Saint Alphonsus, St. Lukes to open hospitals this year in Nampa

NAMPA — The two new hospitals planned for Canyon County are on schedule to open this year.

The new Saint Alphonsus hospital will open early this summer near the corner of Interstate 84 and Garrity Boulevard, replacing the organization’s hospital on 12th Avenue Road with a modern health care facility.

“We’re just really excited to enhance the services in Canyon County,” said Clint Child, vice president of patient services for the Saint Alphonsus Nampa hospital.

The price tag is $80 million, and the hospital was designed to fit the modern technological needs of 21st century hospital patrons and workers, Child said.

When the 12th Avenue Road hospital opened in 1967, it had all private rooms, which was groundbreaking for the time, he said. These days, a lot of hospital communication happens electronically, so the new building is designed to keep up with that and streamline patient and provider travel.

The five-story, 240,000-square-foot Saint Alphonsus hospital will have 100 total inpatient beds at the Nampa Health Plaza, including a 10-bed short-stay unit, 18-bed intensive care unit, 25-bed 24-hour emergency department and six-room surgical operating suite.

Since all hospital personnel are moving to the new building, there will be few new employees, Child said. About 1,000 people are employed at the hospital.

The Saint Alphonsus hospital is in the middle of development spawning around Garrity Boulevard, including a new Winco.

Saint Alphonsus Health System is still determining what will become of the old hospital on 12th Avenue Road, said Saint Alphonsus spokesman Josh Schlaich.

A neighborhood hospital is being constructed in front of the old hospital building so residents of south Nampa continue to have care in that part of the city, Schlaich said. Scheduled to open in the latter part of this year, the neighborhood hospital will offer many of the same services as a full hospital, except for long-term inpatient beds or a large, full surgical center.

St. Luke’s

Across I-84, at the corner of Midland Boulevard and Cherry Lane, is the construction site of the new St. Luke’s hospital.
The 200,000-square-foot, 87-bed facility will be an addition to the existing St. Luke’s health plaza, which has been open since 2012 in Nampa.

It is scheduled to open Oct. 1, a day that can’t get here fast enough, said Ed Castledine, site administrator for the new hospital. At the St. Luke’s hospitals in Meridian and Boise, 25 percent of patients are from Canyon County.

“Our community is in need. We are out of space in Meridian and Boise,” Castledine said. “The sheer volume of people that want to be cared for at a St. Luke’s facility is high, and we need to get this facility open as soon as possible to get people cared for at St. Luke’s.”

About 70 percent of the hospital’s administrative staff are hired, which Castledine considers an accomplishment. Putting together an all-new hospital is a lot of work, he said. Some of the staff were promoted from within the St. Luke’s Health System, while others were hired from other parts of the country. The hospital team will be in place by August.

The St. Luke’s hospital will employ the equivalent of 450 full-time jobs, and the building will cost at least $100 million, the administrator said.

Castledine, introduced at the hospital’s groundbreaking in August 2015, has temporary offices at the St. Luke’s health plaza. He walks through the new hospital next door every week and said watching its quickly-changing progress is fun.

The new St. Luke’s hospital will have 14 family suites in its labor and delivery department, an innovative, research-based operation, Castledine said. The suites enable parents to stay with their child in the same room during labor, delivery and post-partum services.

Babies who spend more time with their parents do better and heal faster, particularly when they are ill or pre-mature. Seven of the suites are dedicated to neonatal intensive care services, Castledine said.

The site administrator said there are few labor and delivery departments with services like it in the country.

The new hospital will also include a 107,000-square-foot medical office building, increased imaging services and a cancer care facility.

**Saint Alphonsus**

Here are some fun facts about the new Saint Alphonsus hospital construction project in Nampa:

1. There are approximately 98 miles of conduit in the project. That is almost the entire length of the Boise River (102 miles). At an average float rate of 2.5 mph, it would take you almost 40 hours to cover this distance.

2. The hospital is approximately 4,000,000 cubic feet — it would take 205,000,000 potatoes to fill that space.
3. We have moved enough dirt to fill 500,000 bathtubs. That is 1,370 years’ worth of baths.
4. With the 11,000 cubic yards of concrete we used in the project, we could build a 4-foot sidewalk from Nampa to Banks, Idaho.
5. The 7,300 tons of asphalt used for the facility is the same weight of the Eiffel Tower.
6. 312 miles of electrical wire will be placed in the building, which is the same distance as it is to fly from Boise to Salt Lake City.
7. 22,225 linear feet of pipe used in the facility would equate to a line of 31,000 bowling balls in a row.
8. We have 470.561 tons of stone in the facility. If we had 470.561 tons of quarters, we would have 75,289,760 quarters.
9. Our 2,030 tons of structural steel is equivalent to the weight of 12 blue whales.
10. The 160 miles of low voltage wire is enough wire to make one long run from Boise to Sun Valley.
   — Courtesy Josh Schlaich

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