

Pines getting an about-face makeover of sorts

By **SUSAN CORICA**
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL — The Pines at Bristol is undergoing a makeover that will move the front entrance to the back of the building and bring more privacy to patients and more parking spaces to the neighborhood.

The skilled nursing facility at 61 Bellevue Ave. is one of the oldest and largest in the city, according to Administrator Krista Wagner. It began the biggest renovation in its 40-year history late last year with the acquisition of two houses on nearby Session Street, which

The Bellevue entrance will eventually be closed with a new entrance opening up in what is now the back.

were demolished to build a new parking lot with 50 spots.

The new lot joins the existing parking area on Session Street, but the Bellevue entrance will eventually be closed with a new entrance opening up in what is now the back. However, the street address will remain the same, Wagner said.

The existing 50,000-square-foot building is getting a new addition of about 10,000 square feet, said Peter

Gavin, director of building and grounds.

The addition will house a new lobby, administration, and recre-

ation and rehabilitation rooms, he said.

"It's about a two-year project. We're about eight months into it now," he said. "Most of what's been done so far has been on the new building and the parking lot."

The new addition will free up the existing four-story building to be devoted to residential rooms.

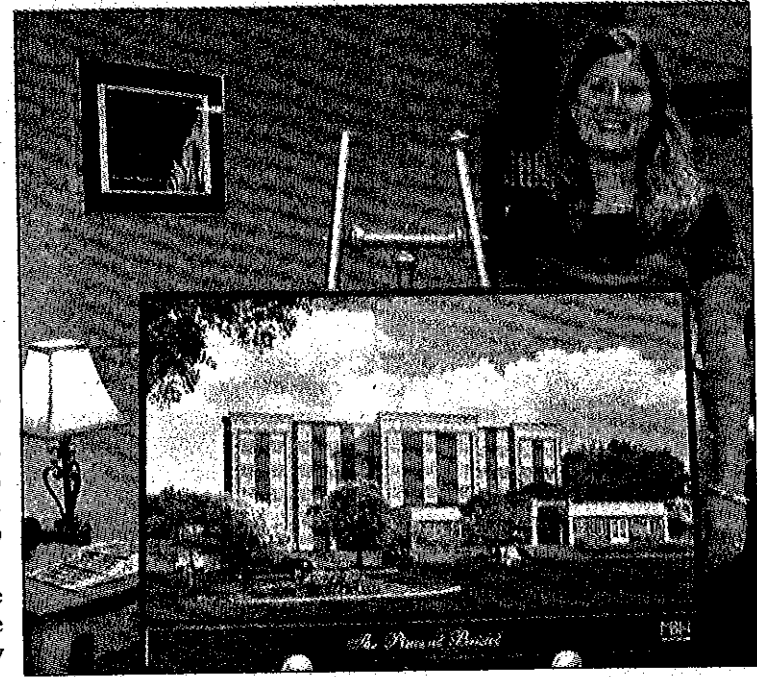
"We're going to have 18 private rooms total and eliminate all our four-bed rooms," Wagner said. "Right now we're able to accommodate 23 short-term rehab residents and that will increase to 30 by the end of this year. Long-term residents will go from 109 to 102."

The entire building will also be redone inside, from upgrading the elevators and utilities to all new wallpaper and furniture, she said.

The interior work will be done as non-intrusively as possible, in small sections, Wagner said.

"The residents may move rooms for a week or two at a time while their regular rooms are being done," she said.

Right now the facility only has



Kayla Adams

Administrator Krista Wagner displays The Pines' future architectural plans.

three private rooms, with 15 more being added, and more rooms changing to two-bed rooms, said Terry Jones, director of admissions/marketing.

"We're trying to make it more

home-like. Nowadays, people want more privacy, with all the amenities of home," she said.

For more information about the Pines at Bristol, visit www.pinesbristol.com.