

Sterling Drug Brings a Pharmacy Back to Adrian

By Kristine Kern, *Nobles County Review*, Staff Writer

After over a year of planning and paperwork, Adrian, MN, will once again have a pharmacy on Maine Street. Sterling Drug will be opening its telepharmacy in the Government Building on Tuesday, June 2.

Bryan Hagen will be the pharmacist in charge. Bryan has been a pharmacist with Sterling Drug since 1990 and works in the store in Worthington, MN. The face that customers will become the most familiar with is Karen Erpestad. Karen is the Pharmacy Technician who will be putting prescriptions together for customers. Karen has been a Pharmacy Technician for 30 years. Karen lives in Lakefield and is currently working at the Worthington Store.

Karen will be filling prescriptions under the video supervision of Bryan Hagen. Four video cameras are placed in the pharmacy that Bryan can view from his location in Worthington. When Karen fills a prescription, she photographs the pills, bottle, and prescription for Bryan to double check. Karen can communicate with Bryan anytime through a set of earphones and microphone. Bryan can consult with a customer through a video screen and headphones. Bryan plans to be at the pharmacy one day a week or more if he feels it is needed.

City of Adrian Administrator Bruce Heitkamp contacted Bryan Hagen of Sterling Drug in March of 2008, exploring the possibility of getting a pharmacy back in Adrian. The use of telepharmacy was suggested and Bruce and Bryan began work on licenses, filling out paperwork, and getting computers together. Bruce and Bryan agree it has been a long process but they are excited to see their project up and running. Bruce Heitkamp is still working on getting future grants for the city to apply to the pharmacy. Bruce commented, "The council



Pharmacy Technician Karen Erpestad and Pharmacist Bryan Hagen stand by the video monitor that customers will use to consult with Bryan who will be supervising Karen and certifying prescriptions from another facility.

and I would like to thank the whole Sterling family and especially Karen and Bryan for all they have done for us." Bryan Hagen states, "We are excited to be in Adrian. This is a great town for our first telepharmacy venture."

The pharmacy will fill prescriptions and will have over-the-counter medications available. Bryan stresses that if something is requested that they don't currently have in the pharmacy, they can order it in for next day delivery. Sterling Drug will also be able to provide durable medical equipment for home healthcare such as wheelchairs, walkers, diabetic accessories, etc. The pharmacy will be open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The phone number is 507-483-2332.

ScriptPro®

Pharmacy Automation

5828 Reeds Road, Mission, KS 66202 ▪ 800.606.7628 ▪ www.scriptpro.com