



Provided by Saint Alphonsus Health System

The \$10 million outpatient facility, due to be completed next summer, "will benefit the entire area," says Saint Alphonsus Medical Group physician Andy Peterson.

Saint Al's health plaza coming to Fruitland

Mayor Ken Bishop says the plaza will boost care throughout the western Treasure Valley.

BY SANDRA FORESTER

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Saint Alphonsus Health System is building to meet a rising demand for health care in a growing area.

The outpatient plaza will bring physicians and diagnostic services closer to people who need them, says Fruitland Mayor Ken Bishop. "People won't have to travel as far or work around schedules," he says.

Bishop said Fruitland has grown almost 25 percent in the past 10 years to nearly 5,000 people.

The new building also will allow current providers to expand their services and add an estimated 18 physicians to the health system.

"Not only will the Health Plaza bring a multitude of services and improve community health, its economic impact on local communities will be outstanding," says Paul Vachek, chief financial officer of Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Ontario, which includes the Fruitland operation. "The estimated \$10 million investment will provide local jobs during, as well as

long after the building phase."

Saint Alphonsus Health System has health plazas in Meridian, Nampa and Eagle, and four hospitals in Boise, Nampa, Ontario and Baker City, Ore. It employs more than 4,300 associates and 950 medical staff.

"I believe this is one of the most important advances in health care delivery made here in the Valley since the Sisters arrived 100 years ago," says Dr. Andy Peterson with the Saint Alphonsus Medical Group, which has more than 275 primary and specialty care providers at 35 clinics.

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Opening date: Summer 2012

Size: 30,000 square feet

Number of employees: estimated at 40

Groundbreaking: June 30

Project cost: \$10 million

Owner: Saint Alphonsus Health System

Architect: Don Zimmerman of Gowland, Johnson, Zimmerman Architecture of Payette

General contractor: Beniton Construction