

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007

pulse



A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

South-wing progresses

LMH's South-Wing project is well underway, not only in the front of the hospital, but also to the west, along Ham Lane, and to the south, on Cardinal Street. Many thanks to all for the cooperation and patience during the initial phases of the project. Here are some key activities, accomplishments, and other information:

- The parking lot on Cardinal Street is completed and will be opened early this week. A portion of the lot will be used for valet parking (no longer at the Advanced Imaging Center), and the remainder will be available for general parking.
- The parking lot at Lodi Middle School was modified by LMH to prepare for the alignment of their driveway with the new hospital parking-lot entrance on Ham Lane.
- A very large joint-utility trench was excavated, filled with pipes of many types and is being refilled.

Up and coming are the following:

- In order to create a new entry from Ham Lane, some parking spaces to the north of the Medical Plaza nearest Ham Lane will be served up to the effort.
- A temporary building entry to the hospital will be created (a ramp to a new lobby in one of the classrooms).
- Work will begin on the vacant lot across Fairmont from the Advanced Imaging Center to temporarily house the construction trailers and offices used through the remaining portion of construction (to 2010 and beyond).
- Some additional work will begin out in front of the hospital near the flag pole on the east side. A new access point just slightly to the north of the existing ambulance drive will be created to provide room for construction to occur in front of the hospital (in the grassy area).

Please feel free to contact LMH Facilities-Management Director Tak Saito with questions, and thanks so much for your patience as we build our future,
(Tak Saito, ext. 7680).

NFS goes green

Nutrition and Food Services has switched to 100-percent biodegradable paper products for its take-out containers to help ease overflowing landfills. Additionally, recycling containers have been placed in the LMH cafeterias for cans, bottles and plastic. Many thanks to Environmental Services, who will take the recycled items to a recycling center. Proceeds from recycling efforts will go toward the South-Wing-building fund, (Rebecca Olvera, ext. 7597).

Formal needs assessing is underway

In an informal way as LMH works with patients every day, hospital care givers are informally assessing whether the hospital is meeting the community's needs related to health programs and services. The state, however, requires that California hospitals formally assess the health needs of those living in their service areas every three years. This state requirement was prompted 12 years ago because the state and others are interested in how hospitals plan for health programs and services in concert with community members and groups. One of the reasons for this interest is that non-profit hospitals are granted tax-exempt status and law makers want to know what hospitals do to justify this status. Some aspects of the needs assessment include looking at relevant and myriad health-status data that is available, along with demographic statistics that include cultural, educational and other socio-economic factors. Another aspect of the assessment includes health surveys that are being distributed to LMH clinics' patients through October and to community members via the hospital's web site, www.lodihealth.org or the front desk at the main campus. Employees and physicians are welcomed to take the health survey on the hospital web site on the "For Employees" page, and are encouraged to ask their friends and family members to take the survey on the home page. Those who take the survey will receive a coupon for a complimentary cholesterol screening or a free week at the LMH West Fitness Center. Once the surveys are completed and the health and demographic data are collected, the findings and recommendations will be integrated into the LMH strategic-planning process, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

TCU has successful survey

Once again, the LMH Transitional-Care Unit received a near-perfect score in its annual, unannounced Medicare/Medi-Cal Department of Public Health Services survey. What made these results so exceptional was the intense four days of scrutiny by two nurse evaluators, representing the State of California, and one federal evaluator, who was there to evaluate not just the facility, but the state surveyors as well to make sure that they followed the survey-process requirements. This excellent survey is a direct tribute to those who provide exceptional services to TCU's residents on a daily basis. Thanks to everyone involved for all the hard work and the great job. You are so appreciated,
(Lynne Mantz, ext. 3181).

Foundation funds new equipment

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors and those who have donated time, talents and/or participation to fund-raising events, the LMH Foundation has raised \$179,363 so far this year. At the beginning of this year the following equipment was approved for purchase with "Walk for the Health of It" and "Summer Fest" proceeds:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Medison SA 8000 EX 2D Ultrasound System	OB Clinic	\$38,600
Helmer Quick Thaw Plasma Thaw Unit	Laboratory	\$6,300
Cardiac GE Stress Equipment with Treadmill	EKG	\$27,600
Phoenix Dialysis Machines	Dialysis	\$31,500
Gambro Wro 300 (Water Reverse Osmosis)	Dialysis	\$14,500
PL 5000 Low Level Laser	Physical Therapy	\$16,200
Salvation Army Clinic Operations	Salvation Army Clinic	\$10,000
Scholarships	Adult Day Care	\$10,000
Traction Table	Physical Therapy West	\$6,654

Thanks to all for a job well done,
(Donna Shaw, ext. 7582).

LMH plugs in new defibrillators

Recently, LMH converted to Zoll R Series Defibrillators for the emergency, inpatient, diagnostic and procedural areas at the East campus. The use of biphasic electrical delivery is now standard in the hospital. A big thanks to the physicians and nurses who helped in the decision process and made the transition a success,
(Sony Fua, ext. 7592).

Add, change benefits in October

LMH employees will have the opportunity to enroll, make changes to or stop their benefit-plan selections during open enrollment in October. Also, those employees who are full- or part-time, non-benefited will be eligible to enroll in the voluntary plans. Please note that although open enrollment is held in October, all benefits will be effective Jan. 1, 2008. Watch for more information to follow, (Lynette Havens, ext. 7598).

Peds-CE class offered

A three-hour, CE class is offered on Fri., Aug. 31, from 8:30-11:30a, in Classrooms A and B. "The Good, Bad and Ugly of Pediatric-Respiratory Assessment" will be presented by Laura Akahori, RN, FNP. Participants will review the normal respiratory assessment of the pediatric patient, identify abnormal assessment of the pediatric patient, understand criteria to notify physician (when to call for help) and review case scenarios. Call education, ext. 7520 to register, (Donna Schulz, ext. 7609).

 **Send "Pulse" items to Community Development**

ICU names critical-care educator



Maureen McCaffrey, RN, BSN, CCRN, assumed the post of critical-care educator for the ICU. Maureen has worked in critical care mainly in the ICU and dialysis units and also serves as an ACLS instructor and ICU preceptor. She will be responsible for overseeing staff competency as well as assisting the department in clinical and process improvements. Maureen can be reached in the ICU, ext. 7547, (Sony Fua, ext. 7592).

Celebrate payroll week

National Payroll Week, Sept. 3-7, celebrates the hard work by America's 156 million wage earners and the payroll professionals who pay them. Together, through the payroll-withholding system, they contribute, collect, report and deposit approximately \$1.5 trillion, or 64.3 percent, of the annual revenue of the U.S. Treasury. In observance of National Payroll Week, the American Payroll Association will award one lucky person a free paycheck and a trip to Las Vegas for two. The winner will be randomly selected from responses to the on-line "Getting Paid in America" survey at www.nationalpayrollweek.com. During this week, which just so happens to be a pay week at LMH, please help to celebrate and thank the employees in the LMH finance department who assist in auditing LMHers' time cards and calculating pay. Vickie Shirley and LaNette Barretto are the "official" payroll department, but the rest of the finance staff also pitches in to make sure all of the nearly 1,300 LMH employees are paid every two weeks, and those staffers include Liz Cochrane, Gail Jones, Nancy Mehlhaff, Cris Ochoa, Tito Samaniego, Carol Stotts and Diane Wilbur. Also many thanks to members of other departments who assist in this process – Michelle Milton, Jeanette Vondergeest and Mary Campbell. Please join in appreciating the hard work of these employees,
(Cindy Butler, ext. 7513).

Superwoman saves the day

It took about three weeks to untangle the red tape and complete the mounds of paperwork, but in the end, home-health social worker Kathryn Siddle worked a miracle. One of home health's patients requires a special medication that costs \$1,600 per month. Thanks to Kathryn's efforts, and much to the delight of a very grateful patient and family, the drug company agreed to pick up the full cost of the medication. Way to go, Kathryn,
(Rose Mary Radotic, ext. 3116).

"Who in the heck?" stumps all



No one guessed correctly the identity of the tiny tot in the last issue of "Pulse." The wee lass was none other than outpatient-physical therapy's Claudine Seibel. Claudine has been a proud LMHer since starting as an accounts-payable clerk in 1969. She also worked for many years as a payroll clerk before joining the physical-therapy department.