

Assisted living proposal returns for consideration

By Shaun Zinck szinck@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Monday, February 23, 2015 4:00 pm

A Beloit assisted living facility several years in the making has a new starting date of spring, the company said.

Apara Care has planned to construct a campus in Beloit geared to help elderly patients in the early stages of dementia since June 2012, however, changes to the design plans delayed the start a few years ago.

Frieda Pulkowski, vice president of operations for Apara Care, said the plans have all been finalized and they hope to break ground this spring. In November Apara Care purchased the land near the corner of Schuster Drive and Cranston Road to build the 40,000-square-foot campus.

“We are anticipating construction will take about a year,” Pulkowski said. “I hope it will be sooner than that, but we are planning for a year.”

The company plans to build a two-story, 48-unit residential care apartment complex, a one-story, 24-unit community based residential facility, a grocery store, dining area, beauty salon and greenhouse on the property.

Drew Pennington, planning and building services director for the City of Beloit, said earlier this month company officials submitted a third application for a conditional use permit (CUP). Pennington said he requested a meeting between company officials and city staff before going forward.

Since the permits have expired twice, Pennington said staff needs “assurance that this project is legitimate” before the city will make another recommendation on the CUP to the Plan Commission and Beloit City Council. He added company officials are open to meeting with the city this month.

Pulkowski said Apara Care has kept in contact with the city staff to let them know the status of the project since the plans were first unveiled.

She also said there is a “continued interest” in potential residents asking about possibly reserving a room in one of the facilities. About a year ago Pulkowski said 30 people had signed up on the inquiry list.

“I get calls on a consistent basis about the facility,” she said.

In January, the city council approved a resolution amending a Planned Unit Development for a different assisted living facility at 2250 W. Hart Road that would allow for up to 100 units on the property.

Scott Shadel, managing partner for Beloit Senior Living, LLC, told the Daily News in November, that he believed the city was underserved in the assisted living market. He and other developers run assisted living facilities in Milton and Waterford, Wis. Schadel said they also plan to break ground on the project this spring.