

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 • MESSENGER INDEX



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rotarians level gravel for a walking path around Valor Health. Pictured are Mark Wurtenburger, Greg Kershul, John Buck, Lisa Vetter, Daniel Brice and Kathy Buck; also helping are Sam Vetter from Interact, Penny Campbell and members of the Pecchia family, mother, Ellen, Capriel and Andrea.

Walking path at hospital moves forward

BY STAFF REPORT

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The Gem Community has come together to create the Mary Secor Walking Path around the Valor Health campus. Grant money helped get the project started and recently members of the Emmett Rotary Club helped spread 130-140 yards of gravel on the half-mile path.

Rotarians began at 8:30 a.m. and by 9:45 were finished on a recent Saturday. Some actually took the time to walk the path after they were done. A \$1,600 Rotary grant helped pay for some of the costs. One requirement of the grant was for local Rotarians to perform some hands-on work.

Gem County Road and Bridge crews have done some of the preparation work and cleared the ground for the path. Now the gravel has been spread, they will also compact the path.

Valor Health put \$1,000 toward the project and another \$3,000 was received from the Idaho Community Foundation. Some of the property used for the path was donated by River's Edge Rehabilitation and Living Center which is located to the north. Donations also came from Northwest Landscape and Premier Trucking as well as private citizens.

The path was created with a double purpose — a wellness incentive to promote community health and is dedicated to the community's medical history and first hospital. Benches will be added and signs are planned to explain the name.

HISTORY LESSON OF HOSPITAL

As printed in a 1998 Messenger Index:

The first permanent doctor's office in Emmett came in 1890. The establishment of the first

hospital was in 1937, by Dr. C.E. Carver due to the pressing need of hospitalization on a community-wide basis. Mary Secor Hospital was built (at 231 S. Washington Ave.) in honor of Carver's mother, Mary Secor.

In 1963, Walter Knox Memorial Hospital (at 1202 W. Locust St.) was built with Gem County funds aided by Hill-Burton Federal participating monies. Twenty acres of ground was obtained on East Locust Street from Mr. and Mrs. Willard Knox. The hospital was named in memory of early pioneer Walter Knox and opened for business Sept. 29, 1963.

From humble beginning, ca. 1906, of the Emmett Livery and Feed was destined to become the foundation for Mary Secor Hospital founded by Dr. C. E. Carver. This same building later became the site of the Emmett City Hall and was demolished to make way for a new city fire station.