



NEWS

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Gloria Seitz
Sentara Corporate
Communications
(757) 455.7153
Media Pager: 671.4971
giseitz@sentara.com

Contact:

Suffolk Economic Development
(757) 514.4040
www.YesSuffolk.com



Sentara Obici Hospital Announces Plans to Expand Bed Capacity

Additional Bed Tower will increase bed capacity to 168 beds
at Godwin Blvd Location

Suffolk, Va., -- August 4, 2008 – State and local officials joined Sentara Obici’s medical staff, leadership, volunteers and staff for the ceremonial groundbreaking of the new 3-story bed tower at 2800 Godwin Blvd. in Suffolk Virginia on Monday, August 4th at 2:00 p.m. The addition will adjoin the existing patient tower at the rear of the hospital.

The \$22.4 million project will increase bed capacity to 168 beds from 138 beds at the current site. “When Obici Hospital opened at the Godwin Boulevard location in 2002, it was not a question of whether the facility would expand, rather it was a question of when the patient occupancy rates would necessitate an expansion plan,” according to Rosemary Check, Vice President and Administrator of Sentara Obici. “The time to expand became evident very quickly. This additional capacity will improve bed availability for patients coming into the emergency department and add value to an existing community asset that will serve future generations.”

Earlier this year, the State Health Commissioner approved the 30-bed expansion plan for Sentara Obici Hospital. The construction will also involve relocation of 18 beds from the existing facility to create a more efficient staff and patient flow pattern. When construction is complete in early 2010, 24 beds will be devoted to medical-surgical patients and 24 beds will be dedicated to orthopedic surgery patients. This expansion also paves the way for many of the rooms to go from semi-private to private affording our patients added privacy and safety



Focus is on Creating Access to Quality Medical Care

“Since the merger with Louise Obici Memorial Hospital in 2006, the Sentara organization has focused on creating access to quality medical care for residents of western Tidewater,” Ken Krakaur, President of Sentara’s Peninsula and Western Tidewater Division noted. “With the opening of the Sentara BelleHarbour outpatient facility in northern Suffolk in June, the Sentara St. Luke’s development in Isle of Wight County and the bed tower on this campus, we are delivering on our commitment to support the residents of this region in providing world-class healthcare close to home.”

“We deeply value the continued investments that Sentara Healthcare has made in the City of Suffolk. The addition of a 30-bed tower at Sentara Obici demonstrates their strong commitment to our community” said Suffolk Mayor Linda Johnson. “As Suffolk continues to grow and expand, we appreciate that Sentara is growing with us.”

###

Sentara Healthcare is a not-for-profit, integrated delivery system serving more than two million residents in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Nationally recognized for quality and innovation, Sentara employs approximately 17,000 people and operates more than 100 care-giving sites, including 7 acute care hospitals, 4 advanced imaging centers, seven nursing homes and three assisted-living centers. Sentara also offers home health and hospice services, ground and air medical transport services, rehabilitation services, mobile diagnostic vans, and a fitness facility. Sentara has more than 2,500 physicians on its medical staff and a medical group comprised of more than 320 of the area’s leading physicians. Sentara founded the region’s first managed care plan, Optima Health Plan, in 1984. Through an array of award winning health plans, Sentara offers health coverage to more than 350,000 members, tapping into a provider network of nearly 6,000 physicians throughout Virginia.



Fact Sheet
Sentara Obici Hospital 30-Bed Expansion Plan
August 2008

- *Sentara Obici Hospital* has been meeting the healthcare needs of the Suffolk and western Tidewater communities *for over 50 years*.
- Subsequent to Sentara Obici Hospital's Certificate of Public Need request to expand its inpatient bed capacity, the Commissioner of Health approved the plan thereby *increasing Obici's inpatient capacity from 138 beds to 168 beds*.
- The *three-story bed tower will add nearly 35,000 square feet* of usable space at the Godwin Boulevard location. It will adjoin the existing bed tower at the northeast corner adding additional value to a valued community asset.
- *The bed tower will encompass the construction of 48 inpatient beds--* inclusive of the 30-bed expansion and the relocation of 18 inpatient beds--*creating better staff and patient flow.*
- *Twenty-four (24) beds* will be utilized for increased *medical-surgical capacity* on the second floor and *24 beds will consist of a dedicated orthopedic wing* on the first floor.
- *Convenience and efficiency are central to the integration of the bed tower and relocation of existing inpatient beds.* HDR Architects of Omaha Nebraska designed the bed tower with the added flexibility to meet future generation's healthcare needs. Hourigan Construction Company of Richmond Virginia will begin construction shortly.
- *Anticipated opening* of the Sentara Obici Hospital Bed Tower is *scheduled for early 2010.*