



SENTARA®

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Sentara BelleHarbour in Suffolk, Va. breaks ground on second medical building****OVERVIEW**

- 85,000 square foot building will include outpatient surgery suite and 14 overnight observation beds.
- Campus will add a helipad for pickups by Nightingale and other air ambulances.
- Goal is a medical 'destination' campus in North Suffolk with most services except inpatient admissions.

**Sentara BelleHarbour in Suffolk breaks ground on second building**

*Rendering of completed expansion. Current building is to the right of the Emergency sign*

**SUFFOLK, VA** – Officials with Sentara Healthcare and the Sentara BelleHarbour campus in Suffolk, Va. broke ground on a second medical office building on Tuesday, May 2.

The 85,000 square foot, \$34M building will feature an ambulatory surgery center with two operating rooms, an expanded emergency department, 14 observation beds for ED and surgery patients, new medical office space and a helipad. Completion is expected in early 2019.

“At 420 square miles, it can take quite a while to drive from one corner of Suffolk to another,” said Steve Julian, MD, President of Sentara Obici Hospital in Suffolk and the Sentara BelleHarbour campus. “With that reality, Sentara set out to bring our services closer to home for people in North Suffolk. We want to make Sentara BelleHarbour a medical destination and a gateway to the integrated services of Sentara Healthcare.”

The new four-story building will be positioned on what is now a surface parking lot in front of the current three-story building, which opened in 2008. The two buildings will be connected and replacement surface parking

will be added.

Sentara BelleHarbour currently includes a 24-hour, ambulance-accessible, free-standing emergency department (ED) staffed by the same board-certified emergency physicians who serve Sentara hospitals. The expansion plan calls for the ED to grow from 17 beds to 23 or 24.

“I know firsthand having ample emergency room services is one of the most important things we can have in our city,” said Suffolk Mayor Linda Johnson in her remarks. “You are treating entire families with your reach,” Johnson continued, “and we as a community know you’re here to stay to provide for your patients.”

The current campus also offers advanced imaging including MRI and state-of-the-art CT scanning, a breast center with 3-D mammography, anticoagulation therapy, cardiac testing, physical therapy, family and occupational medicine, a certified sleep center, laboratory services and a community room for health education programs and group meetings.

The campus expansion includes an FAA-registered helipad to facilitate helicopter ambulance transfers of ED patients to hospitals when required. Sentara BelleHarbour sees one or two helicopter pickups per month.

A master plan for Sentara BelleHarbour includes long-term potential for up to four medical office buildings, an urgent care center and a parking deck, depending on population growth and demand for services in the area.

“This new medical office building will help Sentara meet growing demand for services in North Suffolk,” said Howard P. Kern, President & CEO of Sentara Healthcare at the event. “We want to build lifelong relationships with our patients and their families and access to care is one way to achieve that goal,” Kern said.

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#### **About Sentara Healthcare**

Sentara Healthcare, based in Norfolk, VA, celebrates more than 125 years in pursuit of its mission to improve health every day. Sentara is an integrated not-for-profit system of 12 hospitals in Virginia and North Carolina, including a Level I trauma center with Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance. The Sentara family also includes four medical groups, ambulatory campuses, post-acute care services, the physician-led Sentara Quality Care Network, the Sentara College of Health Sciences, Optima Health Plan members in Virginia, Alabama and Ohio, and a team of professionals 28,000 strong. Sentara is strategically focused on continuous improvement in quality, safety, and the patient experience.