



## New state-of-the-art surgical suite gives patients a leg up

**+PLUS**

**VOLUNTEERS  
PLAY VITAL ROLE**

**ANDOVER MEDICAL  
CENTER EXPANDS**

Tom Schnorrenberg is back to taking walks with his dog after surgery at Lawrence General's new Santagati Center restored the blood flow to his legs.

Photo: Jonathan Kannair

# Taking leaps forward

Summer always seems to fly by, but for Lawrence General, time seems to be moving even faster this year! We kicked off our summer with the opening of the Santagati Center for surgery, a huge leap forward in technology for our region. After three months in operation, the staff and surgeons are busy providing care to a new group of patients who, before the center opened, might have traveled to Boston for their surgeries. In this issue of *My Health TODAY*, you will read the story of one such patient, who actually opted to wait to have his surgery until the Santagati Center opened.

This summer also marked the opening of the second building at Andover Medical Center, placing more primary and specialty care beyond the walls of our hospital, in the communities we serve. Working together with community physicians, Lawrence General is bringing medical expertise and services closer to the patients who need it, making those inconvenient trips to Boston unnecessary!

In closing, I want to thank our neighbors in the Merrimack Valley for choosing Lawrence General. In the past four years we have grown 9 percent, and that growth comes from virtually every community in our broader service area. We are privileged to care for you and your families, and we are proud to be the premier health network in the Merrimack Valley.

Wishing you good health,

**Dianne Anderson, RN**  
President and CEO  
Lawrence General Hospital



At left, Lawrence General Hospital President and CEO Dianne Anderson (center) was honored on May 11 by the Home Health Foundation at its sixth annual Legacy of Leading recognition dinner.

Anderson was acknowledged for transforming Lawrence General Hospital from a local community hospital to a regional medical center. Pictured with Anderson are Karen Gomes, president and CEO of the Home Health Foundation, and John Albert, the organization's recently retired president.

# myn



## celebrate! DOORS OPEN AT SANTAGATI CENTER

Spirits were high on April 13 when an enthusiastic group of donors, elected officials, business

leaders, and members of the Lawrence General surgical staff attended a special



Lawrence General President and CEO Dianne Anderson and board member Richard Santagati (center) were joined at the ribbon-cutting by board chair Deb Silberstein, Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, Marilyn Santagati, State Senator Barbara L'Italien, and Dan Tsai, assistant secretary for MassHealth.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Renowned merchant mariner Captain Richard Phillips was the keynote speaker at the fourth annual Lawrence General Healthcare Leadership Summit in May, where he offered attendees some hard-won wisdom on navigating difficult situations.



The new Santagati Center features seven state-of-the-art operating rooms, including the only hybrid surgical suite in the Merrimack Valley.

patients, commended Lawrence General for its innovative efforts to keep care local in a more cost-effective setting. “When people talk about health care innovation, they talk about the Boston teaching hospitals... not everyone thinks about what’s happening in the Merrimack Valley and Lawrence,” said Tsai, citing the Santagati Center as a prime example of a hospital offering high-quality care in a community setting.

Other speakers at the event included State Senator Barbara L’Italien, Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, Lawrence General Board Chair Deb Silberstein, and surgeon Arthur (Chip) Gonsalves, MD.

## regional politics STATE SENATORS DISCUSS HEALTH CARE ON COMMONWEALTH CONVERSATIONS TOUR

Back in March, Lawrence General hosted a group of close to 100 community, business, and industry leaders from across Lawrence and state senators from throughout the Merrimack Valley as part of the Massachusetts Senate’s Commonwealth Conversations tour.

The Lawrence stop on the daylong tour was hosted by State Senator Barbara L’Italien, and it was attended by state

senators Jamie Eldridge, John F. Keenan, Michael Rodrigues, Sal DiDomenico, Mike Barrett, Jason Lewis, Bruce Tarr, Kathleen O’Connor Ives, Eileen M. Donoghue, and State Senate President Stan Rosenberg.

While on site, many in the group were also treated to a tour of the new Santagati Center for surgery led by Lawrence General President and CEO Dianne Anderson.



Community, business, and industry leaders from across Lawrence and state senators from throughout the Merrimack Valley toured the new Santagati Center.

ribbon-cutting event for the Santagati Center for surgery.

The keynote speaker at the event, Dan Tsai, who oversees the Commonwealth’s Medicaid program and other initiatives aimed at aiding underinsured

## expanding our network LAWRENCE GENERAL WELCOMES ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON



**Xavier Simcock, MD**, is a new member of the team at Associates in Orthopedics. A graduate of

the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, Dr. Simcock also

completed a two-year fellowship in shoulder and hand surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Simcock treats adult and pediatric patients with all kinds of orthopedic issues, including trauma, degenerative joint disease, nerve compression, and sports injuries. He specializes in both open and arthroscopic techniques, and he offers

ultrasound guided injection therapies right in his office.

For more information, visit [lawrencegeneral.org/joints](http://lawrencegeneral.org/joints).

### FIND YOUR PHYSICIAN

Visit [lawrencegeneral.org/physicians/choose-a-doctor.aspx](http://lawrencegeneral.org/physicians/choose-a-doctor.aspx).



## WHAT IS PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE?

According to the National Institutes of Health, peripheral artery disease (P.A.D.) is a disease in which plaque builds up in the arteries that carry blood to your head, organs, and limbs. When arteries are narrowed by plaque, the flow of oxygen-rich blood is limited.

P.A.D. usually affects the arteries in the legs, but it also can affect the arteries that carry blood from the heart to the head, arms, kidneys, and stomach.

The major risk factors for P.A.D. are:

- smoking
- older age
- having certain conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol

With blood flow now restored to his legs after surgery at Lawrence General, Tewksbury resident Tom Schnorrenberg leads a more active lifestyle.

Lawrence General's new hybrid surgical suite keeps more complex surgeries close to home

**The pain in Tewksbury resident Tom**

Schnorrenberg's legs was agonizing. He and his Lawrence General vascular surgeon, Arthur (Chip) Gonsalves, MD, of Vascular and Vein Associates, had been monitoring his advancing peripheral artery disease for several years. By early spring 2017, the pain was severe enough to disrupt his sleep and made even short walks nearly impossible. The time had come, both agreed, to get the blood circulating freely to his legs again.

"Dr. Gonsalves had told me it was wise to wait for surgery until the pain was really bad," recalls Tom, an 80-year-old former Marine and retired electronics professional. "Then he told me about this special hybrid surgical suite that Lawrence General Hospital was building. He said there wasn't another like it around and that it would



**Throughout his surgery and recovery, Tom Schnorrenberg's wife, Karen, has been at his side providing unwavering support.**

# A LEG UP

allow him to do a better and more thorough job of fixing me up. That is all he had to say. I told him I'd wait a couple more months until it was built and have my surgery there."

Those last couple of months were hard, remembers Tom's wife, Karen. "I wanted to call Dr. Gonsalves and ask him to just do the surgery. But Tom said no. Being the old Marine that he is, he stuck it out," she says.

**New digs.** On May 3, Tom and Dr. Gonsalves entered Lawrence General Hospital's new hybrid operating suite—the first case to be performed in the only hybrid surgical suite north of Boston.

"Repeat imaging is generally the first step in any complex procedure like this," says Dr. Gonsalves. "The studies the day of his surgery showed us a significant progression in Mr. Schnorrenberg's arterial disease, which explained his worsening pain."

"They rolled me into the surgical suite, and it was like something out of *Star Wars*," Tom says. "My first impression was how large the room was, with big pieces of equipment everywhere and lots of people."

Tom and Dr. Gonsalves had made the right call in waiting for the hybrid surgical suite. Dr. Gonsalves was able to use the integrated

imaging equipment to see the circulation issues deep in Tom's legs, alternating between endovascular treatment with stents in some areas and traditional surgical techniques in other areas.

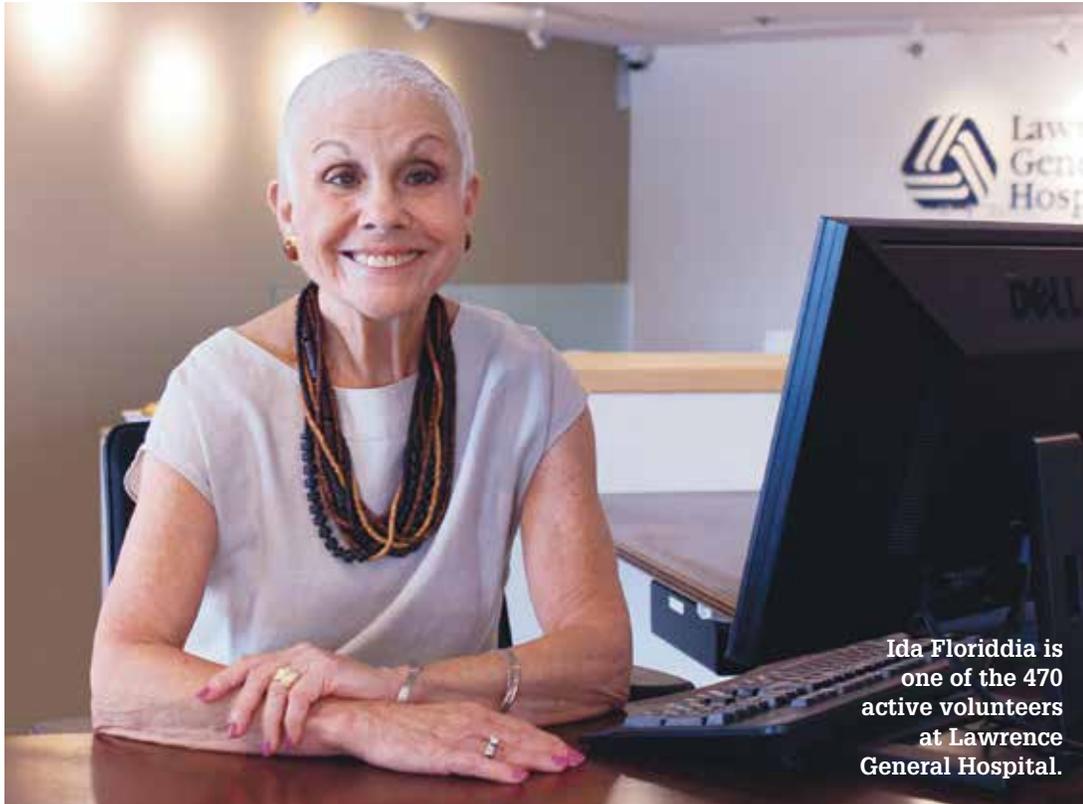
"The capability of this surgical suite gave us the flexibility to systematically do what needed to be done for Mr. Schnorrenberg. When all was said and done, through two groin incisions, we had completely restored blood flow to both legs," says Dr. Gonsalves. "The size of the hybrid room allows the surgical and interventional teams to work together. The surgeon often gets the credit, but there were about 10 people contributing to the success of the case."

**Bright future ahead.** Two weeks post-surgery, Tom says he is doing great. "It is unbelievable. Even in the hospital, when I was tired, a bit off-balance and getting back on my feet, that pain I had been feeling in my legs was totally gone. And now, there's still a little bit of discomfort where he made the cuts, but my legs feel great!"

With the surgery behind him, Tom is looking forward to strolling through Boston with his sister and helping his daughter get her new retail store up and running. Another benefit of the surgery, he adds with a smile: "Both of my feet are warm again!"

**GET RESULTS**

To learn more about the new Santagati Center for surgery at Lawrence General, visit [lawrencegeneral.org/services-and-centers/surgery/surgical-center.aspx](http://lawrencegeneral.org/services-and-centers/surgery/surgical-center.aspx).



Ida Floriddia is one of the 470 active volunteers at Lawrence General Hospital.

# Ask Ida

Volunteers serve vital role at Lawrence General

**Ida Floriddia is a familiar face** in the Lawrence General Hospital main lobby—always smiling, helpful, and kind. She is always in heels and professionally dressed, though she is an unpaid volunteer. She also volunteers once a week in pre-admission testing and is an on-call baby cuddler, providing the comfort of a human touch to newborns in need.

If you ask Ida, she will tell you she always worked in a corporate environment and the heels are a familiar habit. It's the same with the smile and listening ear, though her story takes an unexpected turn. Two weeks before she retired from her corporate job almost three years ago, her husband unexpectedly passed away. Feeling adrift and needing something meaningful to occupy her time and fulfill her need to be with people, she turned to Lawrence General's volunteer program.

"I love the interaction and helping people. It's so busy," Ida says. "Volunteering has saved me, in a way. I am connecting with people, providing them with another friendly face in an unfamiliar environment. It's a reason to get out of the house each day."

During National Volunteer Week in the spring, Lawrence General celebrated the 470 active volunteers who contribute to the hospital's operation, donating a total of 24,000 hours of their time. Each of them has their own story and their own reasons for their service to the hospital community. If you ask Ida, who has volunteered 1,471 hours since December 2014, she's likely to tell you that those babies give her as much comfort as she gives them.

## VOLUNTEER TODAY

For more information on volunteering at Lawrence General, contact Volunteer Services at **978-683-4000, ext. 2645**, or email us at [volunteers@lawrencegeneral.org](mailto:volunteers@lawrencegeneral.org).



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For more than 125 years, Lawrence General Hospital has been providing for the health and medical needs of the citizens of the Merrimack Valley. At a time when health care is at a crossroads, Lawrence General has a demonstrated strategy for supportive care outside the hospital for those with chronic health issues, while offering modern, high-quality, and efficient hospital services for those who need more acute care.

Lawrence General needs the support of the community to build the responsive health care system this region requires going forward to keep health care local. The Together Campaign gives community members the means to direct private dollars to support their care into the future.

## GIVE BACK

To learn more about Lawrence General's plan and how you can contribute to our region's modern medical care, please contact Tom Cahill, chief advancement officer, at [thomas.cahill@lawrencegeneral.org](mailto:thomas.cahill@lawrencegeneral.org).

# There when you need us

Lawrence General Emergency Services provides medical security at community events

**Over the course of the year,** you will find members of the Lawrence General Emergency Medical Services team on site at a wide variety of public events throughout the Merrimack Valley. From high school football games and road races to parades and street fairs, these highly skilled medical professionals add an extra level of safety and security for attendees should a health concern or emergency arise.

“As a community hospital, we are deeply invested in the well-being of everyone who lives in Lawrence and the neighboring towns,” says Paul Brennan, director of Lawrence General’s Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services. “Having a presence at these public events is our way of connecting with people outside the hospital setting, answering questions, and sharing our knowledge and expertise if needed.”

The Emergency Medical Services staff members serve as an extension of the Lawrence General Hospital Emergency Center, which is



**Lawrence General Emergency Medical Technician Luis Carrucini chats with attendees of the Lawrence Salsa Festival in June.**

among the busiest and most respected in the state. Designated as a Level III Trauma Center, the Lawrence General Emergency Center is staffed by specially trained physicians and nurses who provide care for the region’s critically ill and injured.

“We have eight ambulances and more than 80 emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and emergency medical dispatchers on staff who work together to provide emergency services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year,” says Brennan. “We employ the most advanced equipment and are known for our skill and innovation. If a medical emergency occurs, large or small, at one of these public events, we’re there and ready to go.”



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 **WE'RE SOCIAL**



# Andover Medical Center even more convenient with expanded services



**CONVENIENT CARE**  
For more information, visit [andovermedicalcenter.com](http://andovermedicalcenter.com).



A second building in the Andover Medical Center complex is now open, adding additional services—and a new level of convenience—for the entire family. The new building includes diagnostic imaging, orthopedics, a laboratory, rehabilitation services, and several specialty clinics.

Andover Medical Center is a collaboration between Lawrence General Hospital and Pentucket Medical Associates. The first building in the complex opened in November 2014 and offers pediatric and adult primary care, lab and diagnostic services, OB/GYN, women's health imaging, and ExpressCare.

The Andover Medical Center campus is conveniently located right off of Interstate 93. If coming from I-93 South, take Exit 43A. For I-93 North, take Exit 43.

## NEW SERVICES NOW AT ANDOVER MEDICAL CENTER



**DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING**



**ORTHOPEDICS**



**LABORATORY**



**SPECIALTY CLINICS**



**REHABILITATION SERVICES**