

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: *Southwestern Illinois Commercial Contractors*

Contegra Construction completes lounge and nail bar in Edwardsville

The first-of-its-kind EXO Lounge and Nail Bar has successfully launched in Edwardsville, drawing patrons from Illinois, Missouri and across the Midwest according to its founder Gina Gamblin.

“It is an emergence of cultures and a true destination,” said Gamblin. “We are looking to expand locally and nationally.” EXO offers an elegant cocktail lounge with manicure, pedicure and other restorative services in space that is carefully designed for the senses.

Contegra Construction Co. completed a more than 8,000-square-foot renovation to create the EXO Lounge and Nail Bar at the 157 Center complex. For more information, visit www.visitexo.com.

“The lounge offers endless possibilities for fun and relaxation for men and women and is open to the public for special events,” said Gamblin. “It’s a place where woman can come for a girls night, guys can grab a drink after a long day golfing. The outdoor patio, due to launch in this spring will offer a relaxing vibe to enjoy a drink with friends.”

The cocktail lounge and nail bar work in harmony. The nail bar offers manicures, pedicures, eyelash extensions and waxing. From the European seating, customers enjoy a cocktail or beverage, ordering from EXO Lounge iPads at every station. It also features a specialized ventilation system at every station to vent fumes from nail polish. The lounge offers a relaxing social setting offering seasonal organic cocktails, mocktails, beer, wine and coffee. During the week, happy hour is from 4 to 7 p.m.

and live music is offered on the weekends.

Contegra’s renovation features elegant finishes, including recessed and vaulted ceilings accented with gold paneling and brightened with ornate chandeliers. Vibrant tile floor patterns enliven the nail bar. The Nail Bar also features a video wall and a state-of-the-art audiovisual system. The lounge area features darker flooring, a black Cambria Quartz bar top, velvet seating and a 2,000-square-foot outdoor patio area with fire pits. Gamblin adds that seasonal aromas, fresh flowers, music and more create a soothing experience throughout the lounge and nail bar.

The inviting entry features a white EIFS façade, a seamless black metal roof, Champaign bronze metal panels and a glass curtainwall to flood the interior with natural light. The 15-foot clearstory entrance is ornamented with a large chandelier.

“Contegra did a great job delivering on my vision, effectively managing the budget and the work of subcontractors,” said Gamblin.

Joining Contegra on the project were EXO Lounge designer Shannon Petrou Design, Nail Bar designer Chris Grodeon and Ponto Solutions, designer of the video wall and audiovisual system.

Based in Edwardsville, Contegra serves a national customer base that includes industrial, institutional, municipal, medical, multi-family, office and retail projects. Its capabilities include building developer- and owner-driven projects and site development.

Siteman Cancer Center important for region, IMPACT Strategies says

By DENNIS GRUBAUGH

It was a proud moment in January when IMPACT Strategies officials stood with hospital and civic leaders to formally open the new Siteman Cancer Center in Shiloh.

It was a project nearly a year in construction and represents significant inroads for cancer treatment in Southern Illinois.

“For IMPACT, that was one of our most proud moments, knowing how this facility will affect many lives in the future,” said Mike Michael, the project manager on the \$25 million project, which is located on the grounds of Memorial East Hospital, 1418 Cross St.

IMPACT Strategies, which is based in Fairview Heights, served as general contractor.

Siteman is based at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and the new location is Siteman’s sixth in the region.

Siteman Cancer Center provides oncology services and allows patients to participate in clinical trials. Siteman offers 450 therapeutic trials evaluating innovative cancer therapies.

Michael said IMPACT’s work began in January 2019 and wrapped up in December 2019.

“We constructed approximately two acres of parking for the new facility and built the new Medical Office Building 2 for the Siteman Center for BJC,” he said. The project is approximately 70,000 square feet and is a three-story masonry building, across the parking lot from Memorial

Hospital East. It directly connects to Medical Office Building 1, which was one of the challenges for the contractors.

MOB 2 contains Siteman, some BJC services, WashU Physicians working with the Siteman Center and leased space.

IMPACT Strategies has done several medical buildings, as well as other projects with BJC, but this one was sizeable and included IMPACT’s first linear accelerator project, which involved preparation to install the all-important cancer-treatment equipment.

“They are very precise units, and we poured 5-foot thick concrete walls and ceilings to contain the radiation inside the vault,” Michael said.

Noise, dust, and infectious control were all issues that had to be dealt with during construction of the building, which was designed by Archimages of St. Louis.

Some 35 subcontractors worked on the project. The amount of manhours on the project was over 80,000.

“The overall project was on an expedited schedule, and we met their timetable. We had a really good team and partnered with BJC to provide 25 percent minority participation on the job site.”

The first floor of the building contains BJC, WashU, Siteman and pharmacy operations, as well as a patient infusion area that overlooks a healing garden, providing a serene setting to view during treatment.

The second floor is outfitted for BJC primary physicians, and the third floor is set up for leasing.





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