



RMH Commemorates “Topping Out” of New Hospital

Rockingham Memorial Hospital celebrated the completion of the steel placement phase of construction on its new hospital with a “topping out” ceremony April 3.

“Topping out” is a ceremony in which the final steel beam is hoisted into place, signifying the completion of the building’s steel structure. In the high-steel trade, it announces that the construction has reached the sky without loss of life or serious injury.

“This is a big deal,” said Dennis Coffman, director, facilities planning and development. “The building is now as tall as it is going to be, and workers can begin to put on the roof and exterior. It’s an important day for everyone involved.”

Hundreds of RMH employees, volunteers, physicians, Board members and construction workers signed the “topping out” beam before it was raised and placed onto the structure. A crowd of nearly 50 onlookers, along with hundreds of construction workers, watched as the 8-foot beam, painted white and covered with signatures, was hoisted into place, adorned with a traditional evergreen tree and American flag.

“The topping out is an exciting moment in our hospital’s history and an important milestone in this construction project,” said RMH President and CEO Jim Krauss. “We now look forward to the next phase of construction as we move toward completion of the community’s new hospital.”

For construction workers, who broke ground in June 2006,

Images show the final steel beam hoisted into place in an April 3 ceremony. Bottom right, RMH President and CEO Jim Krauss adds his signature to the beam. Photos by Tommy Thompson.

it is also a momentous occasion and a celebration of nearly two years’ work with no lost-time injuries.

“We’re very pleased,” said George Moses, senior superintendent, Bovis Lend Lease, the project construction manager. “We’re very excited we’ve gone this far with no lost time accidents. The workers are proud to be giving the community something that it needs.”



New RMH Health Campus to be Named in Honor of Retired President and CEO Carter Melton and Connie Graham Melton

RMH officials announced March 30 that the grounds for the new RMH hospital will be named in honor of recently retired President and CEO Carter Melton Jr. and his wife, Connie Graham Melton.

The announcement was made during a reception to honor Carter for 34 years of service to RMH and the greater healthcare community. Melton retired March 31.

RMH Board Chair Barbara Stoltzfus noted, "Naming the grounds for Carter and Connie is a fitting tribute to their love of the land and many years of involvement with local 4-H, gardening and agriculture. The natural beauty will serve as a reminder to their dedication to RMH and the surrounding community."

The hospital, under construction on the 254-acre health campus, is slated for completion in mid-2010.



Carter Melton and his wife Connie admire a painting of the new hospital presented to them during the March 30 retirement celebration at the Harrisonburg Country Club.

BUILDING GREEN

RMH Featured in Virginia Business Magazine

Rockingham Memorial Hospital's efforts to build a "green" facility for a second century of service were highlighted in the April issue of Virginia Business magazine.

The article, titled "Harrisonburg Hospital Trying to Obtain Environmental Certification for Building," was part of the magazine's "green" issue. The article emphasized RMH's hopes of obtaining a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating certification for the new hospital, becoming the first hospital in Virginia and only the second in the nation to achieve LEED certification.

Also highlighted are environmentally friendly features already built into the project, including heating and cooling efficiencies, additional green space, reduction of light pollution, wetland management, recycling debris and negotiations to use methane gas from the Rockingham County Landfill as a power source for the facility.



Did You Know?

By the Numbers...

The new facility will feature:

- Over 11,000 light fixtures
- 585,000 bricks
- 1,730 sinks and toilets
- 1.4 million pounds of ductwork
- 780 miles of copper wire
- 50 miles of plumbing pipes
- 150,000 linear feet of walls

