

destination Health

updates about our new RMH Hospital and Health Campus



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*Left: A construction worker makes his way across the cafeteria roof.
Right: A view showing the southwest side of the new hospital building.
Photos by Allen Litten.*

NEW CAMPUS PROGRESS...

What's Ahead for 2009?

In just 18 months, the new RMH hospital and health campus will welcome the community. Here's what will be happening over the next year.

Paving and Road Improvements

Base paving on health campus parking lots and roads will be complete in April. In addition, work is planned to improve entrances to the hospital at Port Republic Road and Reservoir Street by adding acceleration and deceleration lanes, turn lanes and stop lights. The start of this work is pending a decision from the state of Virginia to fund additional road work. If funds are not approved, RMH plans to move ahead to improve entrances and exits on our own so that our guests can enter and exit safely, said Dennis Coffman, director, Facilities Planning and Development.

Major Construction Wrap-Up

By the end of this year, major construction should be complete on the new RMH facility, Coffman said. Throughout 2009, signage will begin to be placed inside and outside the hospital. Some interior finishes are already being installed including paint and ceiling grids in select areas. By early 2010, full interior finishes will be complete.

Medical Office Building Construction

Site grading is already complete for the medical office building that will connect to the new hospital. This building will house the RMH Hahn Cancer Center on the first level, and physician offices on upper levels. By the end of the year, the exterior will be complete, leaving time for tenant improvements beginning in 2010, Coffman said.

Placing "Owner-Installed Equipment"

As the hospital building's shell is complete and areas are enclosed this year, contractors will turn over the building to RMH piece by piece, and we will follow behind them to place "owner-installed equipment," according to Coffman. This includes things like paper towel holders, brackets for TVs, computer monitors, white boards and modular furniture—that is, non-medical equipment that our contractors are not responsible to install. In addition, computer and telephone connections will be hooked up and undergo testing.

Landscaping

RMH has selected Ann P. Stokes Landscape Architects of Norfolk, Va. to create a plan for landscaping the new RMH health campus outside the "ring road," the one-mile road circling campus, Coffman said. Stokes' firm has created plans for commercial and educational institutions throughout Virginia and the East coast, including the JMU landscaping master plan. The campus of the new RMH hospital includes various habitats, including forest, farmland, wetlands and open fields. Stokes's firm will be creating a plan to manage these unique habitats with the least intrusion, he said.

Art Selection

RMH is working with The Ambiance Group of Nashville, Tenn. to select artwork. Nearly 60 Shenandoah Valley artists have already submitted portfolios. Final art selection will begin in July to allow enough time for commissioned art works to be completed by the hospital's opening in mid-2010, Coffman said.

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GOING GREEN

Students Will Continue to Monitor Site Project

A proposal for wetland management of a portion of the new RMH property has been accepted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

This proposal was created by a JMU class led by Wayne Teel, PhD. Work to complete the plan took place in October 2008, including planting trees and creating berms, earth mounds that help prevent erosion, Teel said.

"Our research on the site actually determined that it is not suited for a true wetland, but rather a wooded wet area, so trees became our planting effort," he said. "The students coordinated work with a landscaping company to carry out the management plan."

This effort is particularly important to help filter runoff water flowing from the RMH site into Pleasant Run, which cuts through the property and eventually flows into the Chesapeake Bay, Teel said.

JMU students will continue to monitor the site and research potential long-term benefits to this type of land management, he said. This effort took place through the RMH-JMU Collaborative, which will mark its second anniversary in April.

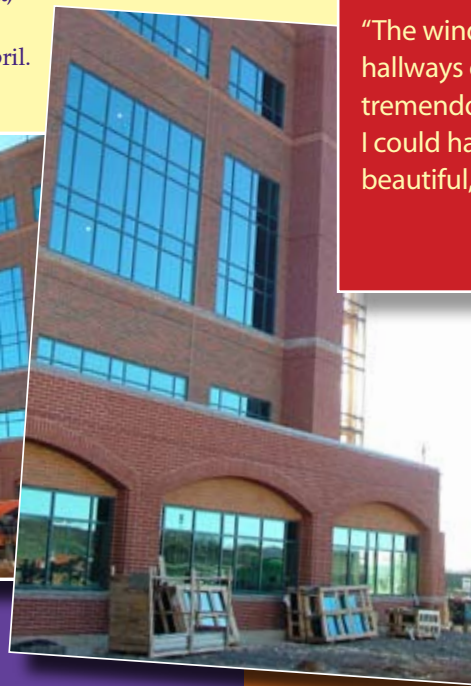


Above: A red-winged blackbird, native wetland inhabitant, seen on the new RMH health campus. RMH and JMU students are collaborating to preserve the natural habitats surrounding the new hospital.

What You're Saying...

"The windows at the end of the hallways on the nursing units are tremendous. When we saw that, I could have cried. It will just be beautiful, with lots of natural light."

—Kara Smoker, RN,
nurse manager, 5 East



Left: Brick installation is virtually complete; glass installation is underway. Far Left: The front entrance of the building is taking shape. New hospital photos courtesy of Joseph Martin, MD

Basic Info You Should Know

- RMH will ensure adequate road access to the new hospital by adding acceleration and deceleration lanes, turn lanes and stoplights at Port Republic Road and Reservoir Street entrances; these plans are in place to go forward independent of any road funding from the state.
- Construction is on schedule for a mid-2010 opening.
- All patient rooms are private and spacious. At 280 square feet, the rooms are larger than any in our current facility.
- RMH is seeking U.S. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification of our new facility.
- A number of "mock patient moves" will be conducted before the single patient move day. RMH is already in talks with area emergency responders to provide extra coverage during this day for patient transport.

WHAT AM I?

Answer on bottom of page!