

North Chicago VA News



North Chicago
VA Medical Center
3001 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, Illinois 60064

February 2003

Co-Generation Plant Moving Forward



This past May an enhanced-use lease was signed to lease approximately one acre of vacant land on VA grounds. In consideration for the property lease a new energy center will be designed, constructed and operated by the developer, Energy Systems Group. Once completed the energy center's boilers and turbine generator will provide steam and electricity to the Medical Center. The enhanced-use lease for development of the energy plant will result in significant cost savings for the Medical Center through lower utility rates. Additionally, the energy center will also provide steam and electricity to the new Naval Training Center barracks being constructed on VA land leased to the Department of the Navy. Construction activities at the medical center started with the installation of systems to distribute the steam and electricity to NCVAMC back in September. During December work on the site has focused on construction of the energy center building with completion of the building structure expected by late February. Once the building shell is completed installation of the equipment and systems required to produce electricity and steam will begin.

The energy plant is currently predicted to be fully operational, providing the energy required for operation of the medical center, later this fall.

North Chicago VA Celebrates Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As in past years, an outstanding program was held on January 16, in observance of the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. The guest speaker, Eleanor Murkey, is the Dean of the College of Lake County Lakeshore Campus. Ms. Murkey emphasized that it is everyone's responsibility to keep the "Dream" alive. It is easy to keep the "Dream" alive by



Bruce Hughes, North Chicago Community High School, moves the audience in his dramatic address.

simply reaching out to one another with kindness. Miss Beatrice Scorby, the daughter of employees Mark Hunter and Mary Waterman, performed a piano selection. Mr.



Eleanor Murkey, Dean Lakeshore Campus College of Lake County encourages us to accept the challenges we face today.

Bruce Hughes, a student at the North Chicago Community High School, provided his personal insight for overcoming obstacles to achieve success. These talented adults received standing ovations from the audience. Special thanks are extended to the members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Program Committee for the time and energy devoted to planning this observance.

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North Chicago News is published for staff and volunteers of the North Chicago VA Medical Center. Submissions can be sent to douglas.shouse@med.va.gov

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MLK Committee gather with guests for photo. From left: Bruce Hughes, Barbara Thomas, Anita Wilson, Pastor Scott, Joyce Wadlington, Mary Roseborough, Eleanor Murkey, Reverend Payne, Joyce Green, Denise Lear, Dr. Hassan, Dr. Zarling, Sarah Fouse.



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North Chicago Holiday Activities



Motorola employees present Vince Marino with gifts.

The month of December always has a wide variety of holiday activities for our veterans sponsored by the various volunteer organizations.

This year these activities included caroling, tree decorating, catered parties and dinners here at the VA and several holiday dinners for our veterans in the community. There were numerous gift distributions to all of the wards which

included candy, cookies, baseball caps, T-shirts, phone cards, and canteen books. The annual VAVS Patient Holiday Parties featured entertainment by the Great Lakes Brass Ensemble, the Lake Bluff Middle School Choir, and the Building 46 choir.

There were many special activities. The American Legion Auxillary did their annual Gift Shop where the veterans are allowed to choose presents to send to their family members. United Airlines and the JROTC not only decorated the trees on each ward, but they also did a huge party with a live band and mega food. The 5th District VFW hosted Operation Christmas Cheer (pictured) which is a huge visitation to all the wards including lots of caroling and pictures with the Lake County Queens. Every patient received a gift box with over 40 items. Motorola asked every veteran in our Bldg.134 Nursing Home for 3 things that they would like to have and then an employee from Motorola picked a name and bought those items, which even included White Castle hamburgers. Then the Motorola employees came and passed out all of the individual gifts.(pictured)

Special thanks go out to all of those who gave of themselves to help make this holiday season an enjoyable one for our veterans.



Lake County Queens with VFW Operation Christmas Cheer.

Kathleen Coleman, FWP Scholarship Recipient



From Left: Tina Bobadilla, Federal Women's Program Chairperson, Kathleen Coleman, Dave Barton, Acting Associate Director.

Congratulations to Kathleen Coleman. She is the 2003 recipient of the Federal Women's Program Scholarship. A luncheon, catered by the Canteen Service, was held on January 23, to recognize and present the award to Ms. Coleman. Currently, she works as a Medical Support Assistant in Patient Administration Service. Kathleen is attending the College of Lake County, and anticipates receiving her Associate Degree in Liberal Arts in the Spring of 2004.

Amvets Make Another Big Donation



From Left: Dave Barton, Acting Associate Director; Tariq Hassan, MD, Acting Medical Center Director; Tony Altieri and Carl Fabiszak from the AMVETS Wheeling Post 66 Donate Check for new mini-golf course.

The Amvets have always been very involved in helping us improve the facilities here at the North Chicago VA Medical Center. Due to the recent construction, we lost our mini-golf course. The Amvets from Wheeling Post 66 wanted our veterans to be able to continue to enjoy playing miniature golf, so they graciously donated \$30,000.00 to build a new course by Bldg. 134. It will be a facility for our vets to enjoy for many years to come and it is already partially completed.

Amvets Post 66 also donated a nice new pool table to the veterans of 7CD (pictured). All of the different Amvets posts including their State Dept. have donated many other notable items. They were the major contributors to the renovation of the 134 courtyard. They donated the electric carts at the Guest Relations desk in the 133CA lobby for outpatients to use to go to their appointments. They sponsor dinners, picnics, pizza parties, and monthly bingos. So we salute the Amvets for all that they continue to do to enhance the lives of our veterans.

Successful Combined Federal Campaign At NCVA

Congratulations goes out to Dorothy Jimenez, Chairperson for this year's CFC Campaign. Dorothy and her keyworkers from across the facility did an excellent job in coordinating the campaign and reaching our GOAL!!!