



"This is Everyone's Hospital"

When the new hospital opens in 2010, RMH employees will be well-trained and oriented to the facility and feel at home in their new work environment. Patients will be comfortable and feel they are getting excellent care and service in a beautiful, calm, safe setting. Physicians will be well-oriented to the facility and feel their needs were anticipated and successfully met so they can continue to deliver outstanding patient care.

That's the commitment of the Transition Planning Education and Orientation team, which includes team members from all areas of the hospital. And it's a big commitment! This team is responsible for ensuring that more than 2,000 RMH employees, along with scores of physicians, volunteers and community partners, receive orientation and training to work in the new facility.

So how do we get there? Chris Porto, director, Human Resource Development, and chair of the Education and Orientation team, says, "Our team sees the new hospital as belonging to everyone, from staff and physicians to patients and our community at large. It will take everyone's involvement to make the vision of the new hospital come true. We will be reaching out to every group both internally and externally to get input and engage them in the education and orientation process."

The Education and Orientation team is already planning training sessions to orient employees to the new hospital. Class schedules will start in late 2009 through the first two quarters of 2010. "We want to make sure we're training employees on everything from using a new piece of equipment to where to park," Porto says. "We will do everything we possibly can to empower staff to feel fully oriented and fully functional from the very first day in this new environment."

The Education and Orientation team also will be involving emergency responders, police, fire departments, nursing homes, funeral homes and other key partners to make sure they get contact information, updates and orientation in working with RMH at its new facility. "We want to be good community partners with those we serve," says Janis Gregg, transition team coordinator and project manager for the Education and Orientation Team.

"Obviously this transition is a big challenge, but we have great confidence it can also be a lot of fun," Porto says. "We are here to help staff adapt to the changes and feel excited and proud of our new home."



Photos courtesy of Merv Webb

Project Update—Completion Status

- Bricklaying: 80-85 percent
- Glass: 15-20 percent
- Metal studs for drywall: 60-70 percent
- Roof placement: 70 percent
- Workers are preparing to lay gravel and a base coat of asphalt on the "ring road" around the site, now that major underground work is complete.

GOING GREEN

A Greener Kind of Clean

When the new hospital opens in mid-2010, it will be “green” in many ways—from energy-saving light fixtures and water faucets to environmentally friendly paint, carpet and building materials. But not only will the building be environmentally friendly, the way that we work in the new facility will be greener too, thanks to the efforts of RMH Environmental Services.

Director Bernie Ferguson and Manager Ken Hollihan requested that vendor Buckeye International, Inc. help RMH switch to environmentally friendly cleaning products at our current facility, so that these products will already be in use and familiar to staff when the new hospital opens.

David McCarty of Buckeye International, Inc. visited RMH in mid-August to introduce the new products to Environmental Services staff. The products are already being phased in throughout the hospital. McCarty explained that RMH will be using products that have a stamp of approval from Green Seal, a third-party evaluation agency.

These products are better not only for the environment, but also for employees and patients, since they contain no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and no fragrance. In addition, the products are biodegradable, recyclable, noncombustible and are not tested on animals. Disinfectants—mostly used in restrooms—are not available as “green” products, due to their nature, but all other products used at RMH will be Green Seal approved.

Using “green” cleaners will help RMH toward achieving LEED certification of its new facility, without additional cost to the hospital. “Buckeye International is embracing green products, so our cost should stay same,” said Ferguson. “Going green with our cleaning products will help the hospital achieve its goal and it will be safer for our staff and our patients.”



Ken Hollihan, manager, Environmental Services (left) and Bernie Ferguson, director, Environmental Services (right), requested environmentally friendly cleaning products from vendor Buckeye International, Inc. David McCarty of Buckeye (center) visited RMH recently to introduce the new products to Environmental Services staff. The presentation was followed by a celebration, complete with green ice cream.

Q&A

Q: I've been hearing that the state of Virginia won't be able to fund work on the Stone Spring connector until 2010. Isn't traffic going to get backed up on Port Republic when the new hospital opens?

A: Several requests for funding to get roads surrounding the site widened by 2010 have fallen through due to state budget cuts for Virginia Department of Transportation projects. While it would be our first choice to get state funding to complete the Stone Spring connector road by the time the new hospital opens, we do have other options.

One option may be building the Stone Spring connector road using a Transportation Partnership Opportunity Funding grant. With this type of grant, private and public entities partner to build a public service, in this case roadways, with their investment repaid by the state. Rockingham County has applied for this grant and the application is under review with the state of Virginia.

Another option, though less desirable, is for RMH to fund temporary improvements to entrances and intersections at a cost of \$350,000 to \$500,000. Unfortunately, these improvements, including extra turn lanes and stop lights, would have to be taken out when the state makes planned improvements after the new hospital opens. However, we are committed to ensuring adequate access to the new facility for our community. If necessary, RMH will fund the temporary improvements to add acceleration, deceleration and turn lanes to make sure everyone can get to the new hospital as safely and easily as possible and that, as good neighbors, we do all that we can to prevent traffic flow from overwhelming the area.

“We are continuing efforts to get the road improvements completed as quickly as we can,” said Dennis Coffman, director, RMH Facilities Planning and Development. “We completed a detailed traffic study to show what improvements to entrances and intersections must be in place when the hospital opens, and we will ensure that these improvements are made.”

