

St. Clare's president takes job in Colorado

Ex-CEO of St. Mary's Hospital at Amsterdam to serve as interim chief executive

By DAN HOGGINS
Business writer

SCHENECTADY — The president of St. Clare's Hospital is leaving next month after seven years on the job, the hospital announced Monday.

St. Clare's Hospital is leaving next month after seven years on the job, the hospital announced Monday.

St. Clare's Hospital closing day care

Schenectady Facility is losing money; it was established to draw and retain nurses but few nurses today are employees

By SYLVIA WOOD
Writer

For more than 12 years, the day care center run by St. Clare's Hospital will close at the end of next month because of financial difficulties.

The closure is the latest in the Capital

St. Clare's opens new ER

By JENNIFER ARSENAULT

Schenectady's St. Clare's Hospital is moving into the year 2000 with new and improved health care facilities.

An expanded emergency department opened in early January after a year of construction. "Some of the staff would describe us as having been working under MASH conditions," said Director of Corporate Communications Col Mack "the priority for 2000 is to get our Emergency Room up to speed." The ER was completely gutted and reconfigured to increase patient flow, Mack said.

Almost all of the ER is now viewable to the staff from a center suite

cooperative effort with the Schenectady County Health Department, Catholic Charities and Parsons Child & Family Center, which helps to meet the needs of at-risk children in the area.

"The Healthy Schenectady Families Project is a major commitment to improve the health of families in the area," Mack said.

Other community outreach partnership programs include the Breast Health Partnership, Employment Readiness Support for adults and students, the Healthy Capital District Initiative, the community resource program at Schaffer Heights senior citizens facility, the Health Quality Partnership, and membership in the Schenectady County Health Care Task Committee.

Education programs and services on an ongoing basis designed in response

St. Clare's Hospital names new CEO

after hard financial times, officials praise leadership skills of administrator

By ALAN WECHSLER
Business writer

SCHENECTADY — St. Clare's Hospital has hired a new leader after a four-month search, officials announced Friday.



PERRY

Robert P. Perry, 58, formerly chief executive officer at the 200-bed Northeastern Hospital in Philadelphia, will begin as CEO and president at the Schenectady hospital on July 11.

Perry, originally one of five candidates for the

position, was chosen by the board on Tuesday. A committee of members, plus three doctors and a representative of the Roman Catholic Albany, recommended him to the

James Carter, hospital trustee chairman of the search committee, impressed by Perry's financial ship skills.

Please see HOSPITAL

Acute care unit caters to elderly

St. Clare's Hospital offers older patients specialized amenities to aid recovery

By ALAN WECHSLER



HOSPITAL STAFF — from left, Debbie Avery, Dr. Kirk Panneton, Anne Haim and Gail Symonds — gather in the ACE unit to review patients' charts.

Statistics show that the average cost of infant child care in the Capital Region is \$157 a week.

Providing quality and affordable child care has been a challenge for centers across the area, according to Dianne Meckler of the Capital District Child Care Coordinating Council in Menands. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany decided in October to close its Masterson Child Development Center on Philip Street because it couldn't break even. Capital View Child Care Center closed in Rensselaer.

St. Clare's established its day care center in 1988 on Balltown Road as a way to help recruit and retain nurses. In 1992, it moved to the health sciences building on the hospital campus.

Mack said the one of the biggest reasons

There's something about the hospital marked "Acute Care St. Clare's Hospital."

no announcement address system, after, and the decor is and green. And the asked daily by nurses patients will always

the elderly population, the ACE unit is kind of patient who

From the oversized clock on the wall (a nod to elderly eyes) to the library of old movies to watch on DVD players, the rooms are meant to keep patients from getting confused and depressed.

"The in-patient care of elderly people leaves a lot to be desired," said Dr. Kirk Panneton, the 56-year-old director of geriatric services at St. Clare's. "A lot of these people come into the hospital and become confused, just because the hospital lends itself to that."

Panneton set out to create a unit dedicated to preventing that. Modified Please see HOSPITAL C2



Licensed practical nurse Kathy Atherton puts eye drops in the left eye of Yolanda Szun of Rotterdam before recent cataract surgery at St. Clare's Hospital. The hospital no longer requires pre-admission testing for cataract procedures.

New program saving St. Clare's patients time

Gazette Special Sections

SCHENECTADY — Cataract patients are on a fast track to surgery at St. Clare's Hospital.

The hospital has eliminated

time there, including surgery and recovery, seldom amounts to more than hours. "Families,"

Hospital to end 60 years of service

St. Clare's assets to be absorbed by Ellis

By MICHAEL LAMENDOLA
Gazette Reporter

St. Clare's Hospital will surrender its operating license after 60 years of service and consolidate with Ellis Hospital, using a \$50 million state grant announced Thursday.



St. Clare's is the #1 Provider of Emergency Services in Schenectady... AND THAT'S NO ACCIDENT

At St. Clare's Hospital, we know emergencies — 36,000 — last year alone, entered through our doors!

For minor ailments and injuries, there's Fast Track, open daily, from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Of course, if there's more to your problem than meets the eye, St. Clare's all new emergency medical center is fully staffed and ready to serve you 24 hours a day.

Whether it's a heart attack, stroke or serious breathing problem, a 2 a.m. fever that won't go down or wound of any description, there's no such thing as a routine emergency, especially when it's yours.

So, if you, or someone you love needs emergency medical care, trust in the people the technology and the healing tradition at St. Clare's Hospital.

TOGETHER, WE PUT THE CARE IN ST. CLARE'S

ST. CLARE'S HOSPITAL
600 McClellan Street • Schenectady, NY 12304 • 382-2222
Check out St. Clare's web site! www.stclares.org

Senior Suppers menu: Good food, good time

St. Clare's Hospital dinners on Wednesdays are gaining an appreciative clientele

By KATHY RICKETTS
Gazette Reporter

SCHENECTADY — As the sounds of Frank Sinatra singing "The Best is Yet to Come," played softly in the background, Kathy Leonard, director of volunteer services at St. Clare's Hospital, warmly greeted Dorothy Szymaszek and her husband, J. Walter Szymaszek of Schenectady.

"Welcome back," said Leonard. "It's so nice to see you both again. Take your coats off, find a table and follow me."

Welcome to the Senior Suppers at the St. Clare's Hospital cafeteria. Each Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m., seniors (aged approximately 60 and over) have been enjoying a complete meal including a choice of two entrees, dinner salad, two side dishes, hot or cold beverage and dessert for \$5 per person (including tax and gratuity). Music from the 1920s through the 1950s is played during the evening.

"This is our second time coming," said Dorothy Szymaszek. "You can't beat the price, and we like the atmosphere. The food is very good, too, and we enjoy the music. It's a very nice senior night out."



"We've always tried to create an environment at St. Clare's where people could get to know us, so it will be a wonderful addition to the services we provide for them."