

New doctor opens office in Groveland

Will Broadhus

A sign announcing the practice of Dr. Mark G. Bowie, an internal medicine physician, went up on Monday, April 23, at 929 Salem St. in Groveland.

Inside the office, the smell of new carpet is strong. There are stacks of magazines waiting for patients. The doctor is in.

Bowie's is one of three new clinics in the Merrimack Valley Health Care Group, operated by Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill. The other clinics are in west Haverhill, and Hampstead, N.H.

Affiliation with the hospital also gives Bowie access to a wide range of sub-specialists for referrals. It also allows for what he describes as "seamless care," in which a patient's complete medical records follow them wherever they get treatment, whether it's at their primary care doctor's office or a hospital.

"It ensures continuity of care," Bowie says, adding that "Some of the big hospitals don't even have that." The process takes the bureaucratic shuffle out of medical services, which can make patients feel like lost luggage.

As an internist, Bowie's focus is the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases of the heart and lungs, in addition to managing hypertension and diabetes.

Bowie performed his residency in internal medicine at the Berkshire Medical Center, in Pittsfield, which is run by the UMass Medical School. He graduated from the University of New England's College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine. Osteopathy supplements medical care with "adjunct therapy," as Bowie describes it, musculoskeletal therapy with hands-on manipulation.

The clinic has five examination rooms. His staff consists of medical assistant Kim Harris of Methuen, and billing specialist Tammy Hutchins of Haverhill.

Bowie has worked as a hospital doctor, most recently for two years at Pheobe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Ga. He describes that part of the state as a region of pecan and peanut farms famous for its proximity to Plains, home of former President Jimmy Carter. It is also just south of Americus, a town where the hospital was "wiped out," Bowie says, by a devastating tornado early last month.

Having grown up in Lewiston, Maine, and graduating from Bowdoin College, opening a clinic in Groveland represents a return to New England for Bowie and his family, which includes a 15-month-old son. He is grateful for his experiences in Georgia, but admits that he missed this region. Of his time down South, he said, "No seafood, no coast... no Sox."