

# Olympic to move Into Barkley Village site

BY DAVE GALLAGHER

After more than a year of searching, Olympic Health Management will have a new home by next spring - a four-story, \$4.7 million building built by Talbot Real Estate across the street from Barkley Village.

Construction will begin this month on the 72,000-square-foot building, located at 2219 Rimland Dr., just east of the existing Haggen Talbot office building. Olympic Health Manage-

ment will occupy three of the four floors. Other tenants are currently being sought to move into the remaining spaces.

Finding a new facility has been a priority for Olympic since the company's headquarters, the Civic Center building at 322 N. Commercial St., was purchased by the county in June 1997, for \$3.26 million. Olympic's lease for the building was slated to expire on May 31, but has been extended by the county

for another year, at which time the company will then move into the new building, said Dick Warren, vice president of finance and administration for Olympic.

## No time to spare

Despite the deadline pressure, the new building is a perfect fit for Olympic, said Warren.

"The new office building and the Barkley Village area simply met all our needs. The building meets our significant space requirement and future growth needs while accommodating our very tight time frame," Warren said.

The new Talbot building was designed by Ross & McClure architects; the contractor for the building is Impero Construction, according to building permits filed with the city on March 24. The structure will be just under 60 feet in

height. There will also be 271 parking spaces added near the building, bringing the total parking spaces in the area to 535.

"The second office building is an important part of the urban village plan," said Jim Talbot, owner of Talbot Real Estate. "The design will be similar to the existing Haggen Talbot building, but we have refined some of the features in the building that have evolved since the first project."

Jeff Kochman, president of Talbot Real Estate, said Olympic is a good fit for the new building because of their growth potential.

"They are growing, they serve a large market and their market is growing substantially. We were in a position to offer the company space in the new building that could meet their current and long-term needs. The timing couldn't have been better for both of us," Kochman said.

Olympic's niche in the medical industry is implementing and administering hospital-specific programs related to Medicare, as well as self-funded employee insurance plans. The company has 350 employees, with 180 at the Bellingham offices. The company first got started in

1988, and had revenues of about \$20 million in 1997. In September, the company became a subsidiary of the Aon Corporation.