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Saint Alphonsus expansion

ONTARIO -- Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Ontario has announced plans to construct a 30,000-square-foot outpatient facility in Fruitland, bringing increased access to physicians and diagnostic services to residents of the western Treasure Valley.



An artist's rendering of what the new 30,000-square-foot Fruitland Health Plaza would look like. Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Ontario announced plans today to begin construction on the new facility that could, potentially, bring in as many as 18 new physicians to the area.

According to a release provided by Saint Alphonsus, the facility will provide high-quality medical services to help meet the growing needs for integrated and coordinated healthcare services close to residents who live in the western portion of the valley. The Fruitland Health Plaza gives Saint Alphonsus the opportunity to expand the services its physicians currently provide, as well as recruit up to 18 new physicians and introduce a variety of specialty services to the community.

“Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Ontario has served the healthcare needs of the surrounding communities for almost a century,” Saint Alphonsus-Ontario Board Chair Andy Bentz said. “This new facility is an essential tool to keep our community safe and healthy. As stewards of outstanding healthcare service, we must expand to meet the growing need.”

Officials said the expansion is estimated to cost \$10 million and demonstrates Saint Alphonsus’ commitment to providing access to quality services and rendering care in a manner that continues to improve the health and economy of the area.

“This expansion is a testament to the lasting commitment of the Saint Alphonsus Health System to invest in our local community and to keep quality medical care close to where our patients live,” Ken Hart, community and regional board member, said.

Dion Zimmerman, a local architect with Gowland, Johanson & Zimmerman Architects in Payette, will be the lead architect on the project. The local firm will be working closely with Sam Burrows of Lombard-Conrad Architecture as well as associates and medical staff of Saint Alphonsus on the project.

“This facility will be absolutely beautiful,” Saint Alphonsus-Ontario Chief Financial Officer Paul Vachek said. “Dion and the team have been very thoughtful in designing a facility that will best accommodate patients, physicians, support staff as well as considering long-term growth opportunities. Not only will the health plaza

bring a multitude of services and improve community health, its economic impact on local communities will be outstanding.”

Ontario Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer John Breidenbach said the project will provide jobs during and long after the construction phase. He said the new facility is expected to employ up to 40 new full-time jobs. “Anything that any industry can do to bring more jobs to our area should be celebrated,” Breidenbach said.

Local physician Andy Peterson said the multispecialty facility is needed in this area and will be a tremendous asset locally. “I believe this is one of the most important advances in healthcare delivery made here in the valley since the sisters arrived 100 years ago, It is going to happen as a result of the formation of the Saint Alphonsus Health System by Trinity Health and their foresight and willingness to invest in our community and health of our people.”

Rick Palagi, Saint Alphonsus-Ontario CEO, said the project is a component of the mission and vision of Saint Alphonsus to improve the healthcare in the community and provide hope and healing close to home. “The new Fruitland Health Plaza is the beginning of fulfilling those statements. We know this health plaza will make a critical difference in the lives of those we serve and employ and the communities which surround it.”

Fruitland Mayor Ken Bishop said he met with Palagi Thursday concerning the new health plaza and said Saint Alphonsus appears to be on the a fast track to get the project going.

“Palagi said they would like to be done and moved in by the end of the year,” Bishop said. “As long as they can get their plans approved, they can start”

Bishop said the property that will be used is situated on U.S. Highway 30 just west of the Stinker gas station and convenience store. He said the property is already zoned commercial, and Saint Alphonsus should have little trouble getting ready to begin.

“These are professional services we haven’t seen in this area,” Bishop said. “It’s tremendous. It’s a \$10 million investment in our community.”