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## *Playing the Waiting Game...*

“Let’s get this show on the road” is one of my three year old granddaughter’s signature expressions. It is becoming a favorite around here, too, as we move through the numerous approvals and inspections that precede a construction undertaking like ours. So this week, let’s take a closer look.

So far, our project has passed through various departments of the city for building permits and fire marshal approvals. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations reviewed compliance with Texas Accessibility Standards, and we did have to move several walls to enlarge restrooms, as a result of their review. The Health Department is currently reviewing the kitchen equipment and layouts, and the Fort Worth DDRB (Downtown Design Review Board) has approved exterior changes. For most projects, that would be it, but we have one more hurdle—DADS.

The James L West Center is licensed as a nursing facility through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), and carries an additional certification for Alzheimer’s care. That means several fat books of regulations to comply with, through DADS and through the NFPA 101 (National Fire Protection Agency). All of our project partners were chosen for their knowledge of architectural safety, health and design elements that have to be met under DADS and the NFPA, and the teams have spent hours ensuring that the details match up. But “household” nursing facility projects are new to Texas, and approvals are slow and painstaking. Our plans are at DADS now, and are expected to be reviewed within the next two to three weeks. DADS will then send their list of changes, we will amend our plans accordingly, and we will be on our way!

So, like true love or a fine wine, our project takes time and is worth waiting for. But we would sure like to “Get this show on the road!”

*Susan Farris, Executive Director*