

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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Town Topics

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for what they have done for Lakeview? Why not nominate him or her for LACF's Quality of Life Award. See page 2 for details.

Spring Forecast

Thu 20 percent chance of showers after 2pm. Mostly sunny, high 74. ENE wind 6 to 9 becoming SSE in the pm.

Thu Night Showers likely, mainly after 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 55. Precipitation 60%.

Fri Showers likely, thunderstorms possible after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, high 72. Precipitation 60%.

Fri Night Chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low 53.

Sat Chance of showers. Mostly sunny, high 75.

Sat Night Chance of showers after 2am. Partly cloudy, low 53.

Sun Chance of showers. Mostly sunny, high 76.

Sun Night Chance of showers. Partly cloudy, low 52.

Mon Chance of showers. Mostly sunny, high 71.



"Would You Like a Brick?"



The walls of Kelsey Memorial Hospital are being reduced to rubble.

By Bethel Larsen

On May 2, I drove past the shell of Kelsey Memorial Hospital and looked inside the walls of the Long-Term Care wing where my mother drew her last breath almost eighty-nine years after being assisted into this world by Dr. Lee E. Kelsey. In a part of the building still untouched by the demolition, four of my five children wailed their birth announcements. The first had made her debut into the six-bed maternity ward just before it

was torn down to make way for new construction. In between were ER visits for the stitches and ear infections not uncommon for a large family, and, rarely, an in-patient stay. The care was always—well, caring, as well as highly skilled. We were thankful to have the hospital nearby, even if my late husband tended to forget how close it was while speeding to the labor room. Proximity was even more important for my friends who delivered quickly, not to mention

those with serious emergencies.

Now the machines of demolition have reduced much of the building to rubble. Heaps of salvageable metal await recycling. Day by day, there is less to see of the medical facility that began with a local doctor physically carrying patients up the stairs of his home for treatment. Toddlers who pass in strollers, fascinated by the machines at work, will remember only what comes next. It will be for their parents and

grandparents to tell that Lakeview once had a very fine hospital where excellent physicians and staff cared for patients who were their friends and neighbors.

A sign on the fence asks, "Would you like a brick?" They are free for the taking. Perhaps you will take one to place on your desk or in your garden as a reminder of the many times our local hospital served your family. Perhaps you will recall moments of life and death, and

times when having a local hospital made the difference between the two. Perhaps if all the memories were piled like bricks, they would reach even higher than the bricks themselves. What are your memories of Kelsey Memorial Hospital and the doctors who practiced there? Perhaps we can compile some of them into future articles. Please send them to lannews-room@gmail.com.



Salvage the past: Demolition began on the Kelsey Memorial Hospital building in April.



On May 3, the date of this photo, demolition had begun on the Long-term Care and Emergency wing of Kelsey Hospital.

All that Remains



By Linda Huckins

It was wonderful day when Spectrum Health announced that it was opening the new Lena Rader Meijer Emergency Department at Kelsey Hospital in Lakeview. The year was 2008. The new Emergency Department was the result of an extensive Capital Campaign by Spectrum Health to raise funds to supplement the generous donation made by Fred and Lena Rader Meijer to bring the new state-of-art Emergency Department to Lakeview.

The cost of the project was \$850,000. In October 2007, Fred and Lena Rader Meijer stepped for-

ward with a generous check to jump start the project. The remainder of the funds were raised through the Building a Healthy Future Together capital campaign.

Nearly 300 individual donors and families, along with over 100 Spectrum Health staff members, businesses and organizations, came together to make the Emergency Department a reality.

Linda Huckins was owner and managing editor of *Lakeview Area News* at the time and was proud to be a part of that campaign.

(continued on page 2)

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