

Chiefs' Chatter

News & Notes from Senior Leadership

JUNE 2021



Members of the CaroMont Health Board of Directors join Chris Peek to kick-off construction.

Construction for CaroMont Regional Medical Center-Belmont Begins

On Tuesday, June 8, leaders from CaroMont Health and Belmont Abbey College celebrated the start of construction for CaroMont Regional Medical Center-Belmont and the associated medical campus. Expected to open mid-2023, the hospital will include 66-beds (54-acute care beds and 12 observation beds), 16-room emergency department, labor and delivery unit, operating rooms and surgical capabilities, and robust diagnostic testing and imaging services. Also planned is a medical office building and parking deck.

“To this day, CaroMont Regional Medical Center has over 250,000 patient encounters a year. That’s 250,000 opportunities for our team of providers to change lives,” said Chris Peek. “We are building more than a hospital, more than a medical campus, we are building the future. In three short years, this will be the site of so much hope and promise – where new life is welcomed, where patients heal and where the next generation of healthcare professionals find their purpose.”

For the latest updates on CaroMont Regional Medical Center-Belmont, please visit our community investments page on [CHIP](#). [Click here](#) to watch video highlights from the groundbreaking event.



SENIOR LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Joel Riddle, Senior Director of Human Resources, will join the Senior Leadership Team as Vice President, Human Resources on July 1, 2021.



As Vice President of Human Resources, Joel will maintain oversight for all Human Resources functions for CaroMont Health and its more than 4,300 employees. He will also have responsibility for Physician Recruiting, Employee Health, Spiritual Care, Volunteer Services and the Gift Shoppe at CaroMont Regional Medical Center. Joel will report to David O'Connor, Chief Financial Officer.

Prior to joining CaroMont in November 2017, Joel spent 13 years with Mecklenburg County Government, serving in several operational and Human Resources roles before being promoted to Human Resources Director. During his time at CaroMont, Joel has been instrumental in many programs and projects aimed at employee recruitment, engagement and retention, including the administration of a highly-competitive employee benefits plan, development of an education-based salary structure for nursing staff and implementation of robust recruitment strategies for critical positions. He has also played a significant role in CaroMont's COVID-19 response.

Joel holds both a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is also recognized as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) with the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI) and a Senior Certified Professional (SCP) with the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM).

CaroMont Health Announces Partnership with Gastonia Honey Hunters Baseball Team

In May, the Gastonia Honey Hunters, the newest team in Atlantic League Professional Baseball, announced that CaroMont Health has become the *Official Healthcare Partner of the Gastonia Honey Hunters*. This multi-year partnership not only offers promotional and engagement opportunities, it also means the ballpark has been named *CaroMont Health Park*.

Chris Peek joined Gastonia Mayor Walker Reid to kick off the Honey Hunters' season opener by throwing out the honorary first pitch.

CaroMont Health Park is expected to become a destination for year-round events, including festivals, concerts and other types of entertainment. To learn more about the team, please visit gohoneyhunters.com.



Chris Peek, Mayor Walker Reid and the winner of the first pitch contest

The Leapfrog Group Releases Hospital Grades for 2021

LEAPFROG
HOSPITAL
SAFETY GRADE

CaroMont Regional Medical Center has once again been awarded a grade “A” for patient safety and quality by The Leapfrog Group. This is the tenth ‘A’ for CaroMont Regional Medical Center, more than any other hospital in the Charlotte region.

“Our highest priority is providing exceptional healthcare in the safest environment,” said Dr. Todd Davis, Executive Vice President and Chief Physician Executive at CaroMont Health. “This recognition is the result of an extraordinary commitment to safety and collaboration. Maintaining this level of excellence requires not only medical staff and nursing team, but also hospital leadership, clinical services and all care support teams.”

The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization committed to improve healthcare quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harm to patients.

CaroMont Health Foundation Selects 2021 Wayne F. Shovelin Scholar

CaroMont Health Foundation is proud to announce that Sophi Jolley, a recent graduate of Ashbrook High School in Gastonia, has been awarded the 2021 Wayne F. Shovelin Scholarship. Following an extensive application and interview process, Jolley was chosen to receive a four-year scholarship, worth up to \$20,000 each academic year, for undergraduate studies in a healthcare-related field.



“Members of the Scholarship Advisory Board were struck by Sophi’s academic record, extracurricular activities and her drive to care for others,” said Shelley F. Collins, Chair of the CaroMont Health Foundation Scholarship Advisory Committee. “She has proactively sought out opportunities to enrich her experience and serve others. It is that balance of motivation and compassion that demonstrates her great promise as a future nurse.”

In addition to her strong academic record, Jolley is a member of the Mayors Youth Leadership Council and Episcopal Youth Diocese of Western North Carolina. She is a YMCA lifeguard, swim coach and member of the swim team, and also excels in theater, music and dance. Jolley plans to attend the University of South Carolina in the fall to study nursing.

Belmont Abbey College Launches Online Master of Health Administration

This fall, Belmont Abbey College will add another graduate degree to the school’s health science program. The Master of Health Administration (MHA) program is an online program for healthcare professionals who wish to develop and advance skills required for health care leadership.

The program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2021 cohort. To learn more [click here](#) or sign up for one of two virtual information sessions.

[June 29, 2021](#)

[July 28, 2021](#)