



JIM DAVIS/DNJ FILE

A parade of ambulances will transport patients from the current MTMC on Highland Avenue to the new MTMC along Medical Center Parkway, above, beginning at 5 a.m. Saturday.

# Hospital's relocation has taken months of planning

## From equipment to patients, goal is for a smooth transition

BY GREG POGUE  
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Tom Rone and Steve Clevenger remember like it was yesterday when they were asked to coordinate the move into the new Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

MTMC President and Chief Executive Officer Gordon Ferguson had targeted them nearly two years ago for the role of pulling off the relocation that has been in the planning stages for nearly 18 months.

"I am a sweaty palm guy," said Clevenger, MTMC's director of medical imaging and radiation therapy. "And my palms are sweating right now thinking about that day. I think I was probably overwhelmed, but I started thinking about it immediately."

"I was glad they asked me. I kind of like to be in control of my own destiny."

tal's opening to the public on Saturday.

"Steve, Adam and Tom took on a leadership role in 2009 relative to our move and relocation and have done a phenomenal job with this major responsibility," Ferguson said. "We are fortunate to have these capable leaders within our midst during this process."

Rone's area of concentration is patient transport, while Clevenger is in charge of equipment transport.

"I was pretty sure from the outset it was going to be a good move and that we would be able to pull it off," Clevenger said.

After Wednesday, the current MTMC on Highland Avenue will not schedule surgeries or selective C-section births. Only emergency surgeries will be conducted after that. All diagnostic testing will conclude Friday.

Starting at 5 a.m. Saturday



## QUICK FACTS

- At 68.5 acres, Middle Tennessee Medical Center's new campus is more than four times larger than MTMC's current campus where the hospital was established in 1927.

- The frame for the hospital consists of 4,000 steel beams.

- 30,955 truck loads of soil and rock fill the site, enough to cover a football field 210 feet deep.

- The 2.3 million square feet of dry-wall is enough to build 250 houses.

- You could stretch the total linear feet of electrical wiring inside the new MTMC from Murfreesboro to Houston. That's 738 miles!

- The new MTMC site is graced with more than 9,000 trees and shrubs!

- Construction included 450,000 utility-sized bricks

- 2.8 million construction crew work hours were spent on the project

- Total cost for the project: \$267 million.

- There are more than 1,600 campus parking spaces

- The facility includes 11,000 light fixtures and 2,016 doors

- A marriage of high-tech and high-touch, the hospital was designed with modern healthcare workflow in mind. The maximum distance a nurse must travel on unit has been drastically reduced — from 172 feet to 75 feet.

- The new MTMC will be the first Ascension Health facility to use Sonitor, an ultrasonic resource and patient locator. The device is able to locate any patient and/or equipment.

- Alerts are sent to

Overwhelmed is the initial adjective also used by Rone, MTMC's director of nursing and critical care. Then came a few more words to describe the daunting task they were about to direct.

"I was honored they would come to me to look to my expertise to help participate in this move," said Rone, a 25-year MTMC employee. "This is something we have all been looking forward to at one point in time, getting to move into a new campus and having a new hospital for the community.

"It excited me that I was going to be able to have a significant part in the operation of moving to this new campus."

Along with Adam Campbell, MTMC's surgical services manager, Rone and Clevenger put into motion many months of planning and practice that will come to fruition with the hospi-

and concluding by 2 p.m., around 150 patients will be transported from the hospital at 400 N. Highland Ave. to the new hospital at 1700 Medical Center Parkway. That includes around 50 patients who are bed-bound.

"We're not rushing this," Rone said, noting there will be as many as 300 ambulance round trips Saturday. "And we are going to do it right and make sure our patients are transported safely and get bedded down in their rooms and are comfortable. We really spent a lot of time on making sure it is a safe move."

For those who want to assist in Saturday's move, Rone graciously declined at this point.

"The best thing for people who want to help is to stay away Saturday from (the old hospital) and (new hospital) and the route between 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.," he said.

Already, there have been five

**Steve Clevenger, Tom Rone and Adam Campbell were integral parts of MTMC's Strong Team, which has worked behind the scenes over the last 18 months to coordinate the transition of personnel, equipment and patients from the Highland Avenue hospital to the new hospital in the city's Gateway district. The effort will come to fruition on Saturday as patients are transferred across town and the new hospital officially opens.**

major moves of equipment and offices with more to come throughout the week and weekend. MTMC contracted with Nashville-based Apex & Robert E. Lee Moving & Storage, which had previous experience moving Nissan's corporate headquarters from California to Franklin and the relocation of Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

"They came with great qualifications," Clevenger said of the moving company. "And so far, they have lived up to those expectations and surpassed our needs."

### A moving experience

Rone and Clevenger each have experience in hospital moves. Rone has worked in combat support hospitals, while Clevenger was involved in a hospital relocation while previously with Emory Healthcare in Atlanta.

This time around, though, each point to the nearly 1,300 staff members of MTMC as being the real heroes in the relocation. They have gone through extensive additional training related to MTMC's safe care initiatives, plus being adequately trained in the processes and drills concerning the move.

"We can build the most beautiful building and have all the technology," Rone said, "but

it's our staff that is really going to be there to make the biggest impact. They are really working hard to open up and be available for the citizens of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County."

Beyond the people, making sure everything is working properly in the new hospital is paramount.

"There are a lot of checklists people are working through, a lot of punch lists like when buying a house," Clevenger said. "You go through and point out things that still need to be fixed or systems that need to be checked.

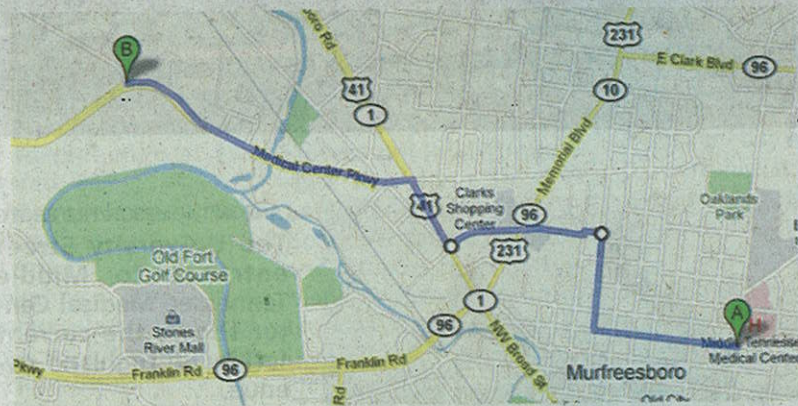
"We are getting a lot of new equipment. We are a lot more high tech, much more so than we were at (the previous hospital location). There are a lot of systems that have to be checked, a lot of integration that has to be checked."

Soon enough, the move will be complete. And you can sense the pride Rone and Clevenger have in the new Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

"I like to introduce the hospital to people who come look at it and tour it and say, 'Welcome to your new hospital,'" Clevenger said.

"I want people to come and the people of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County to be very proud of their hospital. They should be."

— Greg Pogue, 615-278-5170



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**Middle Tennessee Medical Center will transport patients from its Highland Avenue hospital to the new hospital on Medical Center Parkway along the above route beginning at 5 a.m. Saturday. The caravan will roll from Highland Avenue to Lytle Street, turn right on North Maple, left on St. Clair Street, cross Memorial Boulevard, turn right on Northwest Broad Street and left onto Medical Center Boulevard, ending at the new hospital.**

Environmental Services when a patient room is unoccupied after patient is released. EVS has 30 minutes to clean and prepare room for new patient.

• Ascom: an internal wireless phone solution that will be deployed to caregivers to support communications and secondary critical alerts — this is the only hospital in Middle Tennessee that has housewide Ascom to provide instantaneous communication with caregivers.

• If patient is in need of assistance such as in need of a medication they will simply push a button on their bed, which will immediately alert the nursing station and the patient's individual nurse's cell phone.

• Each physician will have a handheld mobile device with connection to the dedicated wireless medical network, giving them the ability to get patient vital signs, patient information such as EKGs and fetal cardiac wave forms.

SOURCE: MIDDLE TENNESSEE MEDICAL CENTER