

Simpson Memorial Home announces plans for new facility

New nursing home to replace old nursing home and expand operation

Simpson Memorial Home in West Liberty is now presenting floor plans to replace the existing care facility.

The original Simpson Memorial Home building, that opened on July 1, 1975, was a state-of-the-art facility for its time. Now that it is 44 years old, it is time to replace the structure. In 2002, the Board of Directors purchased 8.5 acres of ground just to the east of the campus. It is hard to see this plot of ground unless you are driving on East Maxson near the Dutton Sports Complex. This ground will be the new site of the replacement facility. Working with the City of West Liberty, Holden Street will be connected all the way to Maxson Street. Entrance to the new building will be from Maxson Street to Holden Street, then to a drive way into the new building.

The Board has partnered with Solum-Lang Architects and Merit Construction, both from Cedar Rapids. Working with the department heads of Simpson Memorial Home, several road trips were taken to see other buildings in the area. Ideas of what to include and what not to include have gone into this drawing.

The building will face north with an ample parking lot and canopy turn around for easy access to the front door. The entrance will open up into a large hallway leading to the business offices on the right and an out-patient therapy room, that will be open to the public, on the left. The hall corridor leads to a large dining and activity space. Resident room wings will be mirrored on the east and west side. Each wing has a combination of private rooms with either private baths or shared baths with a capacity of 28 people. Each wing will also have a spa room, a nurse's station, and a large gathering room.

The back of the building will house the kitchen, laundry, maintenance, electrical, and storage rooms. On the south side of the building there will be a drive through garage structure for ambulance entry, a loading area for supplies, and a large parking lot for employees.

The new building will be heated and cooled with a geothermal system. The piping for this will run vertical on the south side of the campus. To the east of Holden Avenue, there will be several lots for a developer to build single family homes.

The whole new structure will be surrounded with a walking path. An internal road just south of the townhouses, will link the new structure to the main campus. Along this road is space for one more duplex of townhomes.

The total cost of this new facility is \$14,771,910. A fund-raising committee of community members will be working hard to raise approximately 40 percent of the project or \$5,728,000.