

What a nice surprise — the Y-NH Shoreline Medical Center

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As many of you who follow this column are perhaps aware, I had a lumpectomy for a cancerous breast lump in October. Fol-



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lowing surgery, a daily six-week regimen of radiation was prescribed. Fortunately, the Yale-New Haven Shoreline Medical Center had opened in July '04 with a state-of-the-art radiation oncology center, only 20

minutes from my home, making the trip pleasant and easy.

Most important, however, is the warm and caring atmosphere throughout the center. Although the center has the latest equipment and the professionals are fully trained and skilled, there is a relaxed informality instead of the cold, institutional feel of a hospital.

According to Steven Benciven-go, director of the center, they have worked hard to create just that atmosphere and have instituted outreach programs to acquaint the community with the center.

For example, they have had a program in conjunction with Cox School in Guilford, which introduces first- through fourth-graders to the emergency room ambulance services and explains some of the procedures used. Not long ago, after suffering a bad fall, a little girl, scared and crying, was rushed to the emergency department, but when the car turned into the driveway, she stopped crying and told her mother, "I'm not afraid anymore.

"I've been here before and everyone is really nice." I certainly would agree wholeheartedly with that tot. From the professional and vivacious Dr. Susan Higgins to the kind and helpful nurses and the friendly radiologists, I was made to feel as though I was part of a "family." There is even a cute cafe serving excellent sandwiches and coffee to add to the home-like atmosphere.

In addition to radiation-oncology for patients requiring treatment with external beam radiation therapy, there is laboratory medicine and a blood draw station, with an additional new blood draw station recently opened in Madison. There is individual nutrition counseling, childbirth preparation courses, diagnostic radiology, including CT, ultrasound, MRI, digital mammography, bone density and nuclear medicine. Same-day surgery is offered in the surgical center, which has an 11-bed recovery area, as well as an endoscopy suite for colonoscopies and on-site pathology services.

Emergency services are 4 p.m. to midnight, Monday through Friday, and noon to midnight, Saturday and Sunday. The medical center is located on Goose Lane, just off Exit 59 on Interstate 95. For more information, call (203) 453-7900.

Caring, compassionate and close to home — that's the Yale-New Haven Shoreline Medical Center, a welcome addition to the ever-increasing number of businesses locating in the area.

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