

# Friends & Neighbors

updates about our new hospital and health campus

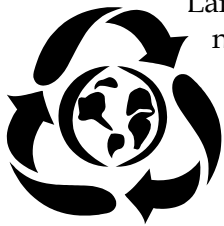
## Green building efforts move forward

Our green building efforts continue to move along. Our latest assessment shows RMH meeting and/or exceeding the minimum standards to be certified by the Green Building Council as a "LEED" certified building.

We remain steadfast in our commitment that all decisions for "green" will be based upon sound financial practices and customer service principles and will not add cost to the project.

## A "green" energy solution . . .

We continue to see promise in the concept of burning methane gas produced by the County Landfill for our fuel source for the new hospital. Discussions are ongoing and progress is being made, according to Dennis Coffman, director, Facilities Planning and Development.



"It helps us and the County,"

Coffman explained. "They have to get rid of the methane off the landfill, and we can procure energy at a cheaper rate. Methane is a renewable energy source. We would be helping to get rid of something that our society produces that has an impact on our environment. It's a winning proposition all the way around."

## County approves height variance

On August 16, the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors approved the hospital's request for a height variance for the new hospital.

The variance was needed because County regulations restrict the height of structures in B1 zoning to a maximum of 60 feet. The hospital will be 105 feet when built (5 stories) with the potential to add two floors at some future time if and when needed, taking the total height to 150 feet.

"The potential height of the building impacts the needed infrastructure. We needed to know now, as we lay the foundation for the new hospital, whether we would be able to add floors," explained Dennis Coffman, director, Facilities Planning and Development. "We are pleased to have this approval so we can move forward."

*RMH committed to being a good neighbor and intends to focus on efforts to preserve pleasant views for those who live in direct line-of-sight of the new hospital.*

## Hundreds attend groundbreaking and site dedication June 20

A crowd of some 500 employees, volunteers, physicians and community members gathered on the new site June 20 for a dedication and groundbreaking.

If you were not able to attend but would like to see highlights from this important occasion, go to [rmhonline](http://rmhonline) to see a short highlight video clip. You can hear Dr. William Cale sing "Oh, Shenandoah" and watch hospital officials, with help from six special "RMH Kids," turn the first shovels of dirt!

If you are interested in having a video of the entire ceremony, call HealthSource at 433-4580.

## COPN Update

Our Certificate of Public Need for the new hospital was submitted in early July. The next step is a public hearing at the local level on Sept. 27. This meeting – time and location to be announced – will be hosted by the Northwestern Virginia Health Systems Agency, the regional organization responsible for application review.

We thank those who have expressed their support in various ways during this process and invite you to attend this hearing in support of the new hospital.

## Progress being made on sewer line to serve new hospital site

Rockingham County has received approval from its regulatory agencies for the location of the new sewer line to serve our campus. We will be receiving (along with other landowners) a request for right of way from the County in late August to allow sewer pipes to be laid across the property.

## Bovis representatives introduced at neighborhood meeting July 10

At a neighborhood meeting held July 10, residents met Duke Rose and Boney Jones, the new hospital construction project managers from Bovis Lend Lease.

Around 35 people attended the meeting at the First Church of the Nazarene. Hospital officials gave an update on project planning, answered questions, and informed residents about the zoning variance for the height of the new hospital (see related article at left).

Duke and Boney explained the construction timeline and how the work site would be handled. Both are committed to a safe, clean work site and to keeping open lines of communication with our neighbors. Boney would like for all neighbors to be able to access him with any questions or concerns about activity on the site. His cell phone number for this purpose is 540-295-1352.

## Mass grading to begin soon

We have received approval from Rockingham County for our mass grading permit. This means we can begin to do major earth-moving on the site, and this activity should begin in early September. Watch for the bulldozers and other big machinery to be digging in.



## Wayfinding group tours hospitals

The RMH new facility Wayfinding Team is working hard (in conjunction with our architectural consultants) to develop:

- A site wayfinding plan
- Campus circulation patterns
- Floor and room numbering schemes
- Interior and exterior sign packages

To help the team better understand best practices in wayfinding, members made site visits to seven hospitals in Virginia and Maryland. Team members Juanita Allen, Beverly Eye, Jay Morgan-Bungard, Steve Nelson, Natalie Rinaca, and Deb Thompson battled monsoon-like rains from a tropical storm to tour each of these facilities over a two-day period in late June.

Hospitals visited were Augusta Medical Center, UVa Medical Center, Memorial Regional Medical Center, Mary Washington Hospital, Anne Arundel Medical Center, Virginia Hospital Center, and Winchester Medical Center.

In addition to the team objectives listed above, some other items of interest the team reviewed at the hospitals were:

- Whether valet or concierge services were offered
- The number of patient entrances and how the traffic patterns worked for each
- Use of electronic kiosk systems
- Whether volunteers or employees staffed entrances and parking lots
- Site maps provided to patients and visitors
- How donor recognition was displayed in lobbies

One important piece of feedback from hospital staff at these hospitals was the importance of involving patients in our design meetings to ensure our ideas are customer friendly. The team intends to use many of the ideas learned on this trip to help enhance the new facility design.

## What's going on right now with the new hospital planning?

The new hospital design process consists of three phases: **schematic design, design development, and construction documents**. The **schematic design** phase was almost complete at the end of June when two issues surfaced.

First, we received revised budget estimates for the latest plans. These estimates were higher than we expected. Therefore, the Destination Health Executive Team was asked by the Board of Directors to take another look at how the project could be completed less expensively; that is, within the allotted budget.

Second, as the DH Executive Team was examining the cost estimates, it also decided to review one more time the overall new hospital plans to ensure that the hospital's major strategic initiatives were being met.

Over the past two months, both of these issues were under review in conjunction with our architects (ESa) and our contractor (Bovis). At the end of this review, we made several major revisions to our plans. Most of these revisions involved department relocations. One of our goals was to create more of a presence for our growing Heart and Vascular Services program, which is strategically and operationally important to our mission and to the success of the new hospital. We will be able to share the new plans when they are finalized in a few months.

Because of the number of project cost reduction ideas that have been accepted by the DH Executive Team, and the decisions made by the DH Executive Team regarding relocation of certain services, we have been able to reduce project costs to meet our budget. The ESa design team has collaborated with the DH Executive Team on this process over the past two months and is now developing detailed plans for these changes.

The architects will be back at RMH in late August to meet with hospital team members and finalize the schematic designs for revised areas.

**Design development** meetings with staff and physicians will begin in September. This phase entails locating outlets and sinks, defining door swings and working out other details of how the space will be used. This phase will take about five months to complete.

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**Questions/feedback? Email us at [destinationhealth@rhcc.com](mailto:destinationhealth@rhcc.com)**