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(1) Late season flowers bloom in front of the new hospital building
(2) Front entrance to the new hospital (3) Front entrance lobby

RMH Employees Visit New Hospital Site

In the month of October, more than 75 RMH team members took advantage of the opportunity to tour the new hospital site by bus. In addition, physicians and department leaders involved in various planning processes took walking tours inside the building specific to their work areas. Employees can look forward to an onsite event in May 2009 when construction is more complete and the weather is warmer. Look for more tours for staff throughout the coming year as we get closer to our opening day in June 2010!

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Q&A Roads and Access

- Q: Will there be an entrance from Boyers Road to the new hospital?**
A: RMH does not have immediate plans to develop an access point from Boyers Road. This entrance has been shown on site maps as a possibility to accommodate future growth, said Dennis Coffman, director, RMH Facilities Planning and Development. "As our campus develops, over the coming years, that could be an entrance," he said. "The road is marked to give an idea of the future of the whole campus, as we map out utility lines and think about where buildings could go in the future. But we currently have no plans for a Boyers entrance to be developed."
- Q: Will employees and visitors be bussed in from offsite parking locations?**
A: No! We will have ample onsite parking for staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and visitors. The new health campus has nearly 2,000 parking spaces, compared with 1,200 spaces at its current facility. However, RMH is planning to offer a courtesy shuttle to assist visitors within the parking lots on the new hospital campus. "There's not going to be a bussing system where we would park employees or patients offsite," Coffman said. "The shuttle would be onsite for customer convenience, to take visitors from their car door to the hospital entrance. The public also will be able to access the new hospital with a Harrisonburg Public Transit drop-off point. We're doing everything possible to make parking and transportation of utmost convenience for our patients, visitors and employees."
- Q: Will there be a parking deck on the new campus?**
A: No. RMH has planned a significant increase in parking spaces at its new campus to accommodate the community's growing needs as well as our staff's needs. However, should we ever need to increase parking, or grow our campus, the current configuration of parking lots is the best way to allow for that growth, Coffman explained. "Because of the construction requirements of a parking deck, you can't ever convert that into office space," Coffman said. "You'd have to tear it down, at a significant expense. With ground level parking, if we needed to add either additional spaces, or another building, we have greater flexibility for land use."

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Q&A Transition Planning

Q: Will there be a change in RMH services?

A: Our core medical and surgical services will remain the same, but we will continue to look at ways to improve the way we offer those services. One significant "process improvement" will be the switch to having most medications secured in the patient rooms, said Judith Trumbo, transition planning director.

"Nurses will access medications in the patient room, rather than from medication carts," she said. "Medications for each patient will be in a locked cabinet in that patient's room. The medications will be verified at the bedside. This is a best practice for patient safety and nurse efficiency."

Trumbo said there will be other opportunities for service expansion in the new facility, particularly for surgical services.

According to Lori Robertson, director, Perioperative Services, "We'll have much more procedural space. Ultimately, that means we can expand the number of minor surgical procedures we perform, and there should be less waiting time for such procedures, including ophthalmology, gastroenterology and pulmonary interventions."

Q: Will there be changes to dietary services?

A: The official name of the dining area at the new hospital was recently decided. The Mountain View Café will be located on the lower level of the new facility. The café will feature towering wall-to-wall windows, said Ellen Barrett, director, Food and Nutrition Services.

"It's going to be absolutely beautiful," she said. "Patrons will have a clear view of the Massanutten peak. There will be grand stairs descending from the first floor, along with an indoor water feature and an outside dining area. The café will have several stations: deli, pizza, panini, grille, innovation (live cooking demonstrations), hot entrée, dessert, beverage and salad bar. We will continue to use the local vendors who currently supply our dairy and produce."

Barrett said plans are also underway for a coffee station on the first floor at the front entrance of the hospital, with operating hours slated for 6 a.m.-8 p.m. An official name has not been announced. "It will be very upscale, with full-bodied European-style coffee," she said. "The menu will include desserts, cookies, fresh fruit, yogurt and an assortment of sandwiches and salads."

Inpatients will continue to receive a spoken menu, with a choice between a hot and cold entrée. "We are actually re-writing patient menus right now," Barrett said.



(Above) Water feature and grand stairwell in the Mountain View Café.

(Right) The future windows looking out from the Mountain View Café.

All photos courtesy of Merv Webb, vice president, RMH Foundation



RMH Continues to Seek Local Art for Permanent Display at New Hospital and Health Campus

Already, more than 40 Shenandoah Valley area artists have submitted work for consideration to be displayed at the new RMH hospital and health campus set to open mid-2010, but art selectors would like to double or triple that number.

"We continue to seek artists' portfolio submissions," said Merv Webb, vice president, RMH Foundation, and co-chair of the art selection committee for the new hospital. "Of particular interest is three-dimensional artwork, including sculpture, mosaic, mobiles, ceramics and textiles. We would like to see more portfolios of three-dimensional work submitted for consideration."

He encouraged artists who work in two-dimensional media to continue submitting portfolios of their work. "We don't want to leave any stone unturned in the search," he said. "We continue to seek the talent of the local community to fill the new RMH hospital and health campus with artwork that conveys the history and beauty of the Shenandoah Valley."

Artists who do not wish to sell their original two-dimensional works for the permanent collection may submit pieces for RMH to consider purchasing the rights to professional reproduction as giclees (fine digital prints) for display, Webb said.

RMH is working with The Ambiance Group of Nashville, Tenn. to select artwork. To have work considered for display at the new hospital, artists should submit a portfolio that: a) conveys the style of the artist's work, b) includes digital images of artwork, c) includes artist biography and d) preferably comes in the form of a website or e-mail with attachments.

The deadline to submit a portfolio is June 30, 2009.

Portfolio submissions and all inquiries should be directed to Ginny Parker at ginnyp@ambianceart.com. For more information, visit www.ambianceart.com. To contact Parker by mail, write to The Ambiance Group, 6015 Neighborly Avenue, Nashville, Tenn., 37209.

Those who wish to make a monetary donation to add art to the permanent art collection of RMH may receive more information by contacting the RMH Foundation, (540) 564-5959.