

News Letter

New Athletic Facility Will Promote Health and Wellness for Hospital Employees

Hospital Announces New Athletic Facility

The Philadelphia Memorial Hospital's Board of Directors announced on Friday its plans to build a new state-of-the-art athletic facility which will be open to all hospital employees and staff. The board stated that the new athletic complex will promote health and wellness among all hospital's many employees. Randle McMurphy, board president stated at a press conference that plans for the new athletic arena have been in the works for some time after numerous resident physicians proposed the idea to the Board of Directors in 2016, citing the outdated condition of the hospital's current exercise space. McMurphy also stated that over the past five years various fundraising events held to boost the project's budget continued falling short. However, William Bibbit, Vice Chairman on the hospital's Board of Directors donated a hefty sum of \$100,000 to the project. Because of Bibbit's generous donation, the hospital was finally able to reach its goal of raising the necessary funds to begin planning and development of the hospital's new athletic complex.

In 2019, the community free clinic which originally opened its doors in 1967 and occupied the west wing of the hospital had moved to its current building across the street from the hospital. Since the clinic's transfer to a different location, the hospital's west wing that had previously accommodated the clinic has been left vacant. The Board of Directors and the Planning and Development committee, recognizing the opportunity, have decided that with some updated renovations, this site would be the most feasible option and that the new athletic facility will be located in the wing that once housed the community free clinic.

The Philadelphia Memorial Hospital is pleased to inform that Mildred Ratched will be the new facilities director. Ratched began her career with Philadelphia Memorial Hospital in 2001 as a registered occupational therapy nurse. She quickly proved herself to be an invaluable asset to the nursing department and in 2008 was announced head of the Stroke Patient Therapy Program. Nurse Ratched continued revitalizing the department until she announced her retirement from nursing last year. The hospital administration recognized her value to the organization and her many years of experience and various achievements in the Stroke Patient Therapy Program and strongly believe that Nurse Ratched will do a fantastic job as the new Fitness Facilities Director.

The new health and wellness complex will offer wide variety of amenities such as brand new, avant garde weight machines, stationary and elliptical bicycles, as well as traditional free-weights and treadmills. The athletic facility will also have other conveniences, including separate men's and women's locker rooms equipped with showers and an attendant on duty at all times. Once the new facility is completed, it will be open to all Philadelphia Memorial Hospital employees and staff free of charge with twenty-four-hour access to accommodate everyone's busy schedules. Construction on the project will begin early this spring and is expected to be completed by mid-August.