



**Mercy**

A member of CHW

August 26, 2008

Dear Mercy General Hospital Neighbors and Staff:

As we move forward with the construction of the Alex G. Spanos Heart & Vascular Center and the new Sacred Heart Parish School, there will be periodic occasions where we will reach out to our neighbors and staff to share planned and unplanned construction events that may affect you. This update contains both planned and unplanned events.

First, the planned re-route of traffic on J Street at 39<sup>th</sup> Street to perform underground utility work is scheduled for Friday, August 29, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The traffic flow on J Street will be redirected and one lane in each direction will remain open. Other specifics about the J Street work include:

- The left turn lane from eastbound J Street onto northbound 39<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed.
- Flagmen will be present on J Street to direct traffic.
- All other access points to the hospital will remain open as usual, including: Spine Street, H Street, and the 39<sup>th</sup> Street parking entrance to Mercy Medical Plaza.
- Three more days of traffic redirection on J Street will occur within the next few months.

Second, during testing of the soil on the new Sacred Heart Parish School site geologists discovered a chemical called chlordane in the test samples. Chlordane is a manufactured chemical that was used as a pesticide in the United States from 1948 to 1988. Until 1983, chlordane was used as a pesticide on crops like corn and citrus, and on home lawns and gardens. The EPA banned all uses of chlordane in 1983 except for usage in termite control. The EPA banned all uses of chlordane in 1988. According to experts, everyone in the United States has been exposed to low levels of chlordane. The tests being conducted on-site are to identify the levels of chlordane that are present.

We are working closely with the Sacred Heart Parish School to take all necessary steps to make sure that the site is properly inspected, tested and, if need be, cleaned. In addition to experts hired by the Parish and the Hospital, the State Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) will be involved in the evaluation of the substances found on the site.

While we are unaware of any immediate health risks, we will be taking appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of all concerned. Please be assured that we will update you with additional

information as it becomes available. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call our Construction Information Line at 916.552.6931.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Schrimsher  
Mercy General Hospital