



What's Ahead for 2010?



Project Completion

- **Building Occupancy**—RMH will receive a certificate of temporary occupancy in February, before onsite staff orientation begins. RMH should receive a certificate of permanent occupancy May 21.
- **General and Department Orientation**—From late April to early June, around 3,000 people, including RMH employees, volunteers, physicians and practice staff, will receive orientation to the new hospital. General orientation will familiarize staff with the new hospital, life safety, department locations and new telephone system. Many will also receive a department orientation.
- **Patient Move Day**—June 22 is the official opening date for patient care at the new facility, although many administrative and support departments will move earlier. The Emergency Department at the new hospital will open at 7 a.m. on June 22, and RMH will move all inpatients on that one day. Officials anticipate transferring about 110 patients with the help of around 20 rescue squads over the course of 10 hours.



The front lobby of the new RMH hospital takes shape. The new hospital is on track to welcome employees this spring for orientation and community members in June for open house events prior to opening for business June 22.

Community Events

- **Employee Sneak Peek**—Many RMH employees will get an opportunity to see the new hospital interior for the first time on March 20, with mini-tours of general public areas and key clinical areas. Register through RMH HealthSource at 433-4580. Employees must bring their RMH badge.
- **Community Preview**—The community is invited to a preview event at 6 p.m. March 23 at the Harrisonburg First Church of the Nazarene on Port Republic Road, near the new hospital. The presentation will include a “virtual tour” of the building and remarks from RMH President and CEO Jim Krauss as well as hospital planning officials. For more information or to register for the Community Preview, call RMH HealthSource at 433-4580 or e-mail destinationhealth@rhcc.com.
- **Open Houses**—RMH employees are invited to attend an open house Saturday, June 5. A public ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house will be held on Sunday, June 6. Look for more information coming soon!



RMH Awarded \$500,000 Biomass Energy Grant for Methane Boilers

RMH was recently awarded a \$583,868 Biomass Energy Grant by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to retrofit two of the new hospital's boilers to burn methane gas.

One of the new hospital's boilers is already equipped to burn methane gas from the neighboring Rockingham County landfill; the grant will allow RMH to retrofit the second and third boilers to run on methane. In addition to the new hospital, any future structures on the campus could use methane as a fuel source, said Dennis Coffman, director, Facilities Planning and Development.

"From the start of planning to build the new hospital and health campus, RMH has remained committed to sustainability," Coffman said. "This initiative will save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide a market for a local renewable energy source. It is a win-win for the community and RMH. In addition, because we are a non-profit, our cost savings translate into increased value for our patients."

Coffman noted that RMH is on track to become the first hospital in Virginia, and possibly on the East Coast, to achieve U.S. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification, due to sustainability initiatives such as using methane fuel, recycling more than 80 percent of construction waste, using energy-saving design and fixtures and working to manage wetlands on the new hospital campus.

"We are pleased to learn that the state of Virginia has offered support for our commitment toward sustainability," said Paul Ketron, Facilities Management director. "This recognition affirms our leading-edge efforts to reduce dependency on non-renewable fuel sources."

To start, RMH will use at least 65 percent of the methane gas produced by the Rockingham County landfill. The gas is a byproduct of waste, and otherwise would be burned and released into the atmosphere, Coffman said.

Retrofitting the boilers allows them to be tri-fuel boilers; they can burn methane gas, natural gas, and diesel fuel, he said.

"The plan is for all the boilers to use as much methane gas as possible, with natural gas and diesel fuel as a backup," Coffman said. "This will reduce our consumption of, and dependence on, fossil fuels, and also will allow RMH to be a haven for the community in the event of a natural disaster."

The grant from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Funding is funded by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Energy Program.



Outgoing Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine talks with Cindy Reeves, senior grant writer, RMH Market Development following a Jan. 14 press conference. Kaine announced \$10 million in biomass energy grants funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Energy Program, including the award to RMH. Reeves wrote the application for the grant.

Project Update

At the new hospital site, workers are checking all systems at the hospital for operability, as well as checking "punch list" items—whether doors swing the right way, the emergency outlets work, outlet covers are not crooked and there are no tears in the wallpaper, according to Dennis Coffman, director, Facilities Planning and Development. "This is extremely intense work," he said. "There are thousands of outlets to test, for example. It's amazing how detailed it gets."



- 1) CCU corridor
- 2) Kitchen at the Mountain View Café
- 3) Mountain View Café