

# Developer: Carlisle Building challenging but rewarding

Chris Balusik 8:36 p.m. EDT April 15, 2015



(Photo: Gazette file photo)

CHILLICOTHE – Developer Michael Chesler said Wednesday that while the Carlisle Building probably ranks among the more difficult projects he has dealt with in a career or rehabilitating historic structures, he thinks the end result will be among the most rewarding.

“My business is about assuring that we all remember where we were, so when we get done with the Carlisle, you will all remember what this town was like and what a building like Carlisle was like a hundred years ago,” Chesler told those gathered at Wednesday’s Insider Outlook Breakfast at the Chillicothe Country Club. “It will give you a sense of time and place and I think it will give you a more significant sense of where you are and where you’re going.”

Chesler joined Adena Health System CEO Mark Shuter in presenting an update on the progress of the Carlisle work brought about by the partnership between The Chesler Group and Adena. The developer said the Carlisle project, on a difficulty scale of 1 to 10 with 10 as most difficult, probably ranked as a 9 or 9.5.

In fact, he admits to having some grave concerns early in the project.

“We had significant structural issues,” Chesler said. “I was concerned we were going to lose the whole building.”

The extent of the damage from age and a 2003 fire that devastated the interior of the structure — followed by what Chesler referred to as years of neglect — meant the rehabilitation project had to be approached in two phase. The first was the stabilize the structure itself and the second involved the actual restoration.

As part of the presentation, Shuter touched on what the Carlisle means to Adena’s ability to attract top medical students and residents to the local area. Adena will occupy most of the building, with upper floors being designed as living areas for medical students and those doing their residency work here. The hope is that the unique living experience at Carlisle coupled with the educational opportunities offered by the Paccar Medical Education Center will bring those future health care workers with talented minds to the area for their education, then keep them here to practice.

The numbers as the result of the Paccar Center alone shows the potential, he said. The health system had to go out and recruit the center’s first nursing class in 2012 after receiving no applications. This year, the program received more than 600 applications from across the country.

In terms of the Carlisle, Chesler said the project is basically within a week of being on schedule and the building should be ready for occupancy by either September or October. When it does open, he said it will have a special feature — LED lighting in the tower that will always remain on as a reminder that the Carlisle is back.

“That’s the kind of touch that the Carlisle and the city deserve, in my opinion,” he said.

Read or Share this story: <http://ohne.ws/1ywN6yh>