

# Spirit of Halifax

The Community Newsletter of Halifax Regional Medical Center



## Better, Faster, Smarter – Exciting Changes Coming to Halifax Regional.

Halifax Regional is moving forward with innovative technology and progressive new services for the Roanoke Valley.

Our new \$1.8 million angiography suite is about to open, providing the latest and most accurate method for diagnosing and treating peripheral artery disease. We're investing in a new 40-slice CT scanner for quicker tests and better quality images. We're using new software to tag our medical equipment so we can offer more efficient service to patients. And our operations specialists

will have a central dispatch system so patients are transported around the hospital with less waiting.

These changes reflect our commitment to the community. They reveal a medical center that's optimistic and fully charged for a bright future.

*Angiography Suite, pg. 1*

*New CT Scanner, pg. 3*

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*Operations Specialists, 3*



*Dr. Nadim Geloo speaks to a patient before starting her procedure.*

## Vascular disease, watch out: Our angiography suite will open in July.

Years in the planning and months in construction, our new angiography suite will open in July. Peripheral artery disease will now be easier to diagnose right here in the Roanoke Valley. More importantly, our patients will now have access to cutting edge treatments such as arterial angioplasty and stenting.

The suite is another evidence of Halifax Regional's commitment to medical excellence. Located on the first floor of the Medical Center, the new suite will be combined with our cardiopulmonary center to offer more than 3,000 square feet of treatment space.

Performing angiography will be Nadim Geloo, MD, the interventional cardiologist who directs the cath lab. Dr. Geloo is certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology. He completed his residency in internal medicine

at the Medical Center in Delaware and fellowships in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology diseases at East Carolina University. Dr. Geloo will be assisted by an experienced team of three specialized vascular technologists.

Angiography is a non-invasive diagnostic tool used to identify blockages and narrowing in the arteries in the arms and legs. "Combined with our new cardiac cath lab, our new angiography suite represents a major step forward in heart care in our region," said Dr. Geloo. "It's another way we're fighting to catch heart disease before it becomes a killer."

Heart and vascular disease is a major issue in our region, said Will Mahone, President and CEO. "The Medical Center has invested \$1.8 million in developing this program because there is a real need for it, and we can save lives."



*Kenneth Robert, MD, values dedicating more time to his patients at Roanoke Clinic.*

## "Hospitalist" – a medical specialist dedicated to inpatient care.

A physician who has an office practice and must also see hospital patients finds it a challenge to give either the necessary attention. That's why three practices in town now use a hospitalist to allow them to give full care to office visits while knowing their hospital patients are also well cared for. Hospitalist is a relatively new medical specialty that refers to a doctor whose practice involves seeing hospital inpatients.

"We only select physicians we have confidence in," said Kenneth Robert, MD of the Roanoke Clinic. "It's an extension of the care we provide, only in a different setting."

This concept is particularly useful in smaller communities such as ours that have a shortage of primary care physicians. It means you as a patient will not only have to wait less time to get an appointment, but that time with your doctor is apt to be more rewarding.

"The hospitalist is a natural and positive development," said Dr. Robert. "Both office and hospital patients will appreciate receiving more personal attention."



Amber Sandeford in Birthing Center with husband Justin and nurse Stephanie Harris, RN.

## Nursing student knew the right place to deliver her baby.

Amber Sandeford of Roanoke Rapids is a nursing student who wants to work in labor and delivery. She now knows how the experience feels from the patient's point of view – she had her first baby, Jace Keith, in January.

"I was admitted on Friday night, and the baby hadn't been born by Sunday afternoon," Amber said. They were about to send me home when my water broke. Jace was born two hours later."

Amber has nothing but good things to say about her obstetrician, James Brown, MD, and the nurses who cared for her in the Birthing Center at Halifax Regional. "I had the same night nurse and day nurse the whole time," Amber said. "They were

always there when I needed them, and they patiently answered all my questions."

Fortunately, Amber's delivery went well. But Halifax Regional is prepared for more complex deliveries as well. "All our nurses are prepared for the total care of women with high-risk pregnancies," said Amy Joseph, Manager of the Birthing Center. "Our nurses are currently involved in perinatal continuing education and are certified in neonatal resuscitation."

"Having a baby is physically and emotionally draining," Amber said. "I hope I can be as kind and helpful when I'm a nurse as my nurses were to me."

## Imagine a GPS system for medical equipment. That's RadarFind.

*Six floors. Dozens of units. hundreds of employees. Now, where's that IV pump you need right now?*

*Thanks to RadarFind, an innovative software program, we know precisely where it is. We also know whether it's available, in use, or being serviced.*

*RadarFind uses automatic indoor location technology. Every piece of clinical equipment in the hospital has been tagged, and we're already experiencing the improvement.*

*"RadarFind saves us time and increases our efficiency," said Russell Heese, Support Service Manager. "It also helps us financially through better inventory management. But best of all, it allows us to provide better care to our patients. And that's always priority number one."*



Mayor Johnny Draper plays beach music on his radio program.

## Johnny Draper is more than just talk.

Johnny Draper is a man who has made his living talking, working in the radio industry for many years. When he talks today, he speaks for the Town of Weldon as Mayor and now for Halifax Regional as the new Chairman of our Board of Directors.

Although retired 12 years from active work for radio stations, he still loves it. That's evident by his weekly stint as the DJ on The Great 98 and 3WD, playing beach music each Friday evening.

As the leader of the 16-member Board of Halifax Regional, Johnny says the Board's responsibility is to ensure that the physicians and staff have the equipment and facilities to meet the needs of patients. "We must continue to invest in developing new services and new technology."

"Citizens should use Halifax Regional when they need hospital services," Draper said. "If we go out of town for healthcare services that are available here, it hurts the Medical Center and the community." Halifax Regional is more than a hospital, he reminds us. It is the largest employer in the community, providing approximately 850 jobs with a payroll of nearly \$47 million. "We support a lot of people and their businesses, so we're all in this together."



## Our new CT scanner provides sensational images.

We've just purchased a new Siemens SOMATOM Sensation 40-slice CT scanner to provide better information and the clearest possible images to our physicians. The new scanner replaces a unit that's nine years old and brings the latest imaging technology to Halifax Regional.

"This new scanner will provide our physicians with consistent high-resolution images," said William Navarro, Imaging Manager. "Our patients will experience accurate, reliable and fast diagnoses as a result."

The scanner is utilized to diagnose some cancers, verify kidney stones, detect appendicitis, bleeding from the brain, and new software will soon open up a wide variety of other uses. It provides clear images with a 66 percent reduction in radiation exposure.

The CT scanner is an investment of \$700,000 in improving the health of the community. "Patients will appreciate having shorter procedures, and more outpatient appointments will soon be available," said Navarro. "This investment signifies our confidence in the future and our commitment to bringing this area the finest in healthcare technology."



Operations Specialist Sherman Fleming takes a patient for treatment.

## Our Operations Specialists don't perform surgery.

When someone calls the police dispatcher, a call is sent to the nearest police car for immediate help. That's the principle behind our new program that transports patients, medical supplies, and after-hours meals via specially designated employees.

They're called Operations Specialists, and you'll spot them immediately in the Medical Center, thanks to their distinctive red and black uniforms. "An employee dials a central number,

and a dispatcher sends one of us to make the delivery," said Sherman Fleming. Sherman has now been with Halifax Regional for more than 30 years.

"We currently make such calls more than 3,700 times a month," said Karen Daniels, Vice President of Nursing. "And that number is rising. So you can see this program is badly needed. This frees caregivers to focus on patients rather than transportation, and everyone wins."



Volunteer Jim Smalfelt helps Donna Taybron with a purchase in our gift shop.

## You'll know them by their smiles.

They deliver flowers to rooms, work in our gift shop, help at the free clinic and donated more than 16,000 hours last year, which saved the Medical Center over \$300,000.

They are our volunteers, and we're so fortunate to have them. We now have nearly 100 dedicated people who are positive, upbeat and helpful.

"Volunteers work in every aspect of this hospital," said Joanne Jackson, new president of the Auxiliary, who has donated 2,250 hours of

her time. "We assist hospital employees so they may concentrate on patient care."

"Our Free Clinic and HealthLink probably would not exist without volunteers," said Gwynell Butts, our new volunteer coordinator who also coordinates our Foundation. "And we'd love to have more folks join them. We have volunteer opportunities in all areas of the hospital" For information, contact Gwynell at (252) 535-8687 or email [gbutts@halifaxrmc.org](mailto:gbutts@halifaxrmc.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Healthy BINGO

Mondays, 9 a.m.  
All welcome. Prizes donated by Wal-Mart and Halifax Regional.

### Gentle Fitness Exercise Class

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,  
4 p.m. Free and open to the public.

### Blood Pressure Monitoring

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Cholesterol Screening

Have your cholesterol checked the 1st  
Tuesday of the month, 9 a.m. – noon  
(by appointment only).  
Call 535-4334 to schedule an  
appointment. Charge is \$15.

### Diabetes Support Group

2nd Mondays, 7 p.m.  
Call 535-8276 for more information.  
\* Group will not meet during December

### Better Breathers Support Group

4th Mondays, 7 p.m.  
Call 535-4334 for more information.

### NAMI Mental Health Support Group

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m.  
Call 537-0320 for more information.

### Families of Victims of Violent Deaths

4th Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact Dianne Elliot at 583-1301 or  
diane.t.elliott@nccourts.org for more  
information.

### “Give Your Heart A Healthy Beat”

A series of 4 sessions designed to help  
you make heart-healthy changes in  
your eating and exercise habits.  
Tuesdays in May, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Charge for series is \$10.  
Call Margaret Allsbrook at 583-5161  
or E. B. Odom at 583-5021 for more  
information.

### “Diabetes Bingo” Support Group

Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m.  
Call the Rural Health Group at 536-  
5880 for more information.

### Halifax Regional Cardiopulmonary

#### Sports Memorabilia Auction

Saturday, May 24, 1 p.m.  
\$2 entry fee registers you for  
door prizes.

Call Marty Jones at 535-8971 or  
wmjones@halifaxrhc.org for more  
information.

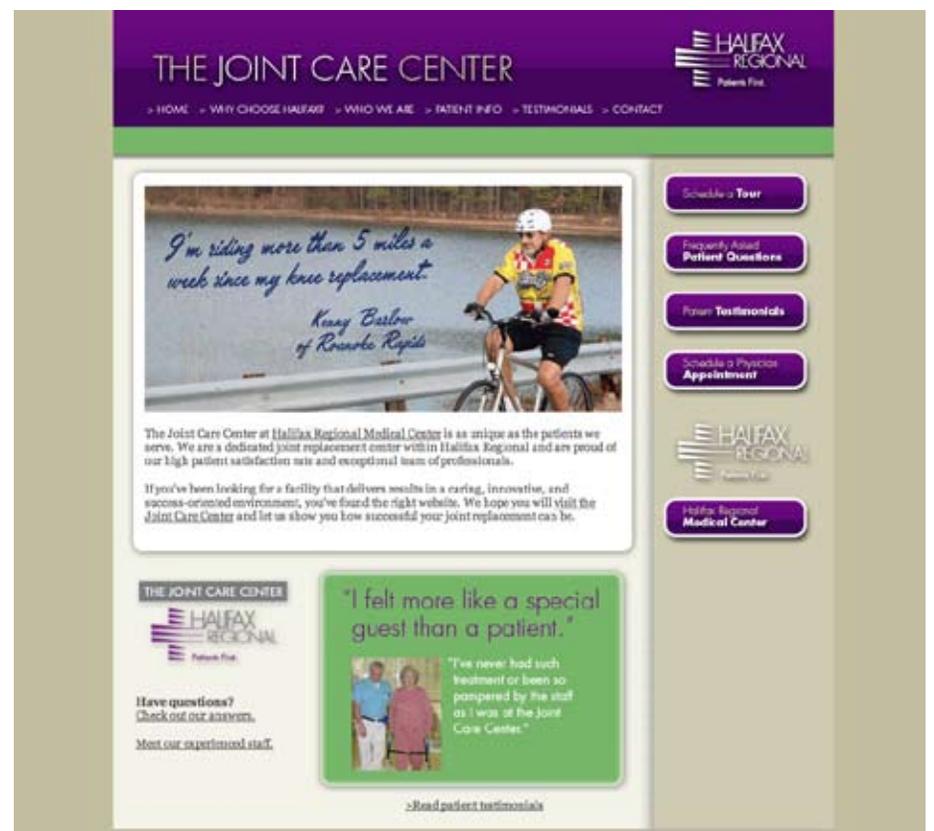
### HIV / AIDS Support Group

Call Misty at 535-8173 for more  
information.

### A.W.A.K.E. Sleep Disorder Support Group

Meets quarterly on the 4th Thursday  
of the month.  
Call 537-2400 for more information.

*Check out the Daily Herald Events  
Calendar for upcoming seminars and  
health screenings at HealthLink.*



## New “microsites” feature Joint Care Center and Birthing Center.

Thinking about having a joint  
replacement and want to know  
more about what’s involved?  
Planning to have a baby and need  
information about what Halifax  
Regional offers? We’ve just  
completed specialized sections

of our web site just for you.  
For joint replacements, visit  
[www.halifaxjointcare.com](http://www.halifaxjointcare.com), and  
for birthing, go to  
[www.halifaxbirthingcenter.com](http://www.halifaxbirthingcenter.com).  
You also can view these sites at  
[www.halifaxregional.us](http://www.halifaxregional.us).

**Seventh Edition.** *Spirit of Halifax* is the newsletter of Halifax Regional, published quarterly to inform residents of the Roanoke Valley about the advancements at the Medical Center. Val Short, Vice President, is the editor. If you have questions or comments, please contact Henry Robertson at (252) 535-8585 or hrobertson@halifaxrhc.org.  
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