

# SPIRIT

O F G I V I N G

A publication of St. John Macomb Hospital Foundation

April 2007

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## Letter from the President

Great things are happening at 12 Mile and Hoover. As our communities have grown and thrived in recent decades, so has St. John Macomb Hospital. Today, we're a 376-bed tertiary-care hospital, providing the full scope of cardiovascular care, including open heart surgery; top-notch cancer treatment at the Webber Cancer Center, including high dose-rate radiation therapy for prostate, breast, lung and other cancers; a high quality Emergency department able to treat your family members promptly; and the latest in women's services, including digital mammography, stereotactic biopsy and a labor-delivery-recovery-couplet care birthing unit.

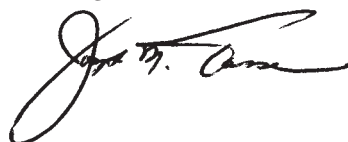
Recently we opened the Hip and Knee Replacement Center of Macomb, a highly specialized program for people in need of treatment in order to get back to an active lifestyle. Our orthopedic team developed the program to enhance our

patients' experience, using national best practices. If the "thank you" letters that regularly cross my desk are any indication, then our clinical team is succeeding.

I couldn't be more appreciative of the doctors, clinicians, associates and volunteers who've gotten us to this point. They're the reason we win awards and receive honors, but the most telling illustration of their great work shows up in an industry report I receive quarterly. Over the last two years, this report has regularly listed St. John Macomb Hospital as one of the top three growing hospitals in southeastern Michigan. This tells me that the community is choosing St. John Macomb for their health care, and we're honored and proud. We will continue to bring you state-of-the art health care and do it with respect and compassion for you and your family members.

Thank you.

Best regards,



Joseph M. Tasse, FACHE  
President, St. John Macomb Hospital



Joseph M. Tasse

# Hip and Knee Replacement Center opens

The new Hip and Knee Replacement Center of Macomb is now open at St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH). The Center is transforming the patient care experience during hip or knee joint replacement, beginning in the physician office until completing their outpatient program post-discharge.

The center comprises 10 dedicated beds on the 5 West unit, which has been renovated partially with a generous gift from the SJMH Auxiliary. The dedicated staff includes a nurse practitioner, and the program includes pain management protocol, a gym on the unit, and a significant amount of involvement from a family member or friend as the patient's coach.

Patients come in for their procedure on Monday and are discharged before Friday. While at the hospital, they are encouraged to dress in their own clothes and participate in two hours of therapy daily.

Named "Joints in Motion," SJMH views this new program as a "destination joint center." SJMH is an ideal location for such a center, with an aging population in Warren and the surrounding community, and the need for replacement joints as individuals stay active well into their retirement years.



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Hip and Knee Center are (from left): Dr. Roberto Barretto, Chief Medical Officer, SJMH; Paul Van Tiem, Chief Operating Officer, St. John Health; Dr. Jeff Mendelson, Chief of Orthopedics, SJMH; and Dr. Steve Plomaritis.

## Accomplishments abound

St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH) is among the top in the nation for patient satisfaction, according to Press Ganey Associates, Inc. The hospital's Emergency department received the **2006 Compass Award** from Press Ganey for showing the most improvement over two years in overall patient satisfaction. The award is a coveted symbol of achievement in the health care satisfaction industry. Press Ganey is the industry's leading satisfaction measurement and improvement firm which partners with more than 7,000 health care facilities nationwide, including St. John Health, to improve the quality of health care delivery. The company's data bases are the largest in the industry and allow facilities to benchmark their results against peer organizations.

Among 98 entries nationwide, St. John Health (SJH) was the winner of the **Spirit of Excellence Team Award**

by *Modern Healthcare*, a national health care business news magazine, for its commitment to employee retention and recruitment.

Using a **Rapid Improvement Event**, SJMH reduced the time it takes to get CT exams in the Emergency department from 125 minutes to 40 minutes.

SJMH's **diabetes self-management education program** was awarded continued recognition from the American Diabetes Association for meeting national standards for diabetes management.

The **SJH system Laboratories** earned full re-accreditation from the College of American Pathologist's Laboratory Accreditation Program.

# Kudos



Mary Bringer (center) with Irene Stempnik, SJMH Auxiliary President (left), and Chery Allen, Director of Volunteer Services.

Mary Bringer was honored as a Distinguished Volunteer by the Greater Detroit Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the annual National Philanthropy Day Recognition Dinner in November. She was recognized for her 25 years of volunteer commitment to St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH). Mary serves as a buyer for the hospital gift shop and is often seen helping customers. She is extremely reliable and graciously fills in when other volunteers are absent. In 2005-2006, Mary was instrumental in helping the SJMH Auxiliary raise \$209,000 to support Emergency department renovations, purchase equipment and provide scholarships for teens and nurses.

Mary Ann Watkins, a SJMH volunteer since 2004, received Honorable Mention at metro Detroit's

annual Thanks for Giving event in November. She provides blood pressure screenings to visitors, staff and physicians on Fridays.

Gerald Stein, DPM, Podiatric Surgeon, was honored by his colleagues of the Michigan Podiatric Medical Association and presented with "The Doctor of the Year 2006 Award" at the Great Lakes Conference in February. He was recognized for his 32 years of outstanding dedication to raising the standard of excellence in the podiatric profession.

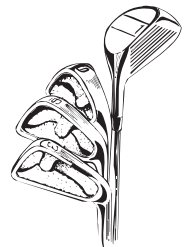
## Save date

St. John Macomb  
Hospital Golf Outing

Aug. 20, 2007

Cherry Creek Golf Club  
Shelby Township

Call  
Lorraine  
Owczarek,  
586-582-  
7509, for  
details.



## Emergency patients get beds faster

After an Emergency department (ED) workup, patients who know they will be admitted to the hospital want one thing ... to get settled in their rooms.

To improve the time from when a bed is assigned in the Emergency department until the patient leaves the ED, St. John Macomb Hospital held a Rapid Improvement Event to look at the entire process, remove waste and optimize workflow. Ted Kolks, Clinical Manager of the ED; Surita Dexter, Black Belt for process improvement; and a diverse group of associates all worked together on the weeklong event.

The Macomb ED team started out with a time of 50 minutes and reduced that time to under 25 minutes.

"This alleviates the patients' stress and allows them to start on the road toward recovery and it also frees up ED beds for new patients," Ted said.

### Changes included:

- using the assistant clinical manager to track all admissions
- installing a TV screen with the Logicare patient tracking system on it as a visual cue
- removing clutter in desk areas
- eliminating the use of "pre-emptive" beds (when a physician requests a bed based on an initial exam, before tests are completed)

### Planned Giving

## How do seniors stay on track?

Seniors often struggle with the legal issues concerning trusts, wills, patient advocate forms, beneficiary designations and other concerns like probate and joint tenancy. The question is, "How do they keep it all straight and stay on track?"

St. John Macomb Hospital is sponsoring a free informative seminar on "Legal Issues for Seniors and Their Adult Children" on April 18 and May 8 in the Physical Rehab Services Building.

The speaker, Sam Serra, JD, is well regarded and was praised by previous attendees for removing the legal mystery and really answering their questions.

Call Nancy Krause, 586-582-7595, to RSVP or to schedule a complimentary consultation.

# Hospital adds new cancer treatment

The Webber Cancer Center at St. John Macomb Hospital (SJM) has a new tool in its arsenal to help men with prostate cancer. High Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy is an advanced, very concentrated form of radiation therapy delivered via a team approach between an urologist and radiation oncologist.

The treatment is beneficial for patients because there is no radioactivity left inside them after the procedure. A higher dose of radiation can be used in an extremely concentrated way, potentially increasing the likelihood of complete cancer control.

Before the procedure, the patient has an ultrasound to map out the size of the prostate. Next he comes in for a surgical procedure, which involves placing very tiny plastic catheters into the prostate gland. Then the patient gets a CT exam, and the staff uses that information to begin planning treatment, which can take an hour. Treatment begins immediately afterward. The patient has one radiation treatment that afternoon and two the following day, six hours apart.

The catheters are then easily removed, and because there are no permanent radioactive seeds left in the body, there is decreased potential for inflammation at the site and any long-term bladder symptoms. Patients appreciate that the treatment can be completed so rapidly, with a minimum of discomfort.

After the procedure, patients can get back to normal activity in five to seven days.

HDR Brachytherapy is also being used for lung, breast and cervical cancer.

For referral to a SJM cancer specialist, call 1-888-440-7325.

## “Tree of Lights” supports patient services

The St. John Macomb Hospital (SJM) Auxiliary sponsored its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Remembrance Tree of Lights” over the 2006 holidays. For a gift of \$5 or more, donors purchased lights for the holiday tree located in the hospital lobby. The lights were purchased in memory of a loved one or in honor or appreciation of someone. The names of honorees and donors were displayed near the tree.

The \$4,711 in proceeds from the project went toward the Auxiliary’s commitment to SJM’s Labor and Delivery department. Previously, funds have been used to purchase audiology diagnostic equipment, a transportation van and a centralized scheduling system.

*SPIRIT* is a publication of St. John Macomb Hospital Foundation.

*If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at St. John Macomb Hospital, please call 586-582-7500.*

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