



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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GCH Breaks Ground For Surgery Center

GALION - Galion Community Hospital will add November 16, 2006 to the list of the hospital's historical moments. At 4:00 p.m. a ceremonial ground-breaking officially began the construction of a new Surgical Suite and Ambulatory Surgery Center.

Typical Ohio fall weather threatened to move the ceremony inside, but the overcast skies held off just long enough for the commemoration. Crawford County Commissioners Carl Watt, Mo Ressallat and Ron Hoept joined Galion city officials David Oles, Galion City Manager and Galion Councilmen Cathy George and Don Diosi, GCH employees, project representatives and media staff under canopies provided for the occasion.

A brief program, opened by President/CEO LaMar Wyse, emphasized the mission of Galion Community Hospital and reminded those in attendance that the event was more than ground breaking; "It represents the success of an organization committed to the community which, in turn, has shown its support and commitment back to its local hospital."

Speakers Sam Lewis, RN, Surgery Manager, Robert Dawson, M.D., Department of Surgery Chairman, and David Chandler, Board of Directors Vice-Chair presented additional thoughts and comments with Lewis opening by expressing appreciation. Dr. Dawson's heartfelt excitement reminded the crowd of how far the hospital has come in a

very short time, with very dedicated staff. Chandler then took over the podium to state, “This is a life-saving place,” after explaining his own very personal experiences about himself and his wife, “. . . that is why I have such a passion for this place.” He went on to add that “. . . words like ‘laser’ weren’t even in my vocabulary 20 years ago,” as he described today’s advanced medical technology. “We are setting the stage for the success of this community.”

The hospital’s newest addition, which will renovate approximately 29,000 square feet and create another 10,000 square feet of shelled space for future use, is projected to be completed in December of 2007. Costing approximately \$8 million dollars, about \$5 million will be borrowed using bond sales. Trust funds, monies set aside for improvement, and private contributions will make up the remainder.

National and local statistics help explain the need for an updated surgical facility. Records of the 1970’s reflect that about 80% of surgeries required the patient stay at least one night. Today, the numbers tell a very different story with nearly 80% of surgery patients never admitted for an overnight stay. Ambulatory, or “same-day” surgery, commands the need for a more efficient facility design and state-of-the-art technology.

Guided by input from the surgery staff, medical staff, nursing and the Board of Directors, Kaczmar Architects from Cleveland, Ohio will work with The Krill Co., Inc.; construction manager for the project. The Owner Representative is Healthplex Solutions from Lewis Center, Ohio with project financing through The Huntington National Bank, Columbus, Ohio, and United Bank, N.A., Galion, Ohio.

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