

# Charleston Daily Mail

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Thomas Memorial Hospital's management and staff can hardly wait until next week, when they get to show the public the hospital's state-of-the-art addition.



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The opening of its \$70-million Clinical Pavilion vaults Thomas from a core facility built during World War II - when steel wasn't available and wartime construction resulted in small rooms, thick masonry walls and low ceilings - into a modern, airy medical

center with plenty of room for privacy, the latest equipment, and family-friendly features like rooms with sleeper-sofas and a cafeteria with an outdoor cafe.

"We're pretty pumped up!" said Steve Dexter, president and chief executive officer of Thomas Health System.

Gov. Joe Manchin is scheduled to be on hand at 2 p.m. June 9 for the grand opening. Joining him will be Thomas Heywood, partner in the law firm Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love, who is chairman of Thomas Health System's Board of Directors; state Supreme Court Justice Thomas McHugh, who is chairman of Thomas Memorial Hospital's Board of Directors; and South Charleston Mayor



Crystal Greene, Steve Dexter and Bethany Ferris check out one of the new birthing rooms in Thomas Memorial Hospital's Clinical Pavilion. Behind them is a sleeper-sofa for expectant fathers. Greene is the clinical coordinator of labor and delivery. Dexter is president and chief executive officer of Thomas Health System Inc. Ferris is director of perinatal services.

Frank Mullens. Public tours will follow, provided by some of the hospital's 1,100 employees.

Highlights of the six-floor, 164,000-square-foot building include:

- 96 all-private rooms with creature comforts like warm wood paneling, individual safes for patients' valuables, flat-panel televisions and wireless Internet.
- Patient-care features like moveable furnishings easily configured to meet patient and family needs; high-tech beds and lighting; bedside computers, desks and scanners for nurses to record and check patient information; extra-wide doors so furniture and equipment can be easily moved; and a telemetry system so patients can be monitored without wires when they're moved around.
- Three spacious surgical suites, including one equipped with a \$1.4 million surgical robot named after Leonardo da Vinci.
- An obstetrics unit with 19 private rooms, six labor and delivery rooms, two C-section rooms, a six-bed neonatal intensive care unit and a 17-bed well-baby nursery.
- Dexter said, "Facilities are important. The women who use this facility have nine months to choose a doctor, choose a facility. People shop on quality."
- Numerous behind-the-scenes features like an elevator that's only used to transfer surgical instruments between the new operating rooms and the hospital's central sterilization facility.
- A cafeteria with what seems like a mile-long row of stainless steel appliances; food that Executive Chef Tim Brennan hopes will please every palate, including dishes for diabetics, vegetarians and people on a low-fat diet; and hours to accommodate every need. Breakfast is served from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Lunch and dinner are served from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Patrons can even enjoy full services from 1 a.m. to 3 a.m.



Michelle Hall demonstrates how the lights in private rooms can be changed from dim to bright while Melanie Adams shows off the bed's electronic controls. Hall is clinical coordinator in the Medical-Surgical Unit. Adams is nurse manager of the unit.

Employees can use a swipe card to buy food; members of patients' families and townfolk are welcome and can use cash.

Nutrition Services at Thomas employs 45 people. Dexter puts great emphasis on the new facilities. "When you've got someone sick in the family you tend to stay in the room a lot and go to the cafeteria to talk," he said. "With our cafeteria and outdoor cafe, you can get away from things, get with the family and have a private discussion."

The Clinical Pavilion faces Vine Street. It is adjacent to the Medical Office Pavilion,

which opened in 2004. Both were designed by Kreps and Zachwieja Architects/Consultants Inc. to look like one building, Dexter said.

The project came in on time and slightly under budget, Dexter said. The hospital's capital campaign raised \$4.6 million and the hospital sold bonds in June 2008, just before Wall Street's troubles escalated.

Until now, Thomas Memorial has had 225 beds but only 22 private rooms. With the opening of the Clinical Pavilion, the hospital will begin a renovation project that will convert all of its other medical surgical rooms into private rooms so it will be an all-private-room hospital. As a result, the hospital will be at its 260-bed licensed capacity.

Neighborgall Construction Co. of Huntington was construction manager and general trades contractor for the Clinical Pavilion. Chad Johnson, vice president of Neighborgall and project executive, said Jeffry Kreps, senior principal of Kreps and Zachwieja, is "a great architect, great to work with, and a great communicator."

Johnson said construction was accomplished without any serious injuries.



The Thomas Cafe, an outdoor patio that is steps away from the Clinical Pavilion's cafeteria, provides a place for families and staff to eat, relax or visit. The cafe's privacy and its stonework and earth tones give it the look and feel of a park.

Members of the Clinical Pavilion construction team, in addition to Kreps and Zachwieja and Neighborgall Construction, were Steven Schaefer Associates of Cincinnati, structural engineer; Scheeser, Buckley, Mayfield of Uniontown, Ohio, mechanical and electrical engineer; and Triad Engineering of St. Albans, civil/landscape engineer.

Contractors, in addition to Neighborgall Construction, were G&R Masonry Inc. of St. Albans, masonry; Tron Mechanical Inc. of Mt. Vernon, Ind., structural steel fabricator; Kanawha Valley

Construction & Erection, Charleston, structural steel erector; Commercial Spray Installations, Latrobe, Pa., spray-on fireproofing; and Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal Co. of Charleston, roofing.

Also Central Glass Co. of Charleston Inc., windows and storefront; Cornerstone Interiors Inc. of Eleanor, partitions, ceilings, flooring and exterior insulation and finishing system; W.Q. Waters Co. of Charleston, painting and wall coverings; Blauvelt Sign Co. of Midlothian, Va., signage; Trimark SS Kemp of Cleveland, Ohio, kitchen equipment; ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corp. of Charleston, elevators; Swisslog Healthcare Solutions of Marietta, Ohio, pneumatic tube system; Brewer & Co. of WV Inc., Charleston, sprinkler; Dougherty Co. Inc. of Charleston, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning; Jordan-Smith Electric Co. Inc. of Huntington, electrical; and Valley Gardens Inc. of Charleston, landscaping.

Special contractors were H.C. Nutting Co. of Charleston, testing services; and Mountaineer Safety Consulting of Charleston, safety consultant.

Some of the key people involved in the project, in addition to Dexter, Johnson and Kreps were Cynthia "Cindy" Wegley Barnette, Thomas Memorial's senior vice president of law and construction; Tim Lee, Thomas Memorial's director of plant operations; J. Greg Sliger and Rick Graman of Steven Schaefer Associates; Vincent Feidler and Marion Hathaway of Scheeser, Buckley, Mayfield; Joe Young of Triad Engineering; and Michael Rudman, Gary Hale Jr. and Jamie Hensley of Neighborgall Construction.