

The Valley **Breeze**

Farrelly Boys are Hometown Heroes

A few hours prior to the premiere of the Farrelly Boys' "Stuck on You" there was a premiere of another sort, the official opening of Landmark Medical Center's InstaCare® Emergency Department program. On the surface, you might say "big deal," but in fact it is. Faced with the challenges from new "urgent care" centers like those in Cumberland, Lincoln and Smithfield, Landmark has had to re-invent itself. For years, we all heard the boilerplate horror stories of three-hour waits for service at many hospitals.

Now at Landmark, visitors are greeted by a clinician as soon as they arrive, and billing details come later. Though they can't guarantee it forever, Emergency Dept. Director Dr. Emilio S. Belaval reported last week that in the trial month of November the average wait for patients was just 18 minutes, and the goal is to see everyone within 30 minutes.

How can they do this? Is business slow?

In fact, according to hospital officials, Landmark is now seeing almost twice as many emergency patients as they were seeing a year ago, and moving them through the department much more quickly, a tribute to hospital administration and more importantly, great staff.

A few months ago, the rumor was reported by the Providence Phoenix that Landmark Medical Center was as good as closed, and that Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island wanted them merged with Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence and combined into a new hospital in Lincoln.

Now, the re-invented Emergency Department is growing stronger and construction of the new multi-million cancer center is under way.

Northern Rhode Island residents don't need a new hospital in Lincoln. They need and deserve a thriving Landmark Medical Center and its sister institution, the Rehabilitation Hospital of Rhode Island at Park Square.

Take a bow, "Doc" and Mrs. Farrelly. You done good!