

New State-of-the-Art Imaging Unit at St. Elizabeth Grant

“Because the Best Pictures Result in the Best Diagnoses”

People in and around Grant County have made it clear that they love having topnotch medical imaging services right in their own backyard at St. Elizabeth Grant. In fact, demand in the area has been so strong for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computerized axial tomography (CT) scanning that St. Elizabeth leaders decided to improve upon the mobile imaging

unit available at the Williamstown campus by opening a \$2.5 million state-of-the-art MRI/CT suite at the hospital this March.

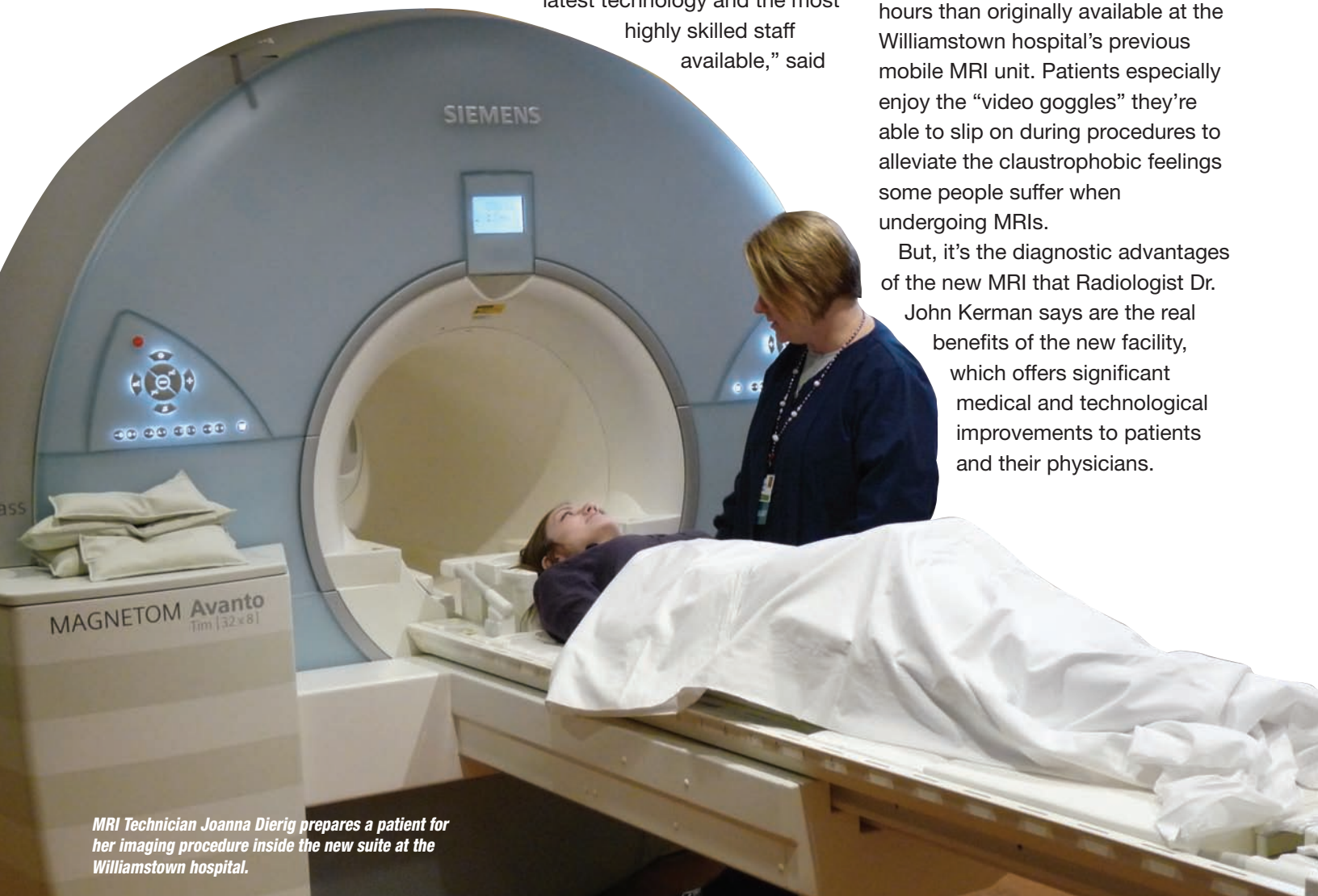
“The need is obviously here for the very latest medical imaging services for the people living all around our Williamstown hospital, so St. Elizabeth is responding by providing our community with a topnotch imaging facility filled with the very latest technology and the most highly skilled staff available,” said

St. Elizabeth Grant Vice President of Operations Paula Roe. “It’s a great resource for the whole region and a wonderful addition to our facility.”

Better Images Mean Better Diagnoses

The 2,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility opened in early March, offering area residents the most cutting-edge imaging services in a more comfortable space with longer hours than originally available at the Williamstown hospital’s previous mobile MRI unit. Patients especially enjoy the “video goggles” they’re able to slip on during procedures to alleviate the claustrophobic feelings some people suffer when undergoing MRIs.

But, it’s the diagnostic advantages of the new MRI that Radiologist Dr. John Kerman says are the real benefits of the new facility, which offers significant medical and technological improvements to patients and their physicians.



MRI Technician Joanna Dierig prepares a patient for her imaging procedure inside the new suite at the Williamstown hospital.



“The new scanner is a state-of-the-art Siemens magnet with more capabilities than the (previous) mobile magnet,” said Kerman, who is one of the radiologists who interprets images produced at St. Elizabeth Grant.

“So the new facility offers patients and their doctors better quality images and more rapid scanning. ... Plus, patients will be scanned in the new Grant facility and will not have to venture outside as they have with the mobile unit.”

CT images have also improved with the new facility, which houses a 32-slice CT scanner, as opposed to the four-slice scanner previously used at St. Elizabeth Grant. The new scanner performs exams more quickly, resulting in a lower overall radiation dose to patients. Likewise, the 32-slice unit provides more detailed images of those areas of the body for which CT scanning is best suited.

“Whereas MRI is highly detailed for (producing images of) ligaments and tendons and things of that nature ... CT is more detailed for solid organs and bone,” Radiology Technologist Melissa Phillips said.

“And with a 32-slice scanner the images are better, so we can do more studies with this advance in technology. For instance, we can now do better CT angiography because the details will be exponentially better with this scanner. It’s kind of like going from an old Ford Festiva to a higher-end vehicle.”

Added Hours and an Added Service

And all of this “higher-end” technology is now more readily available to patients, thanks to the longer hours of operation available at the new imaging suite. CT scans are now available around the clock,

while MRI studies can be scheduled every weekday from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., as well as Monday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m.

The opening of the new MRI/CT suite has also allowed St. Elizabeth to bring another new imaging technology to Grant County in the form of a mobile positron emission tomography (PET) scanner, which is scheduled to open at the Williamstown facility later this year. PET scanners are primarily used to evaluate cancers as oncology patients progress through treatment.

The demand for oncology services at the Williamstown hospital is skyrocketing, so St. Elizabeth administrators invested in the new PET technology to meet the rapidly growing needs of these patients and their physicians. Roe said the new service is just one more way St. Elizabeth is working to deliver on its promise to promote the seamless delivery of the highest quality healthcare to residents of all surrounding communities.

“We’re committed to making it as easy and pleasant as possible for people to get the best medical care available, while helping their physicians and other medical professionals work easily together to get patients well,” Roe said. “All of these new imaging services are helping us deliver on that commitment every day.”



To Schedule Procedures at the New Suite:

Call: (859) 655-7400

Please specify Grant Co. location

Location: Barnes Road, Williamstown

MRI Hours: Monday: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday:

7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CT Hours: Around the clock

Other Diagnostic Imaging Services at St. Elizabeth Grant:

- Digital mammography
- DXA-scans
- Echocardiology
- Fluoroscopic X-ray
- Nuclear medicine
- *PET scans
- Stress echocardiology
- Ultrasound
- Vascular imaging
- X-ray

** Scheduled to begin this spring*

Use Your Latest Technology to See Our Latest Technology...

St. Elizabeth Healthcare is a big believer in the benefits of the latest imaging technology. That’s why we’re one of just a handful of places nationwide with a 320-slice CT scanner – the most powerful X-ray imaging device on the planet. To see how this amazing technology works for heart and stroke patients locally, use your smart phone to scan the Quick Response (QR) code shown here. *(If you don’t have a code reader on your phone yet, search ‘mobiletag’ in your application resource, like Apple App Store, Droid Market or Blackberry App World.)* Then, just point and shoot your phone’s camera at the code to the right and you’ll be automatically connected to information about the groundbreaking technology, only available in this region at St. Elizabeth Edgewood.

