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Adventist Bolingbrook brings cancer care closer

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By R.L. ANDERSON For The Sun

The development of a cancer program at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital has progressed to the point that, for almost all treatments, "patients no longer have to go downtown for their cancer care or research."

That statement was made by Dr. Donald Sweet, director of the Adventist Bolingbrook Cancer Program, in a report he forwarded to Mayor Roger Claar. Claar highlighted the report at the Aug. 25 meeting of the Bolingbrook Village Board.

"This is exciting news," Claar said as he summarized Sweet's report. "Heretofore cancer treatment was only available at downtown hospitals."

Several other hospitals offer cancer care to the area. Cancer treatment and research is available at Edward Cancer Centers in Naperville and Plainfield and at Rush-Copley Cancer Care Center in Aurora. Cancer treatment also is available at the Sister Theresa Cancer Care Center on the campus of Provena St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet and at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

Cancer treatment is not only available now in Bolingbrook, but it may be equal to that found in Chicago teaching hospitals, according to the report.

Sweet's report said "government statistics show that our patients achieve outcomes equal to the patients seen at Illinois universities."

Claar said Sweet has "instituted a medical oncology program for both inpatient and outpatient care, including the training of specialized nurses."

Another highlight, according to the doctor's report, is that Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital can now offer clinical research trials and cancer genetic counseling and testing.

Still under development at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital is a breast cancer center and a radiation therapy unit.

Sweet also told Claar the hospital hopes to develop a Wellness House or Gilda's Club "for the support of the distressed patient and family members."