

NEWS RELEASE



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Johnny Draper, Chairman of the Board for Halifax Regional and Mayor of the town of Weldon

DRAPER LEADS HALIFAX REGIONAL'S BOARD

Weldon Mayor Praises Quality of Care

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC – (June 5, 2008) – Johnny Draper, Weldon Mayor and Roanoke Valley community leader, has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Halifax Regional.

Draper heads a 15-member board of community leaders who govern the not-for-profit medical center, one of the largest employers in the Roanoke Valley. Board members volunteer their time as representatives of the community to make decisions in the best interest of quality healthcare.

“The Board’s responsibility is to ensure that physicians and staff have the equipment and facilities to meet the needs of patients,” said Draper. “We must continue to invest in developing new services and new technologies.” He cited angiography and the CT scanner as examples. This year, the Medical Center has invested approximately \$2.5 million in developing those services.

Draper is passionate about the quality of care provided by Halifax Regional. “We have an outstanding community medical center,” he says. “The quality of nursing care is among the best in North Carolina.” He noted that nurses have earned several statewide awards in the past year.

A medical center is the matter of pride for the community, Draper says. "Halifax Regional's record in compassionate, quality care is excellent. We have a low rate of infections, a clean facility and a tiny percentage of errors," he continued. "In a community medical center, our physicians, nurses and technicians can focus on taking care of patients."

Draper encourages patients who need hospital services to choose Halifax Regional. "We have made a tremendous investment in people, equipment and facilities, and we are ready to serve patients," he added.

As a businessman, Draper understands Halifax Regional's role in the local economy. With 850 jobs and a payroll of nearly \$47 million, "we support a lot of families and businesses." When a patient chooses Halifax Regional, he is "not only going to receive good care, he is helping to provide jobs and contribute to the local economy." He also said a good medical center is essential to success in recruiting and retaining local businesses.

Now in his seventh year on the Board, Draper is busy in retirement as Mayor of Weldon. He started in the radio business while in high school. While officially retired, he still loves radio and is the DJ on The Great 98 and 3WD, playing beach music each Friday evening. He is married to the former Shirley Hartsoe, and they have one daughter, Lori.

"Johnny Draper is an exemplary community leader," said Will Mahone, President and CEO of the Medical Center. "He represents the dedication and expertise that our Board brings to the table in making decisions on how to meet the healthcare needs of the Roanoke Valley."

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About Halifax Regional

Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 206-beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit www.halifaxregional.us.