

I thought I would catch you up on what is happening at the VA Medical Center in Fargo. The medical center is doing great, having recently undergone and successfully passed several facility inspections. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) ensure healthcare providers and supplies meet federal health and safety standards needed to participate in Medicare/Medicaid programs. The organization recently awarded the VAMC-Fargo the only 5-star facility in North Dakota. The Joint Commission, an organization that accredits more than 22,000 health care organizations and programs had minimal findings in the Fargo facility.

The Outpatient Mental Health Building foundation work in the north parking lot is complete with steel construction currently in progress. Great progress has been made to the south addition of the hospital, which will serve as an extension of primary care. Steel framing is complete, and concrete work for floors and roofing is currently underway. Completion of both building projects is set for Fall 2026.

The design for a parking ramp is nearing completion; however, construction is delayed due to budget limitations and logistical considerations (impact on parking) associated with simultaneous construction of the Mental Health Building, Outpatient Mental Health Building, and parking facilities.

Fisher House land acquisition and due diligence are in progress. The project is being managed externally from the Fargo VA. Officials are confident that a suitable location will be secured soon for meaningful progress to get underway.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Dakota is again sponsoring the annual "Gift Shop" on Wednesday, December 3, at the VA Medical Center-Fargo. Residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home-Lisbon have elected to have a catered meal again this year.

Poppy orders continue to arrive, and I will be mailing them out soon. I am looking for units who wish to sponsor a "Little Miss Poppy" this year. We have not had one in North Dakota, and it would be nice to have one this year.

Carol Wolf

VA&R and Poppy Co-Chairman