



365 DAYS AND COUNTING! Celebrating Our Countdown to the New Hospital

June 22, 2009 marks an important date in RMH's voyage to "Destination Health." In just one year, RMH is scheduled to open the doors of its new facility at the corner of Port Republic Road and Reservoir Street.

Many departments will move into the building before this date, such as support services like environmental services and security. But June 22, 2010 is slated to be the official "doors-open" date for the community. In addition, all inpatients at the current facility will be moved to the new facility on this day with the help of EMS squads, fire and law enforcement crews, volunteers and RMH team members—all of whom will be trained to fill their important individual roles on patient move day.

"As major construction work wraps up by the end of the year, the focus will shift to staff training and orientation," said Judith Trumbo, transition planning director. "We are beginning to define a comprehensive orientation and training schedule for everyone involved—employees, physicians, volunteers and community partners."

Transition planning teams are beginning to use mock patient rooms at the new hospital to ensure that the room layouts are comfortable and safe for patients and efficient for clinicians. Equipment in the operating rooms and the emergency departments are currently being installed so that system testing can begin early 2010, Trumbo noted.

"A process we started in September 2004 is now only a year away," she said. "It hardly seems possible, but we're that close now. The excitement is beginning to build throughout the hospital and the community."

Top—A June view of the main entrance to the new RMH hospital and health campus, on track to open June 22, 2010.

Middle—Look at that view! A handful of mock patient rooms have been set up in the new facility to help with staff training and orientation.

Bottom—Cabinetry has been installed in many areas, including the Pharmacy, pictured here.



RMH Purchases First Artwork for New Hospital

Shenandoah artist Jane Skafte's work titled "Heart" has become the first piece selected for the permanent artwork collection of the new RMH facility, scheduled to open mid-2010.

The piece is on display as part of the sixth annual Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community Juried Multimedia Art Exhibition being held May 31-July 5. RMH entered a purchase award agreement, which entitles a buyer to purchase a piece of art before the show's opening, said Merv Webb, vice president, RMH Foundation, and co-chair of the art selection committee for the new hospital.

"The VMRC show represents some of the finest artists in our region," Webb said. "We felt it was a natural place to begin in making a local purchase of art. In our selection process, we were immediately attracted to the picture 'Heart.' The title 'Heart' speaks to not only to our mission as a hospital to promote physical healing, but also to the heart we put into caring for our patients."

Webb said the painting's contemporary style and bold hues fit well into the innovative design of the new facility.

Skafte, who previously taught design and drawing at JMU, has worked as product development manager for the Monticello catalog and museum shop in Charlottesville since 2005. She earned a dual MA/MFA in fiber arts and textile design from Syracuse University, and completed her bachelor's in fine arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"I am delighted that RMH has selected 'Heart' for display at its new campus," she said. "The heart is the highest recognized symbol of love in the human consciousness. The more love we experience, the healthier we get. I hope that the painting will contribute to people's health and well-being, and am delighted that it was selected to hang in the new hospital."

So far more than 100 local artists have submitted portfolios for consideration for the permanent art collection at the new hospital, Webb said. The Ambiance Group of Nashville, Tenn., is working with RMH and its architect to select artwork, he said.

Artists may submit a portfolio by contacting Ginny Parker of The Ambiance Group at ginnyp@ambianceart.com or 615-353-0723.



Members of the art selection committee for the new hospital take a glance at the first piece of artwork purchased for the permanent collection of RMH, entitled "Heart," a watercolor by Shenandoah artist Jane Skafte. Pictured, from left, are Audrey Ziegler, Judith Strickler and Merv Webb, vice president, RMH Foundation. The piece is on display at the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community's sixth annual Juried Multimedia Art Exhibition until July 5.

Project Update

- The laboratory and pharmacy cabinetry installation has been completed.
- Overhead lights and equipment booms are being installed in all operating rooms.
- Major construction work on the new hospital is scheduled for completion by the end of 2009.
- All elevators but one are in place and functional. To save on wear, only one elevator will be used until the hospital opens.
- Placement of structural steel for the medical office building will begin in August.
- The natural gas line will be complete and in use by the end of June.
- Installation of the methane gas line from the Rockingham County landfill will begin in June and be complete by the end of October.
- Bids for interior and exterior signage were sent out in early June.
- RMH officials are meeting with JMU officials to develop a handover process for items such as medical equipment removal, utility shut downs, building orientation and training.
- RMH has sent out to bid for road work to enhance entrances from Reservoir Street and Port Republic Road. This bid package includes the grading and construction of the Stone Spring extender across RMH property.



- The Port Republic Road VDOT project has received \$22.1 million from federal stimulus funding, said Dennis Coffman, Facilities Planning and Development director. "This project has been fast-tracked," he said. "VDOT has assured us that they will work closely with us to ensure traffic flows smoothly for the hospital until the road work is completed." Plans call for VDOT to complete the widening of Port Republic Road from the city limits to Boyers Road by Nov. 30, 2011. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2010.
- The draft of VDOT's six-year plan—currently under review—shows that TPOF (Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund) grant money will be awarded to fund the Stone Spring extender, Coffman said, but RMH is awaiting official confirmation. "This, too, is being closely monitored for any new developments," he said.