

Expansion planned at Kent's High Watch

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High Watch Recovery Center in Kent will break ground in mid-July on a \$2.2 million expansion of its offices, which will include a new medical building.

A ceremonial ground breaking will be held soon with Kent First Selectman Bruce Adams, state Sen. Andrew Roraback (R-30th), and state Rep. Richard Smith (R-108th), among those expected to be on hand.

"The addition of new units for nursing and therapy will further enhance our culture of providing a beautiful and comfortable environment for patient care and treatment," said Janina Kean, High Watch president and CEO.

Under the guidance of Bill W., High Watch was established on Joy Farm in 1940 as the first 12-step recovery community in the world.

High Watch is a non-profit organization dedicated to healing those who suffer from the chronic illness of drug and alcohol addiction.

The current offices of the recovery center were once the barns for Joy Farm. A few renovations and 70-plus years later, "High Watch will soon have a state-of-the-art medical building to compliment our state-of-the-art treatment for drug and alcohol addiction," Ms. Kean said.

While the medical building will directly impact the level of patient care and staffing, the new community conference center in the new space will also allow High Watch to expand its family program and public education outreach.

The medical building will add 5,800 square feet of one-story construction, plus 4,300 square feet of renovation of existing areas.

The expansion will not increase the number of beds at the facility, but will add to services to residents, their families and the community.

Jacunski Humes Architects, of Berlin, designed the new space. Enfield Builders will handle the construction.

The anticipated completion date is May 1, 2012.

High Watch has worked to keep treatment affordable and to provide charity care (Wilson Beds) for those who cannot afford to pay, Ms. Kean said.

Last year, the center provided more than \$1 million in free medical care.

High Watch raised \$1.2 million in donations for the new medical wing and will attempt to raise the final \$1 million through additional fundraising.