie said the first criteria for room selection will be based on a resident’s care needs. Other options for those with less care are being discussed, such as possibly by seniority, and who wants a sunny exposure and who wants a shadier room.

KRCC staff members have been given an opportunity to tour the new facilities. A tour for area business people and government entities, such as City Council members and commissioners was held last Friday and another will be held this Friday, June 15 beginning at 3:30 p.m. Family members of residents who would like to join the tour can do so by calling in advance to Alice Grinsteiner, 873-4332. An open house with tours for the general public will be held at a later date yet to be announced, but before residents move in.



Hazen City Commissioner Myra Axtman, left, joins a tour to view the progress of the new Knife River Care Center nursing home with Marv and Jan Sigman, Beulah, guided by Knife River Care Center CEO Neil Ostlie.



Knife River Care Center CEO Neil Ostlie, left, gives a walk-through tour of a resident room at the new nursing home to Jan and Marv Sigman, Beulah.



KRCC Neil Ostlie guides visitors down the wide hallways of the new nursing home.