

Medical arts center fire aftermath

FARMINGTON — In the aftermath of a fire at the Franklin Health Medical Arts Center on Saturday, hospital administrators and others have been busy over the weekend serving on 10 impact teams to address issues such as relocating services, cleanup, security, and planning for repair.

The west wing of the building will be closed for at least one week and professional cleanup has already begun. It is unknown when the east wing, which suffered the most damage, will reopen. The closure affects 22 medical providers and 117 additional staff.

Medical practices and mammography services will be relocated on Monday and a hotline has been established to inform patients of the procedures to follow if they have a scheduled appointment. The hotline number is 779-2163.

"Our impact teams have been diligent, creative, and have worked long hours in coming up with solutions to address many issues so that we can see patients on Monday," said Jerry Cayer, Franklin Community Health Network executive vice president.

Patients with appointments this week should report to a temporary location for registration as follows:

- * Orthopaedics: Cardiopulmonary on the 1st floor of the hospital
- * Pediatrics: Wilton Family Practice
- * Surgery: Registration desk on the 2nd floor of the hospital
- * Urology: Registration desk on the 2nd floor of the hospital
- * Women's Care: Registration desk on the 2nd floor of the hospital
- * Mammography: FMH Outpatient Services in Livemore Falls

The 58,000 square foot Medical Arts Center houses (Franklin Health) pediatrics, women's care, orthopaedics, general surgery, and urology medical practices, as well as the Martha B. Webber Breast Care Center. Human Resources, Health Information Management, and Care Support departments of Franklin Memorial Hospital are located on the ground level.



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total will depend on how much insulation in the walls has to be torn out to keep it from being contaminated, he said. "Then there's the expense of medical equipment and computers within the offices."

Architects and contractors came to the scene to assess damage to the structure. Some firefighters stayed until after 1 p.m. clearing as much smoke and water from the building as they could.

While the urology, general surgery and pediatric wing was most affected by water and smoke damage, the other wing containing women's care, including the Martha B. Webber Breast Care Center and orthopaedics, received mostly smoke damage, Ross said.

"The good news is the sprinkler system did its job until the firemen could get there," said Gerald Cayer, chief operating officer of FMH and vice president of Franklin Health Community Network, the hospital's parent corporation.

By mid-morning, a team from the Health Network was busy making plans to continue operation of the medical practices, which include nearly 20 doctors and other staff. The building will be closed for at least a week, and the affected wing may be closed longer.

A hotline number, 778-2163, has been created for patients to check on the status of their appointments this week. The medical and mammography services will be relocated.

To deal with the temporary impact of moving practices, "we'll have to be creative," Cayer said. He expected plans to be more complete by Sunday.

Assessment of damages to the utilities and infrastructure, and the cleanup process, were to begin as soon as firefighters were out of the building, Cayer said.

Firefighters from Farmington, Wilton, Jay, Temple, Chesterville, New Sharon and Industry were called to the fire, Ross said.

Moose Mountain

by Mark Ricketts

I'VE WITNESSED MANY STRANGE AND LURID THINGS IN MY YEARS AS A NOSY, CRIME SOLVING SENIOR, BUT I'M APPALLED BY MOOSE MOUNTAIN COMICS RECENT STORY LINE.

I CAN SEE WHY THE RANGER FELLOW HAS BECOME PROTECTIVE OF THE YOUNG MOOSE, SURE, HE IS, AFTER ALL, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF THE CALF'S FATHER, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME, IF HE WAS ANY KIND OF MAN, HE'D GIVE THOSE GUN-TOTING HUNTERS A GOOD GOING OVER.

ALL I'M SAYING IS, IF A HEROIC COMICS CHARACTER LIKE MARK TRAIL HAD ADOPTED AN ANIMAL AND ITS HEAD WAS ABOUT TO BE MOUNTED OVER HUNTER'S FIREPLACE, HE WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT. HE'D COME IN SWINGING. HE'D CLEAN A FEW CLOCKS!

OF COURSE, THIS SORT OF ACTION WOULD COMPLETELY IGNORE THE RIGHTS OF THE HUNTERS IN THIS SCENARIO, BUT WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER SEE, AN HEROIC RESCUE OR A SPORTSMAN'S RIGHTS PROTECTED?

THAT QUESTION WAS RHETORICAL. DON'T ANSWER.

Jessica Fletcher
Cabot Cove,
Maine

NOBODY HURTS MY FRIENDS!!

SMACK!

OWW!! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME.

CRAZY FREAK!

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