# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**Economic Development & Planning**

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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14-043

November 24, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

We believe that nothing better illustrates the importance of this hospital to Belleville and the impact the proposed project would have on this community than the nearly two hundred media reports detailing the history of the project and the concerns being voiced by the entire community since abandoning downtown Belleville was first raised several years ago. Reviewing the history also highlights the still ongoing inconsistencies in St. Elizabeth's plans, proposals, and promises St. Elizabeth's made that have changed based upon the audience to whom they were speaking.

It will be interesting to see which story they present to the Board. To that end, we would implore the Board members to review these documents to support their effort to evaluate the project and to be able to finally assess from St. Elizabeth's what their plans really are.

Sincerely,

Emily Fultz, AICP, LEED-GA
Director of Economic Development, Planning, & Zoning Department
City of Belleville
101 S. Illinois St.
Belleville, IL 62220
618.233.6810 ext. 1251
efultz@belleville.net

Enclosure

Listing of media reports, press releases and editorials
regarding St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Belleville, IL

| DATE | SOURCE | TITLE |
|---|---|---|
| 8/28/2006 | Belleville News Democrat | New program is helping St. E's retain nurses |
| 2/1/2008 | e-mail RE: NEWS RELEASE | News Release: St. E's names interim president/CEO |
| 2/1/2008 | letter from St. E's | announcement of interim president / CEO-Kevin L Shrake |
| 3/3/2008 | letter from St. E's | Medical Director resigns |
| 7/14/2008 | St. E's NEWS RELEASE | Kevin L Shrake named CEO at St. E's Hospital |
| 7/18/2008 | letter from City of Belleville, Mayor Eckert | Congrats to new president / CEO |
| 11/11/2008 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's expansion work begins / $820K donation from estate |
| 2/18/2009 | Belleville News Democrat | Cash Catalyst: Hospital hopes to stimulate downtown with gift for workers, mandate to spend |
| 2/27/2009 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's discovers the prescription for recession blues |
| 3/18/2010 | St. E's NEWS RELEASE | Announces president/CEO resigned-Kevin Shrake |
| 6/22/2010 | HSHS Executive Bulletin | HSHS president/ CEO leaving-Stephanie S McCutcheon |
| 6/22/2010 | e-mail | change in leadership at HSHS |
| 7/7/2010 | e-mail | Announcement to close hospital child care & preschool center |
| 7/9/2010 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's will close employee day care service |
| 9/21/2010 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospice Suite is made cozy |
| 9/24/2010 | Belleville News Democrat | New site could mean more options |
| 11/29/2010 | HSHS Executive Bulletin | announcement of new President CEO-Maryann L Reese |
| 11/30/2010 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's gets new president, CEO |
| 12/6/2010 | St. E's Executive Bulletin | Appointment of Terence P Wade MD as Chief Medical Offier St. E's |
| 12/7/2010 | Belleville News Democrat | Urgicare center closing next month |
| 12/16/2010 | letter form Greater Belleville Chamber | support for expansion of St. E's campus in Belleville |
| 12/17/2010 | City of Belleville | Development Proposal |
| 12/17/2010 | letter from Belleville Main Street | support for expansion of St. E's campus in Belleville |
| 12/17/2010 | letter from City of Belleville, Mayor Eckert | support for expansion of St. E's campus in Belleville |
| 3/6/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's ends program that gives aid to new moms |
| 4/1/2011 | Memorial Group, Inc. NEWS RELEASE | Memorial Group files conf for 94-bed hospital in Shiloh |
| 4/1/2011 | Memorial Group, Inc. NEWS RELEASE | memorial's manin hospital comple will remain in belleville |
| 4/18/2011 | letter from City of Belleville, Mayor Eckert | Belleville supports CON for new Memorial Hospital-East |
| 6/3/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | Cross-city rival fights Memorial's expansion: St. E's says plans fail to meet state criteria |
| 6/4/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | Memorial: Rival trying to "derail" plans. Hospital responds to St. E's objections to Shiloh faciltiy |
| 6/10/2011 | STL Business Journal | Hospital turf wars: dispute goes to state review board |
| 6/24/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's plans to purchase land in O'Fallon for possible new hospital site |
| 6/24/2011 | HSHS NEWS RELEASE | Hospital Sisters Health System Pursuing O'Fallon Property |
| 6/29/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | Memorial Hospital proposal OK'd |
| 6/30/2011 | letters (2) from Memorial Group, Inc. | thank you to Honorable Mark Eckert for attending board meeting; Shiloh approved |
| 7/1/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospital to spend $4 million for renovations |
| 9/29/2011 | letter from St. E's | to Mayor Eckert: "...Sisters would never consider abandoning their long standing mission in this wonderful city (Belleville)" |
| 10/12/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | Public hearing Tuesday over proposed St. E's Hospital campus in O'Fallon |
| 10/12/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | O'Fallon panel backs rezoning for St. E's despite residents'worries |
| 10/12/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospital ownership pleased with planning commission's recommendation |
| 10/12/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | O'Fallon panel backs rezoning for St. E's |
| 11/4/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | "We will never abandon Belleville": St. E's plans "replacement" hospital in O'Fallon |
| 11/4/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's plans "replacement" |
| 11/8/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | O'Fallon gives initial OK to TIF district for development of $300M hospital |
| 11/20/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | Should TIF be used to lure hospital? |
| 11/21/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | SOUND-OFF: better without TIF: Driving away business; A developer's dream; Let's vote on TIFs |
| 11/21/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | OPINIONS: TIF package bad for the taxpayers |
| 11/22/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | O'Fallon school district vows legal action against TIF for new St. E's Hospital |
| 11/24/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospital purchases O'Fallon land for $18 million |
| 11/27/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | Raw deal for the taxpayers |
| 11/28/2011 | Belleville News Democrat | What was the point?; Too Important to miss; One way or the other; Traffic consequences |
| 12/7/2011 | POST | O'Fallon> City hires law firm to help with suit over tax district |
| 12/23/2011 | STL Business Journal | HSHS pours millions into Illinois Hospitals |
| 12/29/2011 | O'Fallon Progress | Memorial to build hospital in Shiloh |
| 1/8/2012 | Belleville News Democrat | What's in store for city's future? |
| 1/24/2012 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's commits to Belleville: Hospital has "no intention" of leaving a it remodels unit |
| 8/15/2012 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's ends lease for Cathedral lots |
| 2012 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's falls into financial hole; Meanwhile Memorial thrives in diffucult time |
| 2/1/2013 | Belleville News Democrat | Administrators relocated back to St. E's main campus |
| 6/5/2013 | Belleville News Democrat | Hospital drops Aetna; St. E's will stop accepting it July 1 |
| 6/20/2013 | STL/So. IL Labor Tribune | Belleville Hospital planning union-built regional health center |
| 8/16/2013 | POST | Need to get to St. E's Hospital in Belleville? MetroBus can take you there |
| 12/28/2013 | Belleville News Democrat | Flu cases surge at St. E's |
| 1/8/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Rehabilitate health board |
| 1/24/2014 | letter from St. E's | to Mayor Eckert: "...confirm in writing that the meeting will not include attorneys...." |
| 3/13/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Hospitals head east: St. E's, O'Fallon, to meet needs for 100 years |

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|---|---|---|
| 4/29/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Timeline: St. Elizabeth and Memorial Hospitals |
| 4/29/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Belleville hires Chicago attorney to keep St. E's in town |
| 5/5/2014 | | Let St. E's move |
| 5/12/2014 | | Fight to keep St. E's: When a door closes... |
| 6/18/2014 | letter from City of Belleville, Mayor Eckert | letter to Maryann Reese, President & CEO |
| 6/18/2014 | letter from City of Belleville, Mayor Eckert | facilitate meaningful communication...atlernatives to proposed project |
| 6/20/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's recognized for stroke care |
| 6/24/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospital plans to make "major announcement" Wednesday |
| 6/24/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospital set to make "major announcement" |
| 6/25/2014 | City of Belleville, Mayor Eckert | Due to St. E's media announcement this morn |
| 6/25/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's proceeding with O'Fallon hospital; will re-envision Belleville campus |
| 6/25/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Announces plans to move forward with O'Fallon |
| 6/25/2014 | | St. E's announces plans for replacement hospital: re-revisioned Belleville Campus |
| 6/25/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's prodeecing with O'Fallon hospital; will re-envision Belleville campus |
| 6/25/2014 | St. Elizabeth's Hospital | Your Voice. Your Choice. Care. Submit a letter of support (includes online form letter) |
| 6/25/2014 | Memorial Hospital MEDIA STATEMENT | ...concerned about ...access |
| 6/25/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Eckert on St. E's: "We're just not going to wave good-bye to them" |
| 6/25/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospital opts for O'Fallon move; will re-envision Belleville campus |
| 6/25/2014 | POST | St. E's to move new hospital to O'Fallon IL; Belleville mayor not happy |
| 6/25/2014 | City of Belleville, Mayor Eckert | St. E's unwilling to meet with City of Belleville |
| 6/26/2014 | POST | O'Fallon IL to get new hospital; St. E's in Belleville will become an outpatient facility |
| 6/26/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Stay or go? Send us a letter so we can publish it |
| 6/26/2014 | STL Business Journal | Memorial Hospital criticizes St. E's move to O'Fallon |
| 6/26/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Memorial: St. E's move could hurt "underserved" residents |
| 6/27/2014 | POST | Memorial Hospital protests St. E's planned move |
| 6/27/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | OPINIONS: Questions on new hospital |
| 6/27/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Memorial says "underserved residents could be hurt by St. E's move out of Belleville |
| 6/27/2014 | STL Business Journal | Tempers flare over hospital expansion in Metro East |
| 6/27/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | OPINIONS: Questions on new hospital |
| 6/27/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Memorial: St. E's move could hurt: Says hospital wants to abandon downtown, "could affect those medically underserved" |
| 6/29/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | readers react to announcement |
| 6/30/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | What's the next step for St. E's Hospital? |
| 6/30/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's flees to O'Fallon; Reasons to leave; Politics at play; Let there be more art; Hypocritical hospital; Memorial's still here |
| 6/30/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | pic: Rev Braxton, bishop & Maryann Reese CEO |
| 7/1/2014 | Diocese of Belleville-Church bulletin | St. E's announces plans for new hospital in O'Fallon and changs to its Belleville campus |
| 7/3/2014 | O'Fallon Progress | O'Fallon opens arms to St. E's; Officials tout new jobs, easy access |
| 7/6/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | LETTERS: Let's be part of the solution |
| 7/6/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Patients can access records online |
| 7/7/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Where the doctors go. No room to talk |
| 7/7/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | O'Fallon opens arms to St. E's |
| 7/8/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Want to keep St. E's |
| 7/9/2014 | | Pot calls kettle black |
| 7/13/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | LETTERS: Can the hospitals cooperate? |
| 7/15/2014 | Saint Peter's Cathedral | oppositon to proposed move |
| 7/15/2014 | letter form HSHS | HSHS believes they have engaged in meaningful discussions..... |
| 7/20/2014 | Metro-East Living | ADVERTSEMENT: supportsteliz.org |
| 7/22/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Wait to comment on St. E's |
| 7/23/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | City council backs St. E's |
| 7/28/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | SOUND-OFF: Free parking, please |
| 8/11/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's looks for digital letters of support for O'Fallon |
| 8/12/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's asks for digital letters |
| 8/14/2014 | | St. E's belongs to the region |
| 8/23/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | For St. E's, it's O'Fallon or bust |
| 8/26/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | It's official: St. E's submits documents |
| 8/28/2014 | STL Business Journal | St. E's lays out replacement hospital plan in O'Fallon IL |
| 8/28/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's gets plenty of support for its move to O'Fallon |
| 8/29/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Public hearing scheduled for St. E's project |
| 8/29/2014 | POST | Public invited to weigh in on St. E's move |
| 8/29/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Public hearing scheduled for St. E's project |
| 9/1/2014 | | Can't trust judgement |
| 9/1/2014 | | Mayor, stop St. E's |
| 9/1/2014 | | Hospitals can be close |
| 8/31/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | OPINIONS: Navigating a long road |
| 9/7/2014 | | Moving St. E's is best for the region's health |
| 9/7/2014 | | Hospital Plan abandons supportive Belleville |
| 9/8/2014 | | Work with St. E's |
| 9/15/2014 | | Access won't improve; A done hospital deal?; No reason to give up; Late to complain |

Listing of media reports, press releases and editorials
regarding St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Belleville, IL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9/16/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | City, school board pass resolutions opposing St. E's move |
| 9/16/2014 | | Eckert Strays from the facts |
| 9/17/2014 | | Worlds apart in Belleville |
| 9/17/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Chamber, school board oppose St. E's plan |
| 9/17/2014 | STL Business Journal | Two more Belleville boards oppose St. E's plan |
| 9/19/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's receives thousands in hospital waiting room furniture |
| 9/21/2014 | | Abandonment would be devastating to Belleville |
| 9/22/2014 | | Make room for St. E's; Willing to pay up?; Belleville isn't alone; Move on to O'Fallon |
| 9/23/2014 | | Committed to give quality health care |
| 9/23/2014 | | Move is a business decision |
| 9/23/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Rally today opposes move by St. E's |
| 9/24/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Eckert: "We Can do this" |
| 9/25/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Throwback Thursday: When St. E's got big in Belleville |
| 9/28/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | OPINIONS: Speak up on St. E's move |
| 9/28/2014 | | Are sirens for critical only? |
| 9/29/2014 | | St. E's is leaving; Move based on money; Start the timer; Belleville is old news; Getting out of Dodge; Victory would be brief |
| 9/30/2014 | | Get the facts with St. E's president and CEO, Maryann Reese |
| 9/30/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's schedules 3 open house sessions about replacement hospital plan |
| 10/1/2014 | | St. E's abandons its mission |
| 10/2/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's says they won't move everything to O'Fallon |
| 10/2/2014 | | What makes a hospital good? |
| 10/3/2014 | | Hundreds jam St. E's public hearing |
| 10/3/2014 | | Medicare fines 28 hospitals in area |
| 10/4/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Reconvene St. E's hearing |
| 10/5/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Sound-off 10/6 |
| 10/5/2014 | | Reconvene hearing to hear the people |
| 10/6/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Support St. E's |
| 10/6/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's officials answer community questions at final open house |
| 10/6/2014 | | Concerned for needy?; Booth out of place; New hospital needed; Why the opposition?; Danger if St. E's leaves; Will patients be first? |
| 10/7/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's officials answer questions at final open house |
| 10/7/2014 | | Think creatively, Belleville |
| 10/9/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's has open houses |
| 10/10/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Letters on St. E's plans must follow proper format |
| 10/10/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Want your views heard on St. E's? Follow the right format |
| 10/10/2014 | STLTODAY.com | St. E's proposed move puts care farther out of reach for some Metro East Residents |
| 10/10/2014 | STLTODAY.com | Belleville hospital's move: Who benefits? |
| 10/11/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Some letters on St. E's plan have been tossed |
| 10/13/2014 | | Inconsistent on St. E's |
| 10/15/2014 | | Questions for the opponents |
| 10/20/2014 | | Put it on the ballot |
| 10/20/2014 | | Why oppose move?; Old can be updated |
| 10/23/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | "We felt like it would be fair": State plans 2nd public hearing for St. E's |
| 10/24/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Keep moving toward fairness |
| 10/24/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | State plans second public hearing for St. E's |
| 10/25/2014 | | OPINIONS: Keep moving forward fair |
| 10/25/2014 | | Keep the hospital close |
| 10/26/2014 | | St. E's needed in Belleville |
| 10/27/2014 | | Measure of failure; The grass is greener; The Democrats' doing |
| 10/28/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Belleville West to hold St. E's 2nd public hearing |
| 10/29/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Second hospital hearing will be at Belleville West |
| 11/6/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Public hearing for St. E's moved to East St. Louis church |
| 11/7/2014 | STL Business Journal | Second hearing for St. E's moved to East St. Louis |
| 11/7/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Public hearing for St. E's has moved |
| 11/9/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | OPINIONS: Hold hearing at neutral site |
| 11/9/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's plan is about wants, not needs (MAP) |
| 11/11/2014 | | Questions for St. E's; Rs for St. E's |
| 11/11/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | State official defends decision to move St. E's hearing |
| 11/13/2014 | STLTODAY.com | HSHS St. E;s hospital earns "Top performer on key quality measures" recognition from the joint commission |
| 11/14/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's Hospital relocation rearing postponed |
| 11/15/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. Clair County health official raises concerns over St. E's move |
| 11/15/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's hearing on move delayed |
| 11/16/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | County joins St. E's discussion |
| 11/16/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | OPINIONS: Can safety net survive a move? |
| 11/16/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's project addresses needs of patients |
| 11/17/2014 | STL Business Journal | St. Clair County Health Department "concerned" about St. E's new hospital |
| 11/17/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Public hearing for St. E's rescheduled for fairgrounds |

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|---|---|---|
| 11/17/2014 | | Move makes sense; Stop money chase; Neutral site needed; For the poor? Really? |
| 11/18/2014 | STL Business Journal | Second public hearing for St. E's rescheduled |
| 11/18/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Hearing on hospital plan will be Dec. 2 |
| 11/18/2014 | CBS | Second Public Hearing for St. E's Hospital set |
| 11/19/2014 | | Trust and respect St. E's decision |
| 11/21/2014 | | Hospital needs to stay |
| 11/22/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | Belleville leader offered more land, street closure to keep St. E's in downtown |
| 11/23/2014 | Belleville News Democrat | St. E's officials considered all options |
| 11/24/2014 | | Politics at play; Not an expert; Preference is to leave; Moving isn't answer; Late to be concerned; compelling reasoning; Survival instinct |
| unknown | O'Fallon Progress | O'Fallon creates medical campus TIF, Central alleges tax incentive illegal |
| unknown | Facebook comments | O'Fallon: St. E's proceeding with O'Fallon hospital: will... |
| unknown | Belleville News Democrat | "The sisters are committed to Belleville" |
| unknown | | instructions for letters of support |
| unknown | | land now owned by health care-related business could support $1 billion in developments, executive says |
| unknown | | how long does it take to receive a CON?; How are the board meetings conducted?; |
| unknown | | continuation of an article... St. E's |
| unknown | | Seven miles is far too long; No need for New Hospital; New hospital is bad idea |

DERIK HOLTMANN/*News-Democrat*

**Nurse-in-training Regina Peterson of Mascoutah checks the dressings and tenderness of patient George Reisbich's injury to his elbow and arm.**

# New program is helping St. Elizabeth's retain nurses

## Gives support, takes the pressure off

BY SCOTT WUERZ
*News-Democrat*

With fierce competition from medical centers on both sides of the Mississippi for nurses, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has adopted a new training program designed not only to make it more attractive to recent grads, but to make them want to stay.

"The turnover rate for first-year nurses is 50 percent a year both here and across the country," said Donna Myers, residency manager for nursing administration at the Belleville hospital. "The cost of training a new grad is about $50,000 a year, so you can see why we would want to hang onto our people."

DERIK HOLTMANN/*News-Democrat*

**Regina Peterson of Mascoutah, left, and Stephanie Burgess of Scott Air Force Base are in training at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.**

The hospital has contracted with Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization Versant to implement a nurse training program that has lowered the attrition rate among first-year nurses to only about 8 percent, said Jane Read, St. Elizabeth's assistant administrator.

The hospital will hold the 18-week Versant training course twice a year, scheduled around the times when colleges are graduating their classes. The current, and first crop of 14 nurses to go through the course are set to complete the training Nov. 13.

New nurses most often leave their hospital jobs because they are asked to do too much too fast in a high pressure atmosphere where if someone makes a mistake, a patient could be injured or even die, according to Read. The Versant program breaks nurses in more slowly and puts them in a position

*Please see* NURSES, B5

8.28.00

### About Versant

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville is using the Versant nurse training program to reduce the turnover rate of new nurses.

The Versant program breaks nurses in more slowly and puts them in a position where they have more time to learn how things work in a hospital.

# NURSES | Helps retain them

*Continued from Page B1*

where they have more time to learn how things work in a hospital and have the opportunity to ask questions and get feedback, Read said.

"One of the biggest reasons this program makes nurses more likely to stay is the support level," Myers said. "Nurses get frustrated because they don't feel like they're getting the education and the feedback they need to do their jobs. But hospitals need nurses on the floor, so they are often sent out before they're ready."

Cynthia Janacek, director of implementation for Versant, said under her program, nurses spend 25 percent of their time at the hospital in a classroom. They are paired up with another nursing student who is a little bit ahead of them in terms of experience. That person can lead new recruits through what they are to expect next. A former nurse mentors them and acts as a sounding board for questions and concerns.

Also during the course, nurses tour all parts of the hospital from the pharmacy to the physical therapy department so they know how the whole system is supposed to work together and what others' needs are.

"In order for the program to work, everyone at the hospital has to embrace it," Read said.

Newly hired St. Elizabeth's nurse Regina Peterson said she can see why nurses would be overwhelmed without the benefit of the Versant slower-paced training.

"When you don't feel like you're a safe practitioner, you want to quit and go work at the dime store because you feel so much pressure not to make a mistake," Peterson said. "This program has been a godsend for me."

*Contact reporter Scott Wuerz at swuerz@bnd.com or 239-2626.*

**Sharon S. Strausbaugh** Photo of Kevin Shrake, attached.

**From:** Barbeau, Kelly [kbarbeau@sebh.org]

**Sent:** Friday, February 01, 2008 12:34 PM

**To:** chamber@htc.net; sstrausbaugh@belleville.net; cityhall@ci.fairview-heights.il.us; Belleville Chamber (E-mail); FairviewHts Chamber (E-mail); O'Fallon Chamber (E-mail); Swansea Chamber (E-mail)

**Subject:** News Release _ St. Elizabeth's names interim President/CEO

Please see the below News Release regarding St. Elizabeth's Hospital's new interim CEO. If you have further questions, please contact Craig Steiner, Director of Marketing and Development, at 234-2120, ext. 1357 Thank you.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **Febraury 1, 2008**

## ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL, BELLEVILLE

## NAMES INTERIM PRESIDENT AND CEO

BELLEVILLE, IL – Kevin L. Shrake, a healthcare executive with 30 years of experience in large hospitals was today named the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, effective February 1, 2008.

Shrake succeeds Timothy F. Brady in the top management position at St. Elizabeth's. Brady resigned recently to pursue other career opportunities. A search for a permanent CEO is underway, led by the management team of the Hospital Sisters Health System, the sponsor of the St. Elizabeth's ministry.

"Kevin's record of service and qualifications make him the right person at the right time to help us continue to move St. Elizabeth's with confidence and strength into the future," said Larry P. Schumacher, Chief Operating Officer of HSHS. "His past accomplishments include creating new clinical services, improving quality and patient satisfaction, enhancing physician relationships, capital programs and technology."

Prior to joining St. Elizabeth's, Shrake served as the first Administrator of Heart Services at St. Louis University Hospital. Beginning in 2006, Shrake was responsible for creating, developing and managing heart services at the 360-bed hospital.

Prior to joining St. Louis University Hospital, Shrake served as the Associate Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Texas-based American Association for Respiratory Care. For three years he led daily operations of

this national professional organization and helped increased membership from 29,000 to 40,000

Previously, Shrake served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and as an Administrator St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis. Prior to his experience in the St. Louis market, Shrake spent more than 20 years serving in various administrative capacities at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois, including eight years as the Administrator of the Heart Center at Memorial.

Shrake holds a Master's Degree in Health Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology form the University of Illinois at Springfield.

The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis founded St. Elizabeth's Hospital 132 years ago in a small schoolhouse in Belleville. Today, with more than 500 licensed beds and almost 1,600 employees, St. Elizabeth's is one of the oldest and largest healthcare providers in the Southwestern Illinois, offering specialized services unique to the community.

The Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic healthcare mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, HSHS is dedicated to serving the poor, the sick and the needy at each of its 13 local systems in Illinois and Wisconsin. The Hospital Sisters Health System provides state-of-the-art medical care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

With more than 14,900 staff, the HSHS hospitals in Wisconsin are located in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay. In Illinois, the hospitals are located in Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator.

###

<<Kevin Shrake.jpg>>

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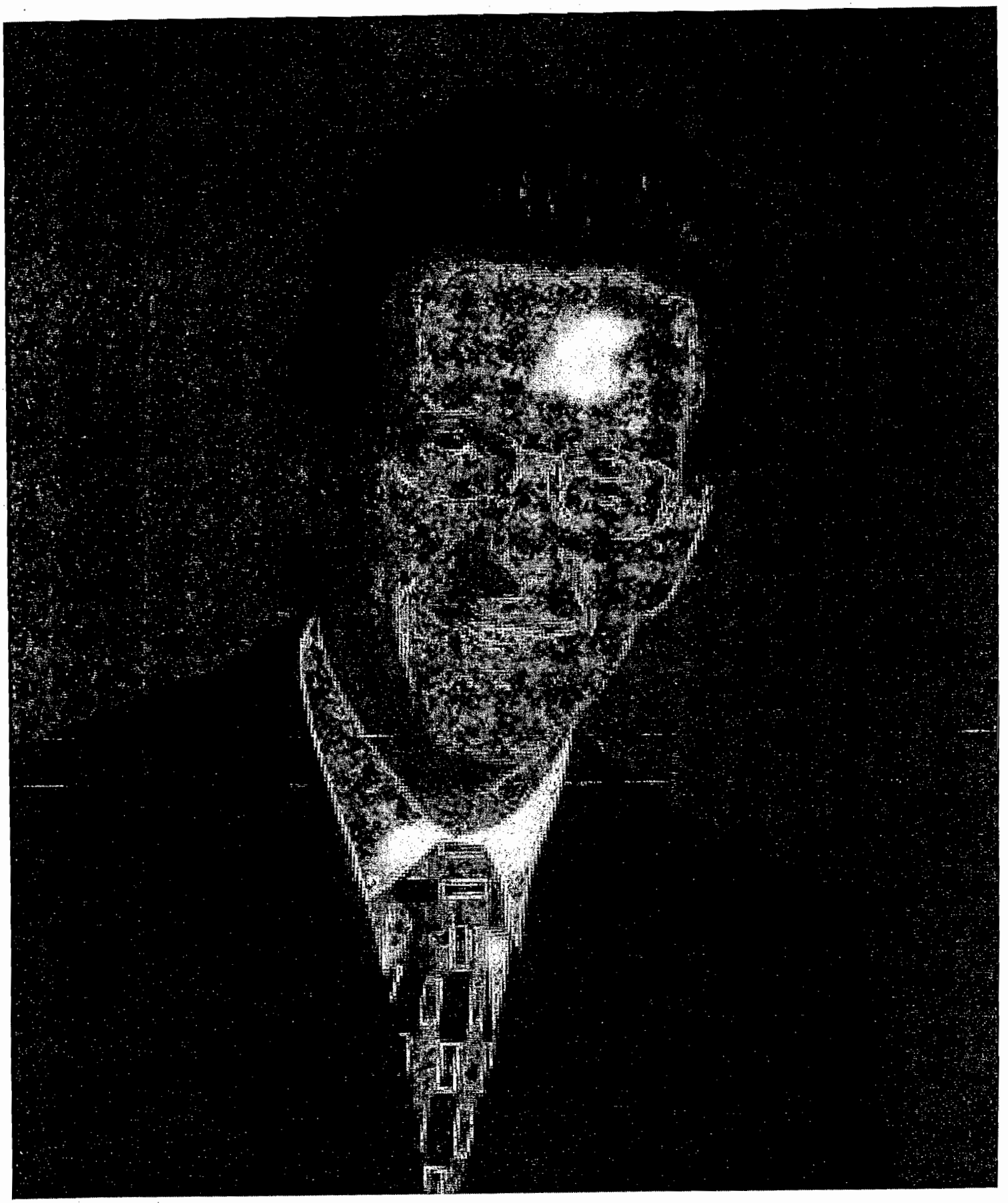


**St. Elizabeth's Hospital**

211 South Third Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220
An Affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System

phone 618/234/2120
fax 618/222/4650
web www.steliz.org

February 1, 2008

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to announce that Kevin L. Shrake, FACHE, has been named the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. Kevin brings more than 30 years of administrative experience in various aspects of healthcare to his new role.

Previously, Shrake served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and as an Administrator St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis. Prior to his experience in the St. Louis market, Shrake spent more than 20 years serving in various administrative capacities at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois, including eight years as the Administrator of the Heart Center at Memorial.

Kevin holds a Master's Degree in Health Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Kevin and his wife make their home in Chatham, Illinois. They have two grown sons, Jonathan and Brett.

Please join me in welcoming Kevin to our healthcare mission and please assist him in making a smooth transition to St. Elizabeth's.

Sincerely,

Larry P. Schumacher
HSHS, Chief Operating Officer

St. E's Hospital

**St. Elizabeth's Hospital**

211 South Third Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220
An Affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System

phone 618/234/2120
fax 618/222/4650
web www.steliz.org

To: Hospital Advisory Council
Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Medical Staff
Management Team
Local Hospital Sisters

From: Kevin L. Shrake
Kevin L. Shrake
Interim President & CEO

Date: March 3, 2008

After many years of dedicated service to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, William Casperson, MD has decided to resign from the Medical Director position of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Dr. Casperson is a native of Freeburg who had been with the hospital family for 22 years. Following his general surgery residency at Washington University Medical Center, Dr. Casperson was one of the founding fathers of Lincoln Surgical Associates. He then joined the Administrative Team of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in 2004, serving as the Medical Director for four years.

He is a highly respected individual who understands the issues and concerns of our physicians, our staff, and our patients. He has always demonstrated a high level of professionalism and dedication to providing quality care at St. Elizabeth's and to the people of our community.

Dr. Casperson will remain in his position as Medical Director through March 14th and will assist in transitioning the duties of his position.

We appreciate his service to the hospital and thank him very much for his dedication. Please join me in wishing Bill and his family the best in their future.

cc: Board of Directors
Administrative Team

**St. Elizabeth's Hospital**
**Marketing Department**

*Belleville, IL 62220*
*618/234/2120 Ext. 1357*
*Fax: 618/222/4748*

*From: Craig Steiner*
*Director of Marketing and Development*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **July 14, 2008**

## KEVIN L. SHRAKE NAMED CEO AT ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL

BELLEVILLE, IL -- Kevin L. Shrake was named President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital today, a move that strengthens the on-going resurgence of one of the largest Catholic health care ministries in Southwestern Illinois.

For the last five months, Shrake has served as the Interim President and CEO of the 133-year-old hospital. His leadership during 2008 has done much to re-focus and revitalize the mission of St. Elizabeth's toward future growth and a more confident presence in the community.

"Kevin has done a fantastic job at St. Elizabeth's and this appointment is tangible proof of his strong commitment to furthering the ministry of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis and reinvigorating our commitment to the highest quality service for our patients and their families," said Stephanie S. McCutcheon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital Sisters Health System, which sponsors St. Elizabeth's.

"I am truly humbled that the Hospital Sisters and the leadership of our System are placing their confidence in me at this point in the long history of St. Elizabeth's Hospital," Shrake said. "Observing the daily commitment of our staff at St. Elizabeth's to our core values of Respect, Care, Competence and Joy has been exciting and energizing. I am honored for

the opportunity to provide permanent leadership to this excellent organization which has served our community for over 133 years"

We are very pleased to have Kevin as President/CEO of St. Elizabeth's," said Dennis Bielke, Chairperson of St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors. "During his role as interim CEO, Kevin demonstrated great skill in leading our talented team of staff, physicians and volunteers. We are confident that his vision of patient-centered, physician-led health care will serve the community extremely well, building upon St. Elizabeth's history of excellence and compassionate care."

Prior to joining St. Elizabeth's, Shrake served as the first Administrator of Heart Services at St. Louis University Hospital. Beginning in 2006, Shrake was responsible for creating, developing and managing heart services at the 360-bed hospital.

Shrake also served as the Associate Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Texas-based American Association for Respiratory Care. For three years he led daily operations of this national professional organization and helped increased membership from 29,000 to 40,000.

Previously, Shrake served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the largest hospital in Oklahoma, Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and as an Administrator at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis. Prior to his experience in the St. Louis area, Shrake spent more than 20 years serving in various administrative capacities at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois, including eight years as the Administrator of the Heart Center at Memorial.

Shrake holds a Master's Degree in Health Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis founded St. Elizabeth's Hospital 133 years ago in a small schoolhouse in Belleville. Today, with more than 500 licensed beds and almost 1,600

employees, St. Elizabeth's is one of the oldest and largest healthcare providers in the Southwestern Illinois, offering specialized services unique to the community.

The Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois and Wisconsin. The Hospital Sisters Health System provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

With more than 14,300 staff, the HSHS hospitals in Wisconsin are located in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire and Sheboygan, with two in Green Bay. In Illinois, the HSHS hospitals are located in Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator.

###

St. E's

# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**MARK W. ECKERT**, MAYOR

101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-2105
Office: (618) 233-6810
Fax: (618) 233-6779

CITY FLAG
DESIGNED BY
FREDRICK L. LANGE
JULY 6th 1964

Friday, July 18, 2008

Mr. Kevin Shrake, President and CEO
St. Elizabeth's Hospital
211 So. 3rd Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Dear Kevin,

Congratulations on being named President and CEO of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. On behalf of the City of Belleville, I wish you much success in your new position.

I apologize that I could not be at St. Elizabeth's on Monday for the announcement and reception. At the time of the announcement, I was driving home from Chicago with my family and our foreign exchange student that is visiting with us this summer. My assistant, Sharon, and our City Clerk, Linda Fields, attended the reception on my behalf.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is a long-standing institution in Belleville with core values such as Respect and Care that mirror some of the traits that make Belleville a Community of Character. The city is excited to hear that St. Elizabeth's presence is getting bigger, better and stronger in Belleville. I look forward to working with you as we serve the residents of the City of Belleville and surrounding communities.

Congratulations, once again, to you and your family on your position as President and CEO of St. Elizabeth's. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert, Mayor

MWE:sss

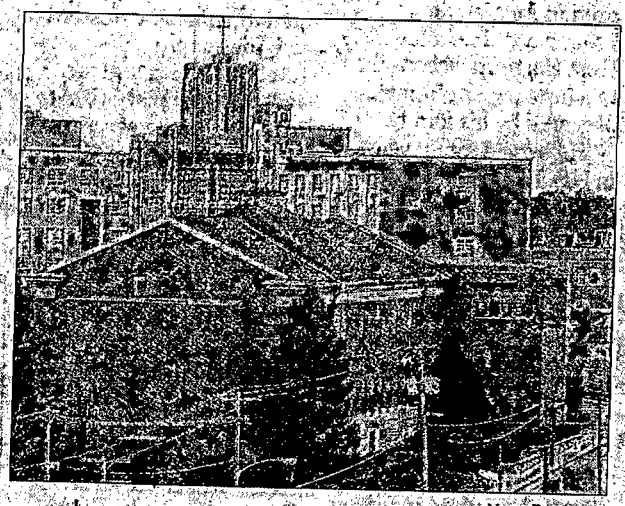
# St. Elizabeth's expansion work begins

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — The first step in a planned expansion at St. Elizabeth's Hospital got under way Monday with the demolition of the Health Education Center.

Kathy Kaiser, manager of media and employee communications, said the hospital decided to tear down the building at South Third and West Lincoln streets because it would be more expensive to renovate.

"Once they checked into renovating costs, it was going to be more cost effective to remove the building than building a new structure," Kaiser said.



*News-Democrat*

**St. Elizabeth Hospital's Health Education Center in Belleville, the red brick building in the foreground, will be razed this week.**

Built in 1898, the building was originally the social center for Cathedral Parish parishioners. By 1905, a two-year commercial school for boys was established there and evolved into Cathedral High School by 1923. The high school closed in 1964. The building was later leased to Belleville Area College and then renovated into the Diocesan Office Complex.

Most recently, the building housed the hospital's marketing department and work-pardoning department — the hospital's workman's comp rehabilitation department. Kaiser said the work-pardoning department has been relocated to the hospital campus, and the marketing department is now operating on

11/11/08

*Please see* **EXPANSION, B3**

Center.

**St. Elizabeth's Hospital** in Belleville received an $820,000 donation from the estate of late Belleville firefighter Earl Ritzheimer. It is among the largest private gifts the hospital has ever received and brings its current pledge total to $2.4 million, or 80 percent of its 2007 goal. Ritzheimer died in June 2006 at age 80 after having been a patient at St. Elizabeth's over the course of 16 years.

## EXPANSION | Under way

*Continued from Page B1*

the third floor of the Richland Plaza building at Sixth and West Main Streets.

Kaiser said plans for the future of the demolition site and future expansion and growth are still being determined.

"There has been no timetable put in place," she said. "That is still in preliminary discussion."

The hospital was founded in 1875 by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

BELLEVILLE STIMULUS

# Cash catalyst

## Hospital hopes to stimulate downtown with gift for workers, mandate to spend

By Wally Spiers
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — While President Obama may have made the national headlines signing his economic stimulus plan on Tuesday, St. Elizabeth's Hospital President and CEO Kevin Shrake was making local news with the hospital's own downtown stimulus plan.

The hospital will give cash awards to its employees and encourage them to spend it in downtown Belleville. Merchants will offer special incentives and rewards, and the hospital also will randomly award gifts to hospital employees Feb. 26, which will be recognized as St. Elizabeth's Hospital Employees' Appreciation Day in the city.

bnd.com
See video

Shrake said the hospital got the incentive for the local deals from the national stimulus package.

"We asked, 'What can we be doing on the local level to take action and make a difference?'" he said. "We decided to provide more for your money by combining the power of the hospital and downtown."

The hospital will spend about $50,000 next week. It will issue $20 in cash to about 1,750 employees and volunteers Feb. 25.

*Please see* HOSPITAL, A2

2/18/09

TIM VIZER
*News-Democrat*

**Kevin Shrake, St. Elizabeth's Hospital president and CEO, speaks to a capacity crowd at the hospital's Centennial Room about a new program that will encourage hospital employees to support local merchants.**

# HOSPITAL | Businesses offer discounts

*Continued from Page A1*

The hospital also will supply gifts that will be distributed during appreciation day.

"You can infuse this into this community if you choose to," Shrake said Tuesday to an enthusiastic gathering of about 300 employees. "You're encouraged to take the money and take advantage of what merchants are offering."

More than 30 businesses will offer discounts ranging from 10 percent to 25 percent just for St. Elizabeth's employees, and hospital-sponsored prize patrols will offer employees special gift certificates at random to sweeten the deal.

Participating businesses stretch along Main Street from Eckert Florists at 1401 W. Main St. to Bella Vida Studios at 325 E. Main St.

St. Elizabeth's employees will be armed with their cash, Belleville First Discount Cards and a special key chain that will be recognized by downtown merchants.

They also will have passports. Passports stamped by at least five merchants will be part of a grand prize drawing March 2. The prize is an overnight stay at Silverstein's Suite, a bed and breakfast on East Main Street in downtown, as well as dinner.

Honor Nussbaum, a nurse recruiter at the hospital, said she was going to take her family downtown for shopping and dinner.

"We do patronize downtown and we're members of the Y," she said. "We always go to the chili cookoff, and my kids love the Halloween."

Jim O'Brien, a nursing technician, said he and his wife will have a good time downtown.

"I'm really looking forward to it," he said.

So are the merchants. Jeff Barr, owner of Grimm and Gorley Florists, which also has the Cupcake Co., is offering 25 percent for hospital employees.

"I think if you're going to bring all these people downtown, you should make it worth their while," he said.

The hospital is using money it saved by combining National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week activities.

"This is already budgeted money," Shrake said. "So we're not taking away from any other program. We think it's innovative. Through the power of merchants, we can stretch the money to a greater value."

TIM VIZER/*News-Democrat*

**St. Elizabeth's Hospital employees exit an East Main Street business after getting their "passports" stamped Thursday. They all work together in the accounting department of the hospital and were shopping the specials offered by downtown merchants as part of the stimulus plan the hospital recently announced for employees.**

# *St. Elizabeth's discovers the prescription for recession blues*

WALLY SPIERS

bnd.com

Comment on this story

IT WAS easy to spot the St. Elizabeth's Hospital employees and volunteers in downtown Belleville on Thursday.

They were the ones constantly consulting pieces of paper to see what businesses were participating in St. Elizabeth's Hospital Employees Appreciation Day.

As if they couldn't tell by the big welcoming signs.

Most of the small groups of people wandering the street also either wore white lab coats or had hospital name tags dangling, and they all seemed to have packages from participating stores.

They also had "passports" — sheets they had stamped at participating stores. One of the passports will be drawn and the winner will get a night at Sullivan's Suite, a downtown bed and breakfast in the Writer's Lofts development.

TIM VIZER/*News-Democrat*

**Cheryl Sinn, manager of Allison's Common Scents Shoppe, talks with St. Elizabeth's Hospital shopper Byron Loy.**

All this was a part of a local economic stimulus package started by the hospital. The hospital provided $20 to more than 700 employees and volunteers, and encouraged them to shop downtown. Stores offered discounts ranging from 10 percent to 25 percent, and the prize patrol gave out prizes at random to participating employees.

Sandy Moore, of New Baden, a recruiting manager at the hospital, was one of the people who scored a prize. She won a $10 gift certificate to the Wine Tap, which she said she planned to use later in the evening.

But lurking in Bracelets and More, at 101 E. Main St., was the big prize — $100 in cash that would be given to the 50th person who came in and said "Belleville First."

A sign on the door advised people to do that, but it wasn't until after 1:30 p.m. that a trio of women uttered the phrase that won the prize. They actually argued over who had to take it, and the resulting publicity pictures, but finally decided the winner would be Jana Herndon, of Belleville, who works in the hospital's administrative offices.

2/27/09

*Please see* WALLY, B3

# WALLY | Shoppers invade Belleville stores

*Continued from Page B1*

Angela Massey, executive director of Belleville Main Street Inc., said the downtown restaurants were full on Thursday.

"The Seven said they had more than 150," she said. "More than 500 employees had lunch downtown, but I don't have more specific numbers. Everybody's had a record day."

Allison Babcock, owner of Allison's Common Scents Shoppe, at 122 E. Main St., was thrilled with the day.

"This weather helped," she said. "It's so nice outside."

The shopping day ran from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and a lot of businesses stayed open later to accommodate the special shoppers. At Common Scents, everything was 15 percent off, and there were a lot of shoppers taking advantage of the sales.

"We got here early — at 8:30 this morning — and already people were walking around with their passports, so we hurried up and opened," Babcock said. "It has been good."

Joan Wegener, of Belleville, a registered nurse, was looking around inside Common Scents and had several more stores to go. She said she had already visited the Pie Pantry for a piece of dessert, and had been to the Crystal and Spice Shoppe and Aunt Mary's Parlor.

Gayle Eubanks, of Mascoutah, an office assistant, and friend Susan Dixon, who is not a hospital employee, were both off work and taking advantage of the day.

"We're always shopping," Eubanks said. "On our days off we do things together."

"I've been wanting to come down here and walk around and look forever," she said. "It's hard to look when you're driving through."

*Have a column idea? Call Wally at 239-2506 or (800) 642-3878; or e-mail wspiers@bnd.com.*

St. Elizab... Hospital in ... ed a Belleville is using ... ing p the Versant nurse ... signe training program ... to m to reduce the ... attr

**St. Elizabeth's Hospital**
**Marketing Department**

*Belleville, IL 62220*
*618/234/2120 Ext. 1357*
*Fax: 618/222/4748*

*From: Craig Steiner*
*Administrative Director of Marketing*
*csteiner@sebh.org*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** March 18, 2010

**St. Elizabeth's Hospital Announces the Resignation of President and CEO**

BELLEVILLE, IL – St. Elizabeth's Hospital announced that President and CEO, Kevin Shrake has resigned. Sharon D. Timmons has been appointed to serve as interim Chief Executive Officer while a search for a new CEO is conducted by the Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS). Shrake's resignation is effective March 17, 2010.

"Our goal is to ensure that this important healing ministry continues and grows for patients, their families and the community for many generations to come," said Larry P. Schumacher, Chief Operating Officer of HSHS. "As we continue this journey, we are guided by our dedication to the mission of the Hospital Sisters Health System and the commitment of St. Elizabeth's staff to the people of Belleville and the surrounding communities in southwest Illinois," he added.

- more -

"It has been a privilege to serve in the leadership of St. Elizabeth's Hospital," stated Shrake, "It has been a wonderful experience for my wife and I to have been part of molding this organization as it moves forward in developing a division strategy in southern Illinois. I greatly appreciate the opportunity the Hospital Sisters Health System gave me to be part of their healing ministry," he added.

Kevin received national recognition in 2009 for his efforts in developing an "Economic Stimulus" program between the hospital and Belleville merchants. In 2009 Shrake also introduced a successful and popular "World's Fair" cultural diversity program to the colleagues of St. Elizabeth's. He was recognized throughout the Belleville community for not only extending, but living the mission of the hospital.

Under his leadership St. Elizabeth's provided more than $48 million in community benefit to the Belleville area in FY 2009. Prior to joining St. Elizabeth's, Shrake served as the first Administrator of Heart Services at St. Louis University Hospital.

-more-

"All of us at St. Elizabeth's are very grateful to Kevin for the leadership he brought to the organization and his commitment to extending the health care mission of the Hospital Sisters Health System," stated Dennis Bielke, President, St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors. "I want to thank him for his service and wish him and his family the best in the future," Bielke added.

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis founded St. Elizabeth's Hospital 135 years ago in a small school house in Belleville. Today, with more than 500 licensed beds and more than 1,600 employees, St. Elizabeth's is one of the oldest and largest health care providers in Southwestern Illinois, offering specialized services unique to the community.

The Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission organization founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. The Hospital Sisters Health System provides state-of-the-art medical care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

With more than 14,900 staff, the HSHS hospitals in Wisconsin are located in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire and Sheboygan and Green Bay. In Illinois, the hospitals are located in Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator.

###

Hospital Sisters
Health System

*Belleville, IL*
*St. Elizabeth's Hospital*

*Breese, IL*
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

*Decatur, IL*
*St. Mary's Hospital*

*Effingham, IL*
*St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital*

*Highland, IL*
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

*Litchfield, IL*
*St. Francis Hospital*

*Springfield, IL*
*St. John's Hospital*

*Streator, IL*
*St. Mary's Hospital*

*Chippewa Falls, WI*
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

*Eau Claire, WI*
*Sacred Heart Hospital*

*Green Bay, WI*
*St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center*
*St. Vincent Hospital*

*Sheboygan, WI*
*St. Nicholas Hospital*

P.O. Box 19456
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9456
217-523-4747
Fax: 217-523-0542

*Sponsored by*
*The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis*

# Executive Bulletin

**Vol. 15, No. 11** **June 22, 2010**

TO: **System Leadership Team**
Hospital Sisters Health System

FROM: **Sister Mary Ann Minor, OSF**
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Hospital Sisters Health System

RE: Change in Leadership at HSHS

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Sister Mary Ann Minor, OSF, Chairperson, Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) Board of Directors, has announced that Stephanie S. McCutcheon, HSHS President and CEO, is leaving the organization to pursue other opportunities. The effective date of her departure is June 22, 2010.

Stephanie has served with HSHS since 2006 and accomplished many notable endeavors. She designed progressive physician partnerships and incorporated advanced technology in providing personal, integrated health care across the System. She reorganized the System into Divisions for Western Wisconsin, Eastern Wisconsin, Central Illinois, Springfield Referral, and Southern Illinois. Recognizing the importance of ongoing formation of our leaders, she advanced the Franciscan Leadership Development programs. She also achieved the centralization of certain important services in our System, including laundry and billing. In addition, she sought and successfully achieved a favorable Public Rating for System credit.

"We are grateful to Stephanie for her wisdom and guidance in leading HSHS and moving the organization toward health care endeavors that enhance our mission and values. I am confident that the transition before us will be seamless due, in part, to the outstanding colleagues in our organization whose commitment to the people we serve is rooted in our Franciscan values and traditions. The care of the patient remains our number one priority in the communities we serve," Sister Mary Ann said.

Larry P. Schumacher, RN, MSN, FAAN, has been appointed Interim President and CEO. Larry has served as the COO of HSHS since 2007. Prior to joining HSHS, he served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Via Christi Health Network, Wichita, KS.

"We look forward to Larry's interim leadership in furthering the mission and strategies of HSHS. He knows our System and will build on our success," said Sister Mary Ann.

"I am confident that we will continue to provide the highest quality health care to the communities we serve. Our colleagues, physicians, and affiliated organizations are dedicated to following the tradition of providing Christ's healing ministry. It is my honor to lead them," Larry Schumacher said.

## Mark Eckert

**From:** Stroder, Yvonne [ystroder@sebh.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2010 1:32 PM

**To:** Anwar Khan, MD; Camp, Linda MD; Dennis Bielke; Father James Deiters; Kevin Pesko; Sister Marybeth Culnan; Sister Trudy O'Connor (toconnor@hsosf-usa.org); Steve Wolf; Tom Egan; William Lyke; Colonel Jill Sterling ; David Harris; Donna Sympson ; Jay Tebbe; John Lengerman; Joseph Cipfl; Kevin Riggs; Mark Eckert; Matt Klosterman; Michael Nester; Monsignor James Margason; Sister Jan Renz; Thomas Dinges; Vernier, Tom

**Cc:** Timmons, Sharon; Steiner, Craig

**Subject:** Change in Leadership at HSHS

**Importance:** High

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**The following is being sent to you on behalf of Sharon Timmons.**

Please refer to the attached document for information pertaining to a change in leadership at Hospital Sisters Health System.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Craig Steiner at 618-234-2120, extension 1357 or me.

Best regards,

Sharon Timmons
Interim President & CEO, St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Direct Dial: (618) 641-5462
Cell: (618) 210-2596

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Mayor

**Mark Eckert**

**From:** Stroder, Yvonne [ystroder@sebh.org]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 10:58 AM

**To:** Colonel Jill Sterling ; David Harris; Donna Sympson ; John Lengerman; Joseph Cipfl; Kevin Riggs; Mark Eckert; Matt Klosterman; Michael Nester; Monsignor James Margason; Sister Jan Renz; Thomas Dinges; Vernier, Tom

**Cc:** Steiner, Craig

**Subject:** Announcement from Sharon Timmons

Good Morning,

Attached please find correspondence from Sharon Timmons announcing plans to close our Hospital Child Care and Preschool Center. In the event you are unable to open the attachment, the correspondence is copied below.

Best regards,

Yvonne Stroder
Executive Assistant, St. Elizabeth's Hospital
(618) 234-2120, ext. 1283

July 7, 2010

Dear Hospital Advisory Council Member,

It is with deep regret we inform you that a decision has been made to close the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Child Care and Preschool Center.

Since November 1990, St. Elizabeth's has operated a child care and preschool center to be utilized by our colleagues, physicians, contracted staff and most recently the community. While the center has allowed colleagues to find child care services to meet the flexible scheduling they needed, this flexibility has always been very costly to the hospital. As many of you know, despite our best efforts, the Center has always operated at a loss.

Over the past two years, the Center implemented significant changes in an effort to reduce the hospital subsidy, some of which included rate increases, more rigorous management of staffing, elimination of 3-day week vacation benefits and elimination of fully funded programs such as music. Unfortunately, despite the hard work and dedication by the center management and staff, these efforts have not been able to offset the expense and resource allocation necessary to continue our operation.

Therefore, the difficult decision has been made to close the Child Care Center August 13, 2010. In order to allow our families time to transition to another care setting, we will continue to operate as normal until that date.

The future of St. Elizabeth's Hospital depends upon our demonstrating a concerted effort to focus on our core business, nursing. We will continue to focus all possible resources, human

and financial, on these efforts to ensure our success. The decision to close the center came after lengthy study and consideration.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital takes decisions such as this very seriously and as a result, will provide as much support as possible. People Services will work with colleagues whose jobs are being impacted. In recognition of their years of service, they will receive severance agreements commensurate with their respective years of employment if they remain with the Center as long as their services are needed. In addition, each will be offered services from an outplacement firm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Timmons
Interim President & CEO
St. Elizabeth's Hospital

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# St. Elizabeth's will close employee day care service

## Hospital ties decision to struggling economy

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — Citing rough times in the health care industry, administrators at St. Elizabeth's Hospital have decided to drop its child day care service for employees' children.

Sixty seven children were enrolled in the program and 11 day care employees will lose their jobs.

The day care center will continue service until Aug. 13 so that parents can have time to find and make arrangements with new day care providers before the school year begins, said hospital spokesman Craig Steiner.

Steiner said the service was established in November 1990 as a way to help employees. It was extended to the community in the last few years, he said. Hospital employees received a discounted rate for the child care.

bnd.com

Comment on this story

"It was a very difficult decision to make," Steiner said. "Right now, it's a difficult time for health care. The move we made here is in response to the economic environment that we're working in. It is a difficult economy, and the environments that we are working in in health care is very challenging.

"We're focusing on our health care line," he said. "It's not that we're cutting a big service or something like that that provides health care to someone."

The move is the latest at the Belleville hospital, which is currently searching for a new leader. Earlier this year, hospital Chief Executive Officer Kevin Shrake resigned after two years on the job. Interim CEO Sharon D. Timmons was appointed in March. Stein said the Hospital Sisters Health System continues to searches for a successor.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

7/9/10

bnd.com Get the

# St. Elizabeth's Hospice Suite is made cozy

WALLY SPIERS

WHEN patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville need hospice care, they have the St. Elizabeth's Hospice Suite, on the sixth floor.

The suite has been around since the 1980s, but it recently was been renovated with money raised by the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

The renovation got its start in 2008 when the mother of Sue Ellen Dumstorff died in the suite. Dumstorff is a longtime supporter of the Friends of St. Elizabeth's.

"It was more of a normal room then but it was her dream and passion that it be redone," said Sheila Price, registered nurse and manager of the medical-surgical unit on the sixth floor.

The suite is reserved for patients who are experiencing end-of-life care in a hospital environment. It can help maintain the patient's dignity and comfort and prepare the family and friends for the looming death.

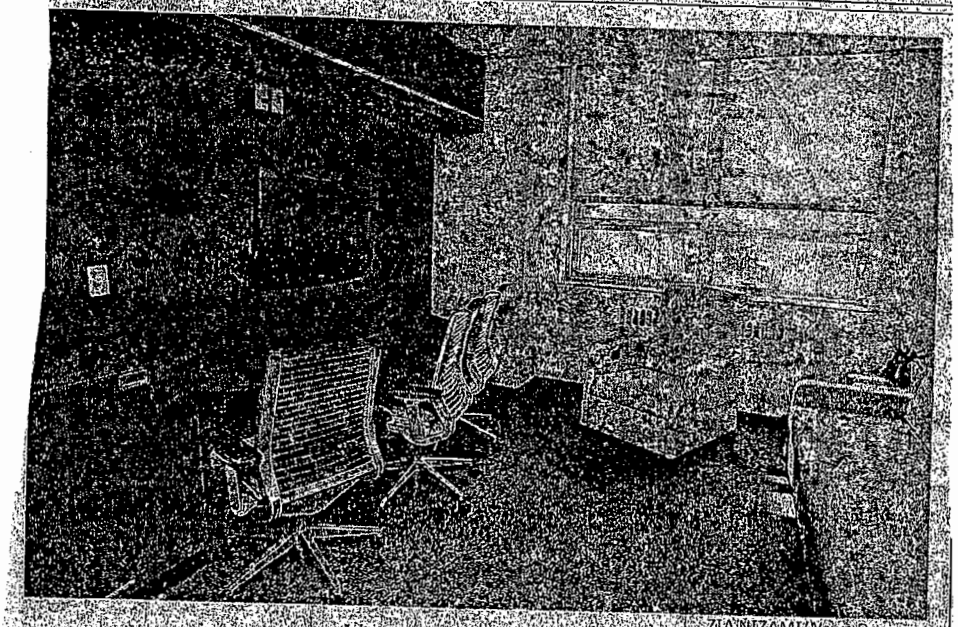
ZANIZAMI/News-Democrat

**St. Elizabeth Hospital's nurse manager Sheila Price talks about the hospice suite, which is reserved for patients nearing the ends of their lives.**

Price said that since she arrived in April, the suite has been in almost continuous use, except for the period when the renovation work going on. She said there still are a few touches left to be done, but the room already had a patient scheduled to move in Monday afternoon.

*Please see* **HOSPICE, B7**

9/21/10



ZIA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

**An overall photo of the hospice suite at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.**

# HOSPICE | 'There is room for everyone'

*Continued from Page B1*

"I would say that about 25 percent of that time someone else was waiting for it," she said.

Patient stays ranged from 24 hours to more than two weeks, she said.

Proceeds from the 2008 and 2009 Teddy Bear Tea Party hosted by the friends group were used in the renovation. It cost approximately $45,000 but included many other donations of labor and materials.

The suite includes a private patient room with an attached living space. The two rooms each have recliners and couches that convert to beds. There is a television and electronic media connections.

"The large clans that gather around can be overwhelming, but that clan often is what gives the patient comfort," Price said. "With this suite there is room for everyone. But hospice often involves a lot of education by the caregivers, helping the family with all the situations."

She said the desk area is great for people who have to miss a lot of work because they can stay connected.

"They thought well to make the space multi-functional," she said.

Another room across the hall is used for the same purpose, but it is not as large and hasn't been renovated. Price said she hopes they will be able to have that one fixed up as well.

"But I guess that is another fund-raising effort," she said.

*Have a column idea? Call Wally at 239-2506 or 800-642-3878, or e-mail wspiers@bnd.com.*

ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL

# New site could mean more options

TIM WIZER/News-Democrat

St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been conducting surveys as to whether it should build a new hospital or renovate the existing structure in downtown Belleville.

## System looking to expand services in the metro-east

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — Administrators from St. Elizabeth's Hospital are considering an expansion of its services elsewhere in St. Clair County.

Hospital spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau said officials from the parent organization Hospital Sisters Health System of Springfield are in the initial stages of discussing how its network of 13 Illinois and Wisconsin hospitals can better serve the metro-east. She said no plans have been made at this point but said that the hospital has been looking at sites in east Belleville and O'Fallon.

"They are studying the area and studying what is the best service to apply to our mission and what is also the best for the community," Barbeau said. "We could do a site or several sites, whatever they refer or come up with."

Barbeau also could not comment about specific sites where hospital officials are looking.

"As far as I know, they are looking in general service areas that focus on Belleville, St. Clair County," she said.

The hospital has looked at Regency Park in O'Fallon as recently as a year ago, said O'Fallon Finance Director Dean Rich, but so have other area hospitals.

"(St. Elizabeth's Hospital) is looking, and they have talked to us, along with Memorial and BJC (HealthCare in St. Louis) over the years," Rich said. "We know that (St. Elizabeth's Hospital) is working on a plan."

Hospital Sisters Health System's group of hospitals includes St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland and St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese. Last month, the

*Please see* HOSPITAL, A2

9/24/10

## HOSPITAL | Could expand, but no official plans announced yet

*Continued from Page A1*

Highland hospital announced that it is going to build a new hospital after having made improvements to the current hospital's front lobby and adding the Medical Arts Building within the past 12 years. Administrators argued that the current building lacks the physical structure to meet future needs and evolving technologies. Site selection is still ongoing and cost of construction has yet to be determined, but hospital administrators say a new building will open to patients by early 2013.

"As far as I know, we don't have any particular sites in particular," Barbeau said about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans. "They are still in such an early studying stage."

Belleville's other hospital has started construction on a new building. Memorial Hospital began work on a third medical building last spring. Southwest Illinois Health Ventures Inc. is building the new $24 million, 85,000-square-foot Orthopedic and Neurosciences Center at 4500 Memorial Drive that will house physicians who treat pain management, sports medicine, physical, occupational and hand therapy as well as a new MRI unit.

In 2008, Memorial Hospital purchased 100 acres in Shiloh and northeast of the intersection at Frank Scott Parkway and Cross Street, which also includes the 22-acre O'Fallon Sportsman's Club. No construction has taken place at the site.

Hospital spokeswoman Ann Thomure could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Barbeau said Hospital Sisters Health System is not looking to discontinue services in the Belleville area.

"It doesn't mean the hospital is shutting down," she said.

"It just means that we're looking to expand services."

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

### ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL

Founded in 1875 by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, St. Elizabeth's Hospital at 211 S. Third St. in Belleville is a 506-bed acute-care medical center. It is one of three metro-east hospitals owned and operated by the Hospital Sisters Health System in Springfield.

The hospital offers more than 40 medical specialties and is home to the Southern Illinois Heart Institute.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital also has a 16-suite surgical center, physical therapy, a sleep disorders center, behavioral health services, diagnostic imaging and cardiac rehabilitation.

Hospital Sisters
HEALTH SYSTEM

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*St. Elizabeth's Hospital*

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*St. Joseph's Hospital*

***Decatur, IL***
*St. Mary's Hospital*

***Effingham, IL***
*St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital*

***Highland, IL***
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

***Litchfield, IL***
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***Springfield, IL***
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# Executive Bulletin

**Vol. 15, No. 14** **November 29, 2010**

TO: **System Leadership Team**
Hospital Sisters Health System

FROM: **Larry P. Schumacher**
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer
Hospital Sisters Health System

RE: The Appointment of Maryann L. Reese as the President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Belleville, Illinois

---

We are very pleased to announce that Maryann L. Reese has accepted an invitation to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois. Maryann will begin her service with Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) on January 17, 2011.

"I look forward to partnering with the community, St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors, and the colleagues at St. Elizabeth's and HSHS Division (Southern Illinois) to serve Belleville and the surrounding area," Maryann said. "The rich Franciscan heritage of HSHS, its guiding principles and Core Values played a major part in my decision to serve St. Elizabeth's Hospital and will assuredly guide us in our work," she added.

Maryann currently serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of both St. Vincent Healthcare System in Billings, Montana and Holy Rosary Healthcare in Miles City, Montana. Both of these systems are sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. She was initially recruited in 2007 to serve St. Vincent Healthcare System. In 2008, her role was expanded to include Holy Rosary Healthcare, St. Vincent's sister hospital.

During her tenure in Montana, Maryann deployed LEAN initiatives throughout the system to achieve $7 million in savings in 2009-2010, led initiatives to reduce Medicare average length of stay from 5.1 to 3.9 days, led construction projects with a total capital spend of almost $26 million and led programs that hired 22 primary care and specialty physicians.

Between 2002 and 2007, Maryann served Mercy Medical Center of Nampa, Idaho as Chief Operating Officer/Chief Clinical Officer where she led a team that moved Mercy to a Top 100 Hospital. She started her career as a registered nurse at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. After two years she joined Idaho Home Health & Hospice where she served as a Case Manager Registered Nurse, then Assistant Director

and ultimately Director. Between 1995 and 2002, she served Hospital Corporation of America in a number of roles and locations including Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center of Idaho Falls, Idaho and Brigham City Community Hospital of Brigham City, Utah.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, she attained an Associate of Science degree in Nursing from Boise State University, a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration from Graceland University and a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Minnesota. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Health Care Administration from Central Michigan University, and anticipates completion in 2012.

Maryann and her husband Spencer have two grown daughters and plan to reside in the Belleville area. Both are drawn to the Belleville community due to its proximity to Maryann's parents and in-laws who still reside in St. Louis.

She will succeed Sharon Timmons, Interim President and CEO. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon for her exemplary leadership during the transition.

Please join me in welcoming Maryann to Hospital Sisters Health System.

# St. Elizabeth's gets new president, CEO

## St. Louis native will start work Jan. 17

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — A St. Louis native has been selected to lead St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Maryann Reese was named the new president and chief executive officer of the Belleville hospital Monday after Sharon Timmons had served on an interim basis since March, when Kevin Shrake resigned from the hospital's top post after two years.

Reese will start her new job Jan. 17. She said she looks forward to coming to Belleville.

"I look forward to partnering with the community, St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors, and the colleagues at St. Elizabeth's and (Hospital Sisters Health System) to serve Belleville and the surrounding area," Reese said. "The rich Franciscan heritage of HSHS, its guiding principles and Core Values played a major part in my decision to serve St. Elizabeth's Hospital and will assuredly guide us in our work."

Reese

HSHS is Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health System that has 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin that include St. Elizabeth's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland and St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese.

Timmons said Reese will be a great leader for the hospital.

"I think Maryann will be an excellent fit," Timmons said. "We are really proud of this group of physicians, managers and directors, and just the staff in general, who have had this ongoing association to provide excellent care to patients we serve here in Belleville."

Reese has worked in leadership roles for hospitals and health care organizations in Montana, Idaho and Utah. Since 2007, she served as the executive vice president and chief operating officer of both St. Vincent Healthcare Systems in Billings, Mont., and Holy

*Please see* **CEO, A2**

# American Girl coming to a catwalk near you

## Showcase for girl, doll fashions will be in O'Fallon in March

By Scott Wuerz
*News-Democrat*

O'FALLON — The Regency Conference Center will be filled with squeals of delight March 12 when the American Girl Fashion Show comes to town.

Parks and Recreation Department director Mary Jeanne Hutchison said about 1,200 spectators and another 60 models and volunteers are expected to pack the conference center to check out the latest in little girl and doll fashions.

American Girl is a line of girls clothing, dolls and accompanying accessories, books and furniture designed for preschoolers to pre-teens.

"It's a really big deal — especially to the girls that have these dolls," Hutchison said. "You can bring your doll if you have them. The girls will model outfits on a runway. There'll be prizes, and they'll talk about the dolls."

Hutchison said she's been

*Please see* **GIRL, A2**

### ABOUT THE EVENT

Three shows are planned for the March 12 event at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The cost is expected to be $30 to $35 per person. Proceeds will benefit the park's foundation that provides scholarships for programs and the arts.

To volunteer, or if you know a girl interested in trying out to be a model, e-mail Pearl Gipson at pgipson@ofallon.org or call 624-0139. Models must be able to wear girls size 6x - 8 through size 10.

## GUN ABOARD METROLINK

East St. Louis man accused of taking weapon on train.

**LOCAL B1**

### ALSO INSIDE


**Business** B5
**Comics** C2, C4
**Lifestyle** C1
**Local** B1
**Local Sports** D2
**Lottery** A2
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**TV, Movies** C3
**Weather** C8
**CLASSIFIED B6-7, D6-8**


### TODAY'S WEATHER

A chance of flurries
High 38, Low 24

7 95480 75025 4

upcoming week is really about," Obama said in announcing the freeze plan, which would save $5 billion over two years and affect civilian workers, not the military. Congress must approve the pay freeze for it to become effective.

Obama

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Thousands of federal workers live and work in the metro-east, including at Scott Air Force Base, the FBI and IRS offices in Fairview Heights, the federal courthouse in East St. Louis and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Alton.

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan said Monday his organization will ask lawmakers to oppose the wage freeze.

"It seems working middle-class families always bear the burden in tough financial times," Carrigan said. "We need job creation, not a wage freeze that will further harm our economy and our workers. Illinois union members overwhelmingly supported President Obama in '08, we expect him to stand up for workers in both the public and private sectors."

The federal budget deficit was about $1.3 trillion in the recently ended fiscal year, and the national debt is estimated at nearly $14 trillion. Paying interest on that debt alone gobbles 6 percent of all federal spending, and that's projected to rise to 17 percent by 2020.

On Tuesday, the president is to meet with congressional leaders from both parties to haggle over what can get done in their lame-duck session over the next three weeks, especially whether to extend Bush-

*Please see* **FREEZE, A2**

Tues 11/30/10

Little Lotto: **2-7-22-24-32**
Lotto: **2-7-9-12-15-16**
Jackpot: **$4.25 million**

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Pick 3-Evening: **1-2-9**
Pick 4-Midday: **8-5-1-7**
Pick 4-Evening: **9-6-8-6**
Show Me Cash:
**3-8-14-33-34**

## CORRECTION

*The News-Democrat welcomes calls from readers concerning errors and will make appropriate corrections promptly. To report an error, call 234-1000, ext. 2451, or 800-642-3878, ext. 2451.*

# CEO | Lots of experience

*Continued from Page A1*

Rosary Healthcare in Miles City, Mont. From 2002 to 2007, Reese served as chief operating officer and chief clinical officer at Mercy Medical Center in Nampa, Idaho, where she lead a team that was recognized as a Top 100 Hospital. From 1995 to 2002, she worked in a number of roles for the Hospital Corporation of America at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Bringham City Community Hospital in Bringham City, Utah.

Reese earned a bachelor's degree in health care administration from Graceland University and a master's degree in health care administration from the University of Minnesota. She is currently working on a doctorate degree in health care administration from Central Michigan University and anticipates completing it in 2012.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*


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**St. Elizabeth's Hospital**

211 [illegible]
[illegible] IL 62220

# Executive Bulletin

**To:** St. Elizabeth's Hospital Leadership

**From:** Sharon D. Timmons, Interim President and CEO, St. Elizabeth's Hospital

**Date:** December 6, 2010

**Re:** The appointment of Terence P. Wade, MD, as Chief Medical Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital

---

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Terence P. Wade, MD to serve as the Chief Medical Officer at the hospital, effective January 1, 2011.

A native of Belleville, Dr. Wade is currently the President of Medical Staff at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and is a board certified surgeon in Critical Care and General Surgery. Dr. Wade will leave his practice at Lincoln Surgical Group in Belleville to devote attention to his CMO role full-time.

"With his extensive family and professional ties to the community, Dr. Wade will be a great asset to St. Elizabeth's Hospital as we look toward the future of our Franciscan healing ministry and the health care needs of those we serve," said Sharon D. Timmons, Interim President and CEO of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Dr. Salil Gupta, the previous CMO since 2008, announced in early November that he would be stepping down from the position. Hospital leadership acknowledges his great dedication and service during his tenure in the development of quality initiatives for patients. He will continue to serve as the neonatologist and Medical Director of the Level II+ Special Care Nursery.

Dr. Wade received his Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri, and his Graduate degree from Loyola University-Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago. Dr. Wade completed his General Surgery Residency at the University of Kansas and a Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the National Cancer Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He also served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves from 1983 to 2002, when he retired as Commander of the 932nd Medical Group at Scott Air Force Base. He is a

211 [illegible]
[illegible] 62220

recipient of the Legion of Merit Award. His previous professional experience includes Associate Professor of Surgery at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.

Additionally, Dr. Wade is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Oncology, and the Central Surgical Association, and has written over 60 articles published in peer-reviewed journals. He lives in Belleville with his wife, Patricia and has 3 grown sons – Terry, Tom and Joe. Also of note, Dr. Wade was born at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and attended Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville, as did all three of his children.

MONROE COUNTY

# Urgicare center closing next month

## New chief medical officer also named for St. Elizabeth's

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — St. Elizabeth's Hospital will close its urgicare service and leave its Monroe County Medical Building next month in Columbia.

Meanwhile, the Belleville hospital announced Monday that it has appointed Dr. Terence P. Wade as its new chief medical officer. The Belleville native is currently the president of medical staff at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

"With his extensive family and professional ties to the community, Dr. Wade will be a great asset to St. Elizabeth's Hospital as we look toward the future of our Franciscan healing ministry and the health care needs of those we serve," said Sharon D. Timmons, interim president and chief executive officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Wade will leave his practice at Lincoln Surgical Group in Belleville to begin work at his new post Jan. 1.

Hospital Chief Operating Officer Bob Miller said the Monroe County Urgicare Center at 9538 Caring Way just south of Columbia has

*Please see* CENTER, B3

Tues Dec 7 2010

## CENTER | 20 jobs affected

*Continued from Page B1*

provided treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, imaging, lab services and therapy since September 2006. But he said the number of patients that the hospital once expected to use the care center was never reached.

"We anticipated a reasonable amount of volume, but it just didn't materialize," Miller said.

Miller said the closure affects 20 employees, including physicians, technicians, registered nurses and office staff. He said he spoke with each one himself and that each will be offered employment within the Hospital Sisters Health System, which has 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin, including St. Elizabeth's in Belleville, St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland and St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese. St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville also operates an urgicare center in O'Fallon.

Miller said St. Elizabeth's will keep the hospital's physical therapy service in Columbia. The service, which was provided in the same building, will soon be moved to another building in Columbia that the hospital owns on Edelweiss Drive, off Illinois 3. A timetable has yet to be determined.

"That is one area where there was a lot of referral back to our physical therapy program," Miller said. "We thought it made sense to allocate our resources for that service there. We will maintain that continuity."

Miller said the closure is not part of a recently revealed master plan for St. Elizabeth's Hospital. In October, it was disclosed that initial discussions over expanding the 135-year-old hospital's services in St. Clair County were under way. Hospital leaders later confirmed that the hospital is looking at sites in east Belleville and O'Fallon but is still committed to downtown Belleville.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

Greater
BELLEVILLE CHAMBER
of Commerce, Inc.
"Partners In Success"

December 16, 2010

Mayor Mark Eckert
City of Belleville
101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL. 62220

Dear Mayor Eckert:

Thank you for allowing the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce to address the issue facing the city with the possible expansion campus of St. Elizabeth's.

Since 1875 St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis have played a major role in the history of the City of Belleville. The ministry of healing and the mission of the sisters have long served the many residents and businesses of our great community.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a partner of the chamber in Belleville for many years and continues its support not only financially but by sharing its talented staff members to serve on our board of directors and actively participate in our many committees. The chamber is most appreciative of that commitment.

Just last year the chamber awarded St. Elizabeth's Hospital its Business Excellence Award at its Annual Dinner, a distinction most deserving.

The chamber, with its nearly 600 members, stands squarely behind the City of Belleville in its efforts to support the Hospital Sisters in continuing their healing mission at their downtown location. In addition, the chamber will work side by side with the city to secure a sight in Belleville for the hospital's expansion campus.

Please let us know when the chamber's support and assistance is needed to fulfill our shared vision of keeping St. Elizabeth's in Belleville.

Sincerely yours,

John L Lengerman
Executive Director

216 East "A" Street • Belleville, Illinois 62220 • Phone: 618-233-2015 • Fax: 618-233-2077

# Development Proposal

*Prepared for:*

**Hospital Sisters Health System**
**Southern Division**
**St. Elizabeth's Hospital**

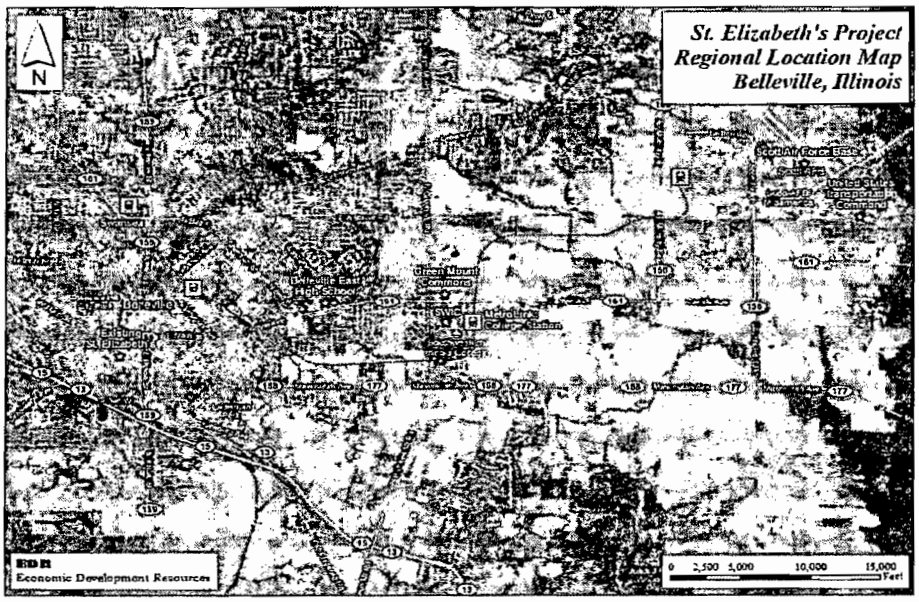
City of Belleville, Illinois

December 17, 2010

Introduction

The City of Belleville is pleased to present to the Hospital Sisters Health System its vision and goals in working together to develop not only a vibrant medical campus directly east of Southwestern Illinois College, but to revitalize the existing St. Elizabeth's facilities located in downtown Belleville. The City of Belleville is very proud of its 135 year partnership with St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the ministry of healing that the Hospital provides the Belleville community. The Hospital, as the citizens of Belleville recognize, has developed a strong partnership in all areas of our community. As you will read, the City can offer many economic incentives for the hospital to take advantage of in the development of the new site. We have described herein the existing conditions of the proposed site, but have also outlined a number of visionary models and examples to consider. The City envisions many ways in which these partnerships will grow not only with the expansion of the medical campus at its new location, but also at the downtown campus.

As shown in the image below, the proposed site is particularly well situated for both the development of a new Hospital, as well as the development of medical offices and related hospital/health care uses envisioned by St. Elizabeth's. The site abuts MetroLink's College station and is served by Carlyle Avenue and Green Mount Road, two important regional arterial roadways. Additionally, the site enjoys proximity to, and easy access from Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), the East Belleville YMCA, the more than 65 acre Green Mount Commons development and the growing presence and population of Scott AFB and the United States Transportation Command (TRANSCOM).




*See Appendix A for large map.

Economic Incentives

The City of Belleville will take steps necessary to ensure that the benefits of both Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the Belleville Enterprise Zone will be made available to St. Elizabeth's in the development of its campus on a site adjacent to Southwestern Illinois College and the MetroLink station serving the College. The City will extend its Enterprise Zone to include the site selected by St. Elizabeth's, and will create a TIF District to provide additional assistance to the proposed project. The combination of the TIF District and Enterprise Zone will provide the benefits described below.

The Enterprise Zone will provide a waiver of sales taxes otherwise charged on the purchase of building materials incorporated into the construction of buildings on the campus. Depending on the location of the purchase, for every $1,000,000 of building materials purchased, the savings will be $78,500 (assuming such purchases are made in Belleville, where the underlying sales tax rate is 7.85%. As an example, for a 50,000 sq. ft. medical office building, where total building costs is approximately $125 - $150 per sq. ft. and 50% of such cost is building materials, the sales tax waiver would be valued between $245,000 and $294,000.

The sales tax waiver benefit is available until December 31, 2014. There is legislation pending in the State of Illinois that would extend the Enterprise Zone another 20 years, through the calendar year of 2034. The City of Belleville continues to work with local legislators to see that this measure is approved.

The TIF program will provide annual assistance for a period of up to 23 years, and may be extended to 35 years, depending on cooperation from the taxing districts within the TIF. This public/private partnership will provide property tax revenues, created by the development of taxable property within the TIF area, to be used for projects in the TIF Area. Generally, for every $1,000,000 of "fair market value" (as determined by the St. Clair County Assessor) over and above the property's current "fair market value", the TIF will generate more than $23,400 (at current property tax rates) for the project each year. The TIF funds may be used to pay for a variety of activities which directly benefit the project, including site preparation, construction of public infrastructure, demolition of existing site improvements, and the professional services associated with these activities. For example, if a 50,000 sq. ft. office building (and land) has a fair market value of $5,000,000, and the existing value of the land is $5,000, the incremental increase in the fair market value upon completion of the office building is $4,995,000. This increase in value yields annual incremental property taxes of approximately $116,900. These property taxes can then be used, annually, to pay or repay public or private developers for the activities noted above, or to amortize an obligation (a bond, note, or similar instrument) issued by the City to fund such costs.

The City will also consider entering into an Economic Incentive Agreement (EIA). This partnership program would enable the City to provide to the developer of the project, for use in the project or in order to repay the developer for certain costs associated with the project, a

portion of the 1.0% municipal sales tax that will be generated by the project's retail sales (including prepared food and beverages).

In summary, the payment of many of the costs necessary to assist in the development of the project can be paid for by the components noted above. The use of a Tax Increment Financing District, the Enterprise Zone, and an Economic Incentive Agreement, in addition to the City's other revenues, will prove significant in making not only the proposed development project a reality, but these programs could also be used in a comprehensive redevelopment program of St. Elizabeth's downtown medical campus. As the Hospital Sisters Health System moves forward in the development of their overarching plan and more details become available, the City of Belleville will be able to provide more plan-specific details related to economic incentives.

Site Conditions

The proposed site is currently owned by Southwestern Illinois College and is located in unincorporated St. Clair County. Further, maps produced by the Geological Division of the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources shows that the potential development site has no undermining. If the hospital decides to move forward with this site, the property will require annexation and formal subdivision before the construction of any improvements commences. The City pledges to hold special committee meetings and City Council meetings, as necessary, to accomplish both of these items quickly as possible for the Hospital.

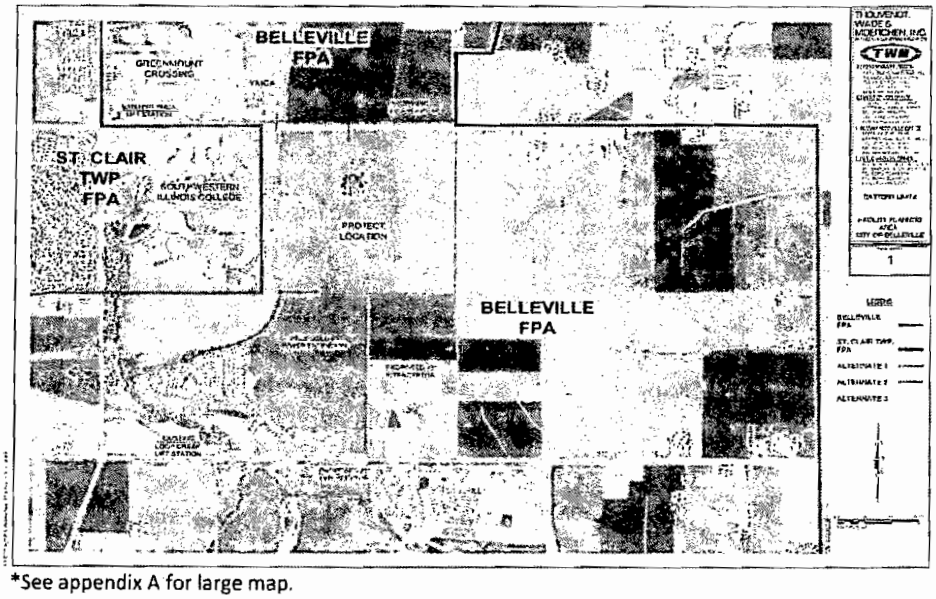
*Utilities*

In addition to annexation and subdivision, the development of the site requires that utilities be available at the site. The City's research indicates that such utilities include, but may not be limited to: gas, electric, sanitary sewer, potable water, storm water management, and high speed internet. Additionally, due to the nature of the development, these utilities require duplication at the site so as to ensure there is never an interruption of service.

Both electric and gas run adjacent to the project site and have capacity to serve a new hospital facility and its larger medical campus. The City is willing to discuss ways to create a partnership with the Hospital to make sure that electric and gas services are brought to the buildings in an appropriate fashion and at an acceptable rate.

In order to properly manage the wastewater on this site, the City provides three options for the Hospital to consider: extending the interceptor along Route 161 from the YMCA at an estimated cost of $247,000, extending the sewer line from the north side of Brookhill Estates at an estimated cost of $155,000, or extending the interceptor along Route 177 and then north to the site, at an estimated cost of $420,000. Each of these options is depicted below. The City would pay to bring sanitary sewer lines to the site; however, more detailed information is needed to determine the City's level of participation in terms of guaranteeing sewer rates for a certain number of years or discounting the tap-in fees. The City owns and operates its own wastewater treatment system, and therefore has the ability to discuss with the hospital tap-in fees, rates, or

other options that are often negotiated as parts of similar large-scale developments. Additionally, due to the $80 million plant expansion that is currently underway, the City of Belleville has more than enough capacity to treat wastewater not only from this facility, but also from all future development in this area. Clearly, the City wants to provide the Hospital the best option for managing wastewater, but this issue will need to be more fully discussed in the near future, when more details become available.




*See appendix A for large map.

Further, a 12" water main currently runs parallel to Carlyle Avenue, on the south side of the road. If the hospital requires more flow than what is available in this existing line, a nearby water main can be extended. The determination of the particular main that requires extension and the cost of such extension are dependent upon the flow (in gallons per minute) that the hospital requires. The City is willing to discuss ways to partner with the Hospital to ensure adequate potable water is available on site.

Storm water detention/retention on site is also a component of development. Similar to those other utility costs described above, the City will work with St. Elizabeth's Hospital to make sure that this development component will be handled in a cost-effective manner and that the management of storm water ads value to the site. For example, a well designed retention pond could provide beneficial and attractive open space on site. Further, the storm water management system could be designed in a way that supports sustainability and contributes to the potential for a LEED Certified site.

The City of Belleville, TIF and/or EIA revenues may be available to help fund not only the improvements described above, but similar on-site improvements to prepare the site for development, as well as those off-site which are necessary for the development of the project.

Such improvements may include installing water mains, widening Carlyle Avenue and installing traffic signals at appropriate locations. TIF and/or EIA revenues could also be used to construct access to the campus from the south (Route 177/158) as well as to improve Radio Range Road.

Overall, the City will commit to work with St. Elizabeth's Hospital as well as Illinois American Water and Ameren Illinois to establish long-term rates for water, electric and gas, that are acceptable to both the Hospital and the utility companies. Further, the City intends to partner with St. Clair Township and IDOT to make sure the Hospital has adequate and appropriate ingress/egress from various directions.

*Traffic and Roadways*

The City of Belleville is prepared to offer a number of incentives concerning access to the site as well as the expansion and improvement of neighboring roadways. Furthermore, the City would like to recognize the existing improvements and access to the proposed site.

As of the date of this proposal, the City has begun preparations to construct a pedestrian bridge over Carlyle Avenue from SWIC and the MetroLink College Station to Green Mount Commons and the East Belleville YMCA. This project provides SWIC students and MetroLink passengers immediate access to the YMCA, as well as retail and restaurant facilities at Green Mount Commons, but it will also play an integral part in connecting employees, visitors, and patients of St. Elizabeth's to those same amenities.

The proposed St. Elizabeth's site abuts a hub of activity in the City of Belleville. With the success in the development of single family residential subdivisions at Green Mount Manor and Brookhill Estates, the City has already begun providing access to the proposed St. Elizabeth's site in all directions. As more commercial, institutional and residential uses begin developing the surrounding areas, more public improvements will be made to accommodate such private investment, and make this area attractive for further development.

Mayor Eckert has had conversations with Mary Lamie, Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Deputy Director of Highways and Region 5 Engineer, and has stressed the importance of beginning the construction project that will link Route 158 and Route 15. This will ensure easier access from traffic on Interstate 64 as well as traffic on State Route 15. Mayor Eckert continues to push this project as one deserving high priority from IDOT. In addition, Mayor Eckert has paired with St. Clair Bounty Board Chairman Mark Kern and asked Congressman Costello to fund a construction plan that would widen Greenmount Road from Carlyle Avenue to Route 15.

The City of Belleville pledges to work with the IDOT not only to facilitate the aforementioned highway expansion project, but also to commit to public-private partnership programs to ensure that Carlyle Avenue (State Route 161) is appropriately widened and that signals and turn lanes are placed at the appropriate positions, so as to ensure safe and efficient access to the hospital and any other development that may occur on the site. Further, the City will partner with St. Elizabeth's Hospital and commits to pay for, at the appropriate time, a traffic study associated with the Carlyle Road improvements. With development at this site, the City will

prepare for future growth to the east. The long-term vision includes major improvements to Radio Range Road, for which the City will partner with St. Clair Township and St. Clair County at such time as the market and future growth of the area dictates.

The City envisions signalization and access points directly on Carlyle Avenue, as well as from the residential neighborhood to the south, and future development to the east. The City will continue to utilize available economic development tools and incentives to ensure that these uses are compatible with the uses conducted in existing neighboring areas and at the proposed St. Elizabeth' site. Coupled with MetroLink's existing College Station, the above noted roadway improvements will provide a range of access modes and routes that will sustain the project at this site for decades to come.

*Long-term Vision*

Not only does the City envision the continuation of a rich partnership with St. Elizabeth's Hospital, but the City also foresees the development of a state of the art medical campus that is the center of a larger institutional hub on Belleville's east side stretching all the way to Scott AFB and the United States Transportation Command. This institutional core will both drive and compliment the residential and commercial growth immediately surrounding the project. The City of Belleville looks forward to working with SWIC and Metro to make certain that College Station grows into an appropriate transit hub for both the College and Hospital campuses, including an at-grade or overpass-type crossing that will satisfy the needs of both parties and that will make a safe and inviting connector between the two facilities. The City also recognizes that the creation of St. Elizabeth's medical campus at this location will spur private and public transit-oriented here, which will reinforce St. Elizabeth's investment. With many of the adjacent parcels already in such uses (notably SWIC, YMCA, Green Mount Commons, Green Mount Manor and Brookhill Estates), the City sees a growing market for educational, service, commercial and residential uses in the area surrounding the project.

The City recognizes that MetroLink provides a critical means of access for employees and visitors to the project site, an attribute that this location in Belleville shares with a number of other projects in the metropolitan area. MetroLink's Sunnen station serves the Sunnen Business Park in Maplewood, while its Central West End station (also known as the "BJC station") serves a major concentration of investment in hospitals, health care and medical offices. Moreover, Metrolink's station in Brentwood was integral in the planning of, and has become an indispensable part of the development of the Meridian, a 500,000 sq. ft. mixed use development which includes BJC's Learning Center, as well as offices for its Managed Care and system-wide computer operations. The City believes that similar growth and investment is possible and should be encouraged at College Station and will prepare for such activity by revising its Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code to ensure that the potential growth and development in and around the site is compatible with the larger medical campus and future regional institutional hub.

Partnerships

Belleville's long-standing relationship with St. Elizabeth's Hospital as well as its track record of partnership with other agencies such as the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce, Belleville Main Street, and Scott Air Force Base prove a strong community spirit, based on cooperation, that works hard to ensure that as a whole, the community's needs are met. As St. Clair County's "home to higher education," Belleville also enjoys strong partnerships with our two higher learning institutions, Lindenwood University and SWIC.

Belleville enjoys an excellent partnership with Scott Air Force Base and its more than 12,000 employees, including more than 35 generals, two of which rank as Four-Star Generals. The United States Transportation Command (TRANSCOM), Air Mobility Command, various other commands, and thousands upon thousands of Army, Navy, Marine and civilian personnel make up this population. The Belle-Scott Committee, the longest-standing military-civilian partnership in the nation, supports a healthy relationship between the City of Belleville and Scott Air Force Base and has helped to sustain the enduring relationship that brings many of those stationed at Scott to our city for medical care, shopping, education and much more.

The MetroLink provides easy access for this large population base to the proposed St. Elizabeth's site. With the opening of Green Mount Commons shopping center, SWIC and the YMCA, more Scott personnel and families are coming to Belleville than ever. With its close proximity to each of Scott's gates, thousands upon thousands of people have discovered Belleville and have taken advantage of the easy access to Green Mount Commons, SWIC, and even the recently revitalized downtown. The large military and civilian population centered at Scott Air Force Base, coupled with the development of a hospital campus at this site, offers many opportunities for the expansion of healthy living programs, educational opportunities, numerous residential living situations, and various shopping and dining opportunities. The parcels that surround the potential development site meet many needs of those living and working at Scott AFB. Scott AFB leadership has told the City of Belleville that easy access to these amenities and low traffic congestion are just two of the many reasons that military personnel frequent this part of Belleville.

Similar in its partnership with the City is the YMCA. Not only has the YMCA proven itself a true partner of the City, but it also has a history of partnerships with local hospitals for healthy living programs. The proximity of the St. Elizabeth's site to the YMCA invites these types of partnerships in the future.

Healthy living initiatives in the Metro East are currently centered in Belleville with the "Get up & Go" campaign, numerous bike trails, a growing number of running and bicycling events, two (2) YMCA facilities, numerous park facilities and recreation programs available.

The proposed St. Elizabeth's site is located along the MetroLink bike trail, which, coupled with the East Belleville Bikeway, makes a six (6) mile bike trail which would be anchored on each end by St. Elizabeth Hospital facilities. The infrastructure for this trail is already in place and is well

used by bicyclists, walkers and runners year round. Nearby Brookhill Estates, located south of the proposed St. Elizabeth's site, will soon be connecting its own bike trail to the MetroLink Bike trail thereby connecting a 200 home subdivision to the new St. Elizabeth's property.

The MetroLink bike trail will soon be extended to the Scott Air Force Base MetroLink station, which will create a direct link between Scott Air Force Base and St. Elizabeth's hospital that supports a healthy lifestyle. As previously discussed, IDOT has committed to and is progressing with plans to build a pedestrian/bikeway overpass over State Route 161 along the MetroLink right-of-way. In addition to its many great trails, Belleville is home to numerous events including the Law Day Run, the Gingerbread Run/Walk, the Tour de Belleville bicycle ride, the Artie Miller Memorial Bike Race and many, many more. The number of these events continues to grow, with at least two new running events added in 2010 alone. Belleville, like no other community in the Metro East, offers a multitude of possibilities to build on Belleville's already strong partnership with St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

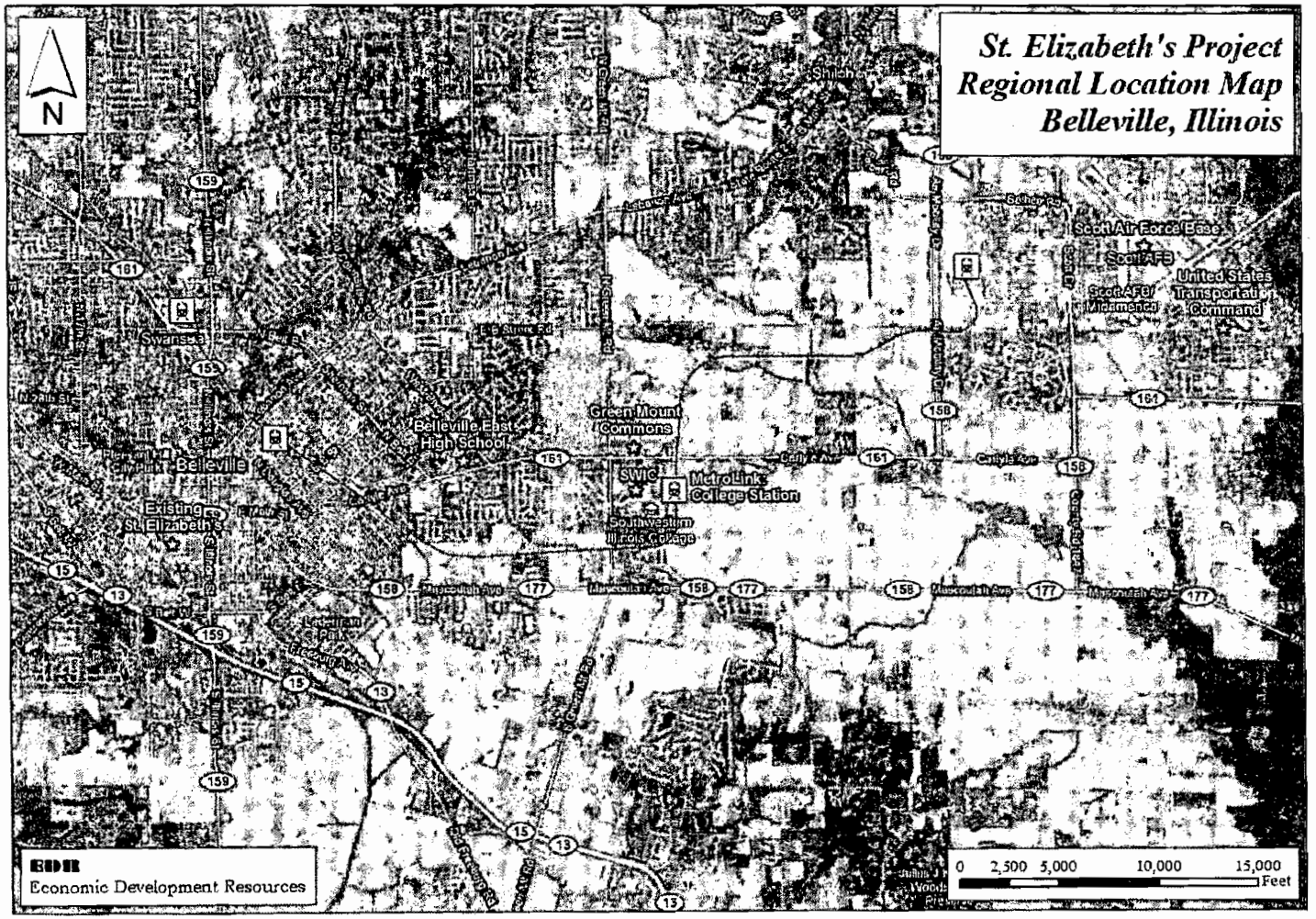
Conclusion

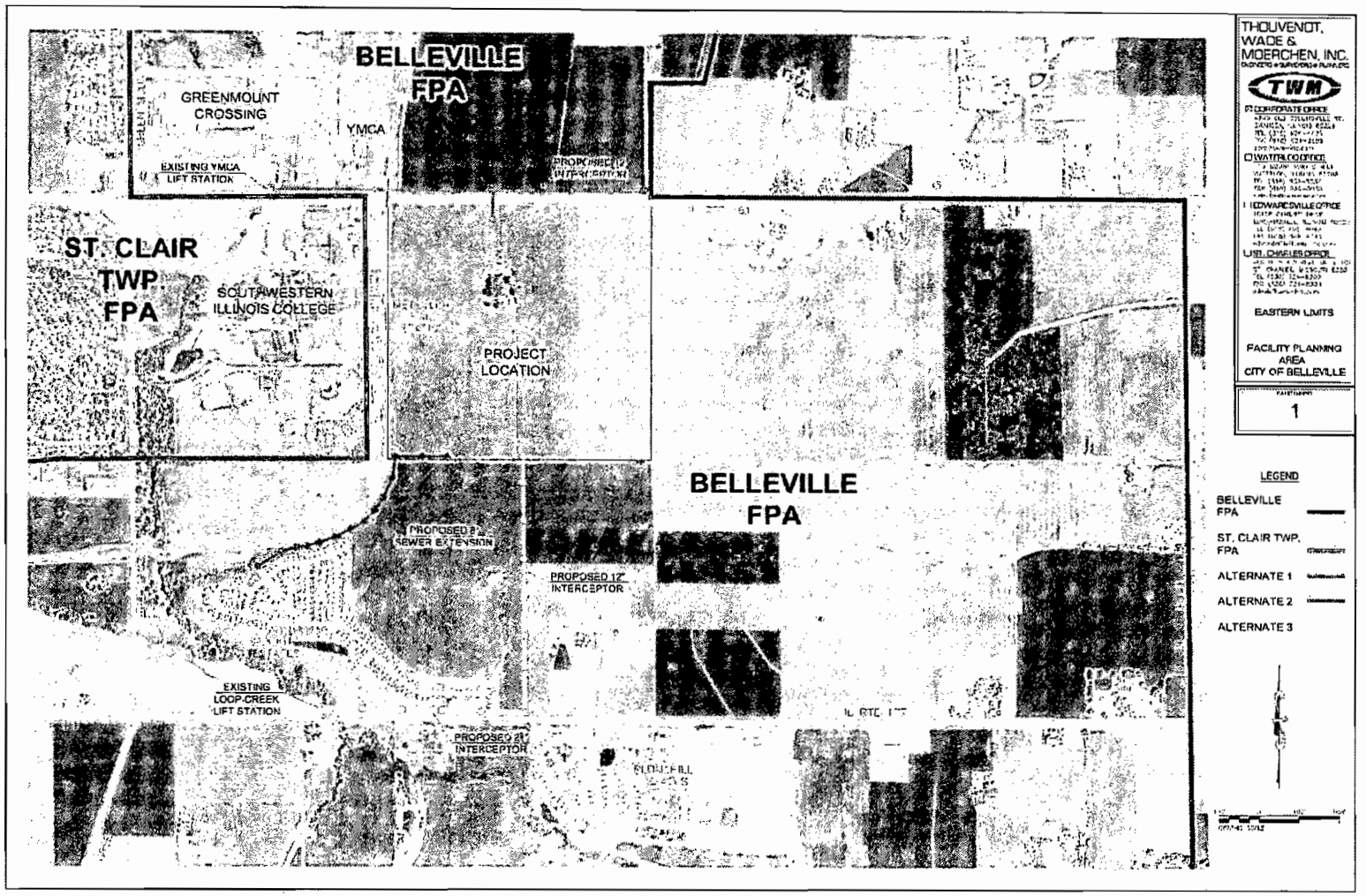
The City of Belleville is committed to working with the Hospital Sisters Health System to create a vibrant, well-connected and easily accessible site for St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The City believes the site will quickly become part of an institutional hub connecting Scott Air Force Base/TRANSCOM, Southwestern Illinois College, and the larger medical campus. This will in turn drive residential and commercial growth in the immediate area.

The site, as it exists, is suitable for the development proposed by the Hospital in the immediate future, and will sustain long term growth and prosperity due to its unique location adjacent to compatible uses, and as the center of what will become a multi-modal transportation oriented development. Utilities are easily accessible and have the capacity, now, to provide for St. Elizabeth's initial development plan; careful planning will enable a partnership to be created which will make certain that such capacity grows as St. Elizabeth's (and other) investment increases. Access to the site is provided by a quality roadway system and MetroLink. Planned improvements to the highways in and around the site will complement these investments as well. Through programs such as TIF, Enterprise Zone, and Economic Incentive Agreements, the City commits to build upon its longstanding relationship with St. Elizabeth's Hospital by providing appropriate financial assistance which will help the Hospital create the quality project is seeks at this location.

We believe this proposal and the information contained herein supports a decision to expand St. Elizabeth's medical campus at the proposed site. As a community, we would enjoy the opportunity to support the Hospital in continuing its ministry of healing not only at the existing location but at the proposed development site. We are committed to supporting St. Elizabeth's mission through continued cooperation and partnership. The City of Belleville looks forward to another great 135 years of partnership with St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Appendix A


St. Elizabeth's Project
Regional Location Map
Belleville, Illinois
N
Scott Air Force Base
Scott AFB
United States Transportation Command
Scott AFB/ Midamerica
Belleville East High School
Green Mount Commons
SWIC
MetroLink College Station
Southwestern Illinois College
Belleville
Existing St. Elizabeth's
Swansea
Mascoutah Ave
Carlyle Ave
Ladenfran Park
159
161
158
177
15
13
EDR
Economic Development Resources
0 2,500 5,000 10,000 15,000
Feet


BELLEVILLE
FPA
GREENMOUNT
CROSSING
YMCA
EXISTING YMCA
LIFT STATION
ST. CLAIR
TWP
FPA
SOUTHWESTERN
ILLINOIS COLLEGE
PROJECT
LOCATION
BELLEVILLE
FPA
PROPOSED 8"
SEWER EXTENSION
PROPOSED 12"
INTERCEPTOR
EXISTING
LOOP CREEK
LIFT STATION
PROPOSED 21"
INTERCEPTOR
IL RTE. 177
FLORENCE LL
THOUVENOT,
WADE &
MOERCHEN, INC.
TWM
EASTERN LIMITS
FACILITY PLANNING
AREA
CITY OF BELLEVILLE
1
LEGEND
BELLEVILLE
FPA
ST. CLAIR TWP.
FPA
ALTERNATE 1
ALTERNATE 2
ALTERNATE 3

512 West Main Street • Belleville, IL 62220
Phone: 618.239.9428 • Fax: 618.239.9598
Website: bellevillemainstreet.net
Email: amassey@belleville.net

December 17, 2010

Mayor Mark Eckert
City of Belleville
101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Dear Mayor Eckert:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the expansion of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital campus in Belleville.

Throughout its history, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a great partner to the City of Belleville. Its mission to, "Provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy," has aided countless members of our city, as well as the surrounding communities.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital's positive influence on our community reaches well outside the hospital walls. Members of the hospital staff sit on a variety of local boards and committees, including those of Belleville Main Street. The hospital sponsors countless city events, which bring thousands of people to our community each year.

Additionally, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a strong supporter and partner with the business community in downtown Belleville. They truly understand the importance of the "Buy Belleville" campaign and have encouraged their doctors and staff to dine and shop in downtown establishments.

Belleville Main Street firmly supports the City of Belleville's effort to retain St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. Their tremendous impact on our community cannot be replaced.

If there is a way in which Belleville Main Street can further assist the City in keeping St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Geri E. Boyer
President

# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**MARK W. ECKERT,** MAYOR

101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-2105
Office: (618) 233-6810
Fax: (618) 233-6779

CITY FLAG
DESIGNED BY
FREDRICK L. LANGE
JULY 6th 1964

December 17, 2010

Mr. Mark Reifsteck, Southern Illinois Division President
Sister Mary Ann Miner, OSF, Chair
Mr. Larry Schumacher, Interim President, CEO, COO
Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS)
4936 LaVerna Road
Springfield, Illinois 62707

Dear Mr. Reifsteck, Sister Miner, and Mr. Schumaker:

Many kind thanks for the opportunity to present to you the City's response to the Hospital Sisters' request. The City is very interested in continuing, and reinforcing, the ministry of healing and the mutually beneficial relationship that St. Elizabeth's and the City have enjoyed for more than 135 years.

We are very pleased that St. Elizabeth's is considering a site in Belleville for the development program outlined by Mr. Reifsteck and detailed in Mr. Burke's e-mail of December 7, 2010. We believe that such a project, at this location, will be a tremendous complement to the other major public and private investments that have occurred in this portion of our community. The City is willing and able to provide a wide range of support and incentives to assist in the development of St. Elizabeth's vision at this location, and is equally willing and able to work with St. Elizabeth's in maintaining and enriching its presence, and facilities, in downtown Belleville. We see both St. Elizabeth's historic and continuing commitment to downtown, and this new investment, in Belleville, as essential to the continuing revitalization of our community.

The enclosed materials provide you more specific information concerning the City's response to your request. I trust that this information regarding the economic incentives, the physical conditions and setting of the site, as well as the partnerships that we see as attainable at this site, demonstrate that Belleville is the best location for St. Elizabeth's investment. Moreover, I am committed to remaining personally involved

in the City's effort to help St. Elizabeth's create this development in Belleville, and will be pleased to meet with either of you at your convenience to discuss this proposal in further detail.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert, Mayor

enclosures

cc: Mr. James Burke, Divisional VP, Business Development & Administration, HSHS
Representative Tom Holbrook, 113th District
Senator James Clayborne, 57th District
Chairman Mark Kern, St. Clair County Board

# St. Elizabeth's ends program that gives aid to new moms

## Grants end; insurance doesn't cover it.

By Jennifer A. Bowen
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — The doula program that provided help to new mothers at St. Elizabeth's Hospital is no more.

The program was terminated Tuesday after six years of being financed by grants.

"We're not getting the grants any more, and no insurance reimburses for doulas in our area," said Kelly Barbeau, a spokeswoman for St. Elizabeth's Hospital. "We used to fund it out of the Heritage Grants Fund at the hospital to keep it going for as long as we could. We're not seeing any grants

*Please see* DOULAS, A3

### WHAT IS A DOULA?

Doula comes from a Greek word that basically translates to a woman who serves.

Doulas are there for the labor, the birth and after the birth and provide continuous physical and emotional support, comfort like massages, positioning help, relaxation techniques and guidance through the whole process.

*Continued from Page A1*

available that we can get at this time, so we are discontinuing the program.

The hospital paid the cost of hiring a doula for patients who requested them. Most insurance companies do not reimburse for doulas and hiring a private doula can cost between $300 and $800.

The St. Elizabeth's doula program was the last program of its kind in the St. Louis region, but that doesn't mean that pregnant women can't still use a doula to help her give birth if she wants one.

The labor and delivery department at the hospital is planning to create positions of patient care assistance to help continue to provide, in same capacity, emotional and comfort services to laboring mothers, Barbeau said. A time frame for implementing the creation of the positions has not yet been determined.

In 2010 the hospital had 1,400 deliveries. Of those, 400 laboring mothers used the services of a doula to help her get through the experience as comfortably as possible.

Doulas are not trained to do any medical work.

"A midwife is a nurse with an advance practice degree, and they are different than a doula," said Sarah Boyer, a registered inpatient obstetrics nurse, lactation consultant, patient educator and a doula at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. "Doulas do not do medical interventions. Her focus is to provide support to the mom and her partner if needed."

> Their husband might be there supporting them, but there is something instinctual about being with another woman during the birthing process.
>
> *St. Elizabeth's Hospital former doula*
> AMY ABERCROMBIE

"Their husband might be there supporting them, but there is something instinctual about being with another woman during the birthing process," said Amy Abercrombie, a doula who was part of the St. Elizabeth's program. "There's an understanding there you just can't get from anyone else. There were times when moms just wanted company because they were scared to be alone. You learn so much from moms during these times, and you take a piece of them wherever you go."

Nurses do not fill the role a doula fills, Boyer said. They are required to go through doula training and be certified.

"In any modern medical setting, nurses have charting to do, they have more than one patient and medical interventions they have to do that sometimes cause pain," Boyer said. "If you have a mom who's anxious or frightened, no matter what the age and you cause pain, sometimes establishing a relationship with them is a little harder to do. A doula is there to offer emotional support and can provide a continuous presence. She's not doing anything, but being there to offer the mom support."

Being so close to Scott Air Force Base, St. Elizabeth's Hospital sees quite a few births to moms whose families are in another part of the country or whose their husbands are deployed.

"The military has a great service, they are offering their members if their spouse is deployed and their family isn't here," Boyer said. "The military will pay for doulas to come in and be with them if they don't have anyone to be with them."

Any woman who desires to have a doula with her during her labor and birth is welcome to bring one to the hospital, Barbeau said.

"We are happy to accommodate private doula services if the mother has one," she said. "We want the patient to be as comfortable as possible, and whoever they want to have in the room with them they can have in the room with them."

Abercrombie, 28, of Belleville, became a doula after she became familiar with them during the birth of her third child.

"We are there for emotional and moral support," Abercrombie said. "The bonding you have with women during this time is amazing. You come in as a stranger and share this incredible life experience together and you leave knowing something so intimate and precious and it was so priceless. So priceless. I will always be a doula, but right now, I'll stay home with my kids. I think the pay is probably better as a private doula, but I think we made a big difference in the hospital because the hospital was really good about letting women know about us and what we do."

There is a doula organization in St. Louis where expectant mothers can find a doula and learn more about what doulas do. More information can be found at *www.doulasofgreaterstlouis.com*.

The international organization of doulas can be found at *dona.org*.

"It's my hope that some of the doulas that worked at St. Elizabeth's will get together and form a consortium and offer their services to area moms," Boyer said. "I think doulas are a great part of the team to support the doctors and nurses to be with that patient."

*Contact reporter Jennifer A. Bowen at jbowen@bnd.com or 239-2667.*

### HOW TO FIND A DOULA:

**Websites:** *www.dona.org*, *www.doulasofgreaterstlouis.com*

For more information or referrals for doulas in the greater St. Louis area, e-mail findadoula@doulasofgreaterstlouis.com or birthdoula@att.net or call 314-608-9854.

### WHY USE A DOULA?

Studies have shown that when doulas attend birth, labors are shorter, with fewer complications, babies are healthier and they breastfeed more easily.

Clinical studies found that having a doula at a birth: Reduces negative feelings about a childbirth experience; reduces the need for pitocin (a labor-inducing drug), forceps or vacuum extraction and cesarean sections and reduces the mother's request for pain medication or epidurals.

New parents who use a doula have reported they feel more secure and cared for in their new role. They says they are more successful in adapting to new family dynamics, have greater success with breastfeeding, have greater self-confidence, have less postpartum depression and have lower incidence of abuse.

Source: Doulas of North America

MEMORIAL GROUP INC.

**RELEASE UPON RECEIPT**
April 1, 2011

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**
Anne Thomure, Director
Hospital and Community Relations
(618) 257-5649

## MEMORIAL GROUP FILES CON FOR 94-BED HOSPITAL IN SHILOH

(*Belleville, Illinois*) Memorial Group, Inc. and Metro-East Services, Inc. have filed a Certificate of Need (CON) application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) to construct a 94-bed hospital on property it owns in Shiloh, Illinois. The 94-acre tract, located at Frank Scott Parkway and Cross Street, was acquired by Memorial in 2008.

"Memorial has had a presence for a number of years in the Shiloh/O'Fallon area with its facilities on Highway 50 and Seven Hills Road in O'Fallon," said Mark J. Turner, president and CEO of Memorial Hospital. "Expansion of services in that area has been part of our long-term plan. The construction of this facility allows us to provide all private patient rooms at our main campus in Belleville as well as at Memorial Hospital – East."

The establishment of a satellite hospital, rather than a replacement facility offers residents in the north and northeast communities in our service area improved access to care while maintaining the same services at the Belleville location.

"Memorial has a long-standing tradition of meeting the community's needs," Turner added. "That's really what drives us."

Memorial's CON application is expected to be reviewed by the IHFSRB when it convenes in June. If approved, no date has been set for construction to begin.

###

Memorial Group, Inc. is the parent corporation, under which Protestant Memorial Medical Center, Inc. dba Memorial Hospital and Memorial Care Center, Memorial Foundation, Inc. and Southwest Illinois Health Ventures, Inc. operate. Metro-East Services, Inc. dba Memorial Hospital – East also is an affiliate of Memorial Group, Inc.

MEMORIAL GROUP INC.

**RELEASE UPON RECEIPT**
April 1, 2011

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**
Anne Thomure, Director
Hospital and Community Relations
(618) 257-5649

## MEMORIAL'S MAIN HOSPITAL COMPLEX WILL REMAIN IN BELLEVILLE

(*Belleville, Illinois*) Memorial Group, Inc.'s recent announcement that they have filed a Certificate of Need (CON) application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) to build a 94-bed satellite hospital in Shiloh is certain to raise speculation that the hospital's main operation will relocate outside of Belleville.

Memorial wants to be clear from the beginning that its roots are in Belleville.

"We are committed to Belleville and our main facility will remain here," said Mark Turner, president and CEO of Memorial Hospital. "Memorial's tradition of being a community hospital is something that we value and we certainly know from where we came. We are a community hospital – of the community, by the community and for the community."

Memorial's re-investment in the community is evident – since the original 62,500-square-foot building opened in 1958 to the current building project – an 85,000-square-foot orthopedic and neurosciences center under construction on Memorial's campus, Memorial has invested significant dollars in bricks and mortar. This does not include the capital investments made on renovations and technology.

Building a satellite hospital – with all private beds - will afford the opportunity for Memorial Hospital in Belleville to convert its existing semi-private rooms to all private.

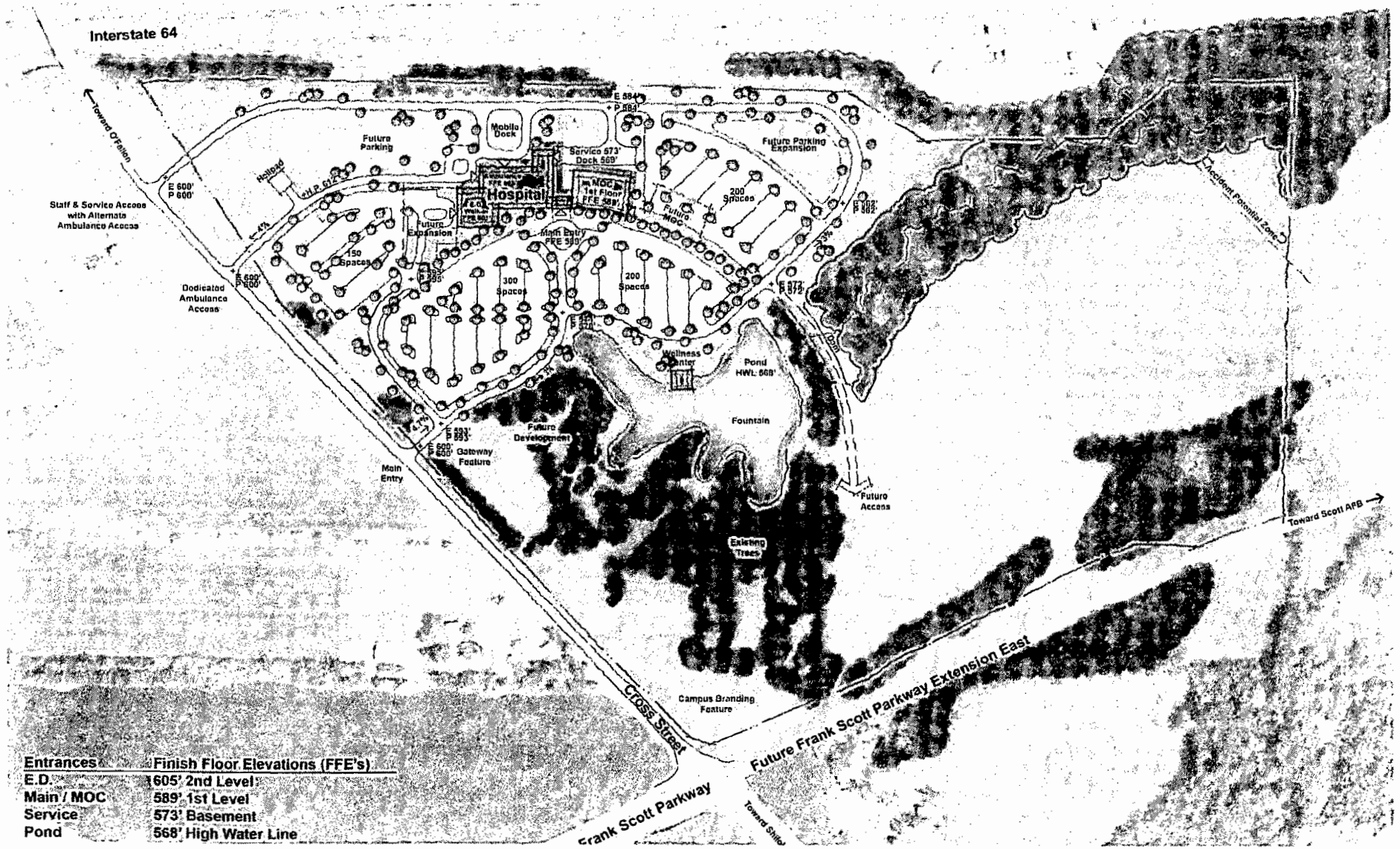
###

# FACTS AT A GLANCE
# MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - EAST

| | |
|---|---|
| **WHO:** | Memorial Group, Inc. and Metro-East Services, Inc. |
| **WHAT:** | Filed a Certificate of Need application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board to construct a 94-bed hospital |
| **WHERE:** | Memorial Hospital – East would be constructed on land in Shiloh, Illinois that Memorial Hospital purchased in 2008<br><br>The 94-acre tract of land is located at Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street |
| **WHY:** | To meet community need and demand for Memorial's high-quality services well into the future<br><br>A satellite hospital, Memorial Hospital – East would include medical/surgical beds, obstetrics beds, ICU beds and cardiac catheterization services as well as an Emergency Department, a surgical suite and other diagnostic and treatment services to support both inpatient and outpatient care<br><br>To provide all private patient rooms consistent with the practice of many Illinois hospitals as well as hospitals nationwide – at Memorial's main campus in Belleville as well as in Shiloh<br><br>Upon the opening of Memorial Hospital – East, licensed bed capacity would be for Memorial Hospital – Belleville would be reduced, consistent with the need at the time and applicable Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) rules. |
| **ESTIMATED COST:** | $118,629,458 (includes site preparation, design, permits and equipment) |
| **ANTICIPATED COMPLETION:** | 2016 |

# Shiloh Campus – Preferred Master Plan

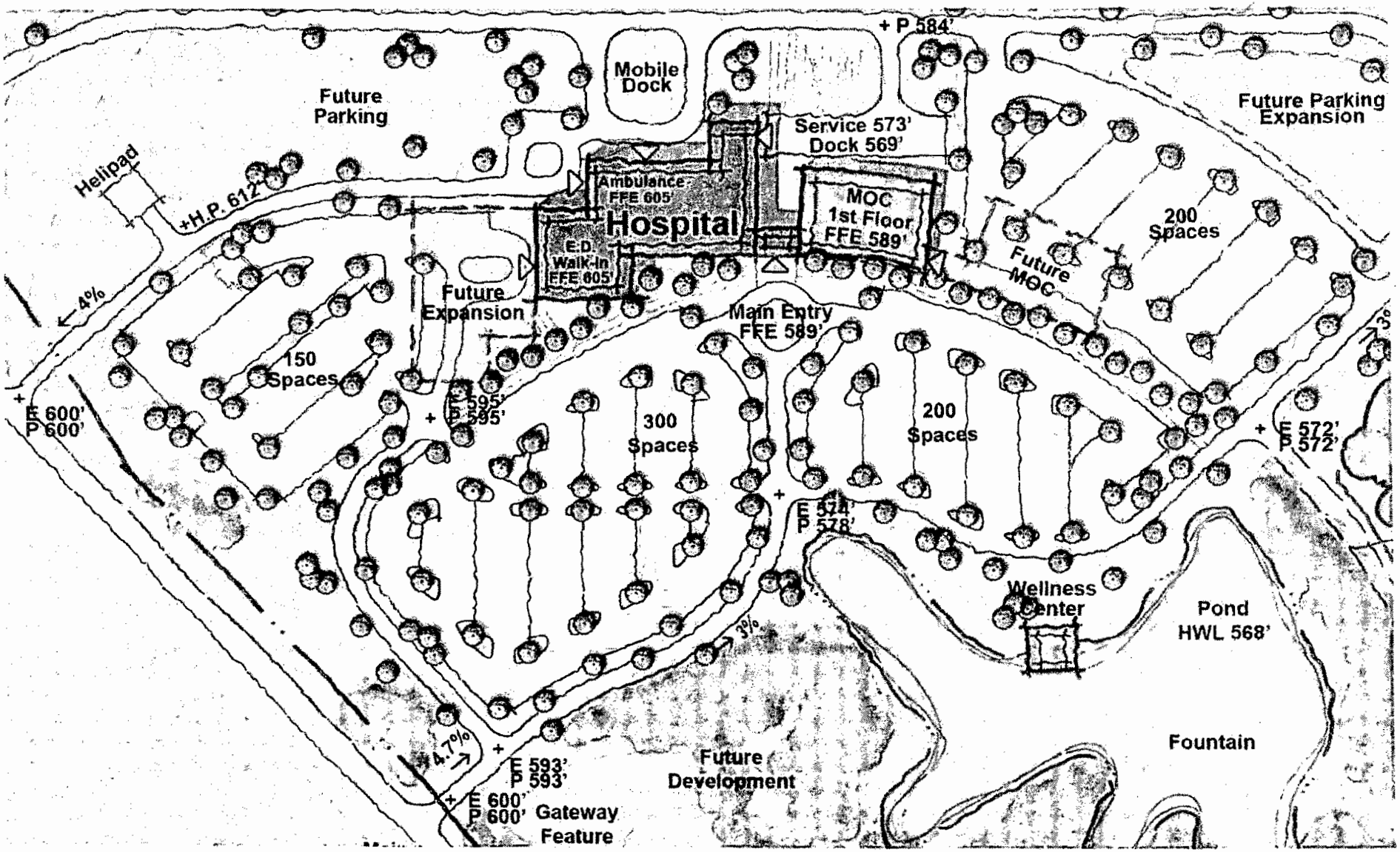
## Includes Second Phase MOC




| Entrances | Finish Floor Elevations (FFE's) |
|---|---|
| E.D. | 605' 2nd Level |
| Main / MOC | 589' 1st Level |
| Service | 573' Basement |
| Pond | 568' High Water Line |

# Shiloh Campus – Preferred Master Plan

## Includes Second Phase MOC



# Shiloh Campus - Rendering

## Progress Rooted in Tradition: COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Memorial Hospital is deeply rooted in the community. Memorial is a hospital by the community, of the community and for the community. From the realization in the 1920s that Belleville needed a new hospital, the campaigns to raise funds, to the 1947 corporate charter, to its opening in 1958, Memorial has pursued a philosophy of innovation and progress to meet the needs of its patients.

Memorial's re-investment in the community is evident – since the original 62,500-square-foot building opened in 1958 to the current building project – an 85,000-square-foot orthopedic and neurosciences center under construction on Memorial's campus, Memorial has invested a significant amount of money on bricks and mortar. This does not include the capital investments made on renovations and technology.

Over the past 10 years, Protestant Memorial Medical Center – the corporation doing business as Memorial Hospital and Memorial Care Center has invested nearly $113 million in capital improvements, while its parent corporation – Memorial Group has spent over $8.3 million. Southwest Illinois Health Ventures, Inc., the corporation which owns and operates the medical office centers on Memorial's campus as well as is a joint venture partner in the Cancer Treatment Center and YMCA in O'Fallon invested more than $30 million.

Here is just a small sample of the capital re-investments made in new/replacement equipment as well as facilities improvements over the past five years:

- Hospital-wide patient telemetry monitoring system replacement
- MRI breast coil and software in order to perform breast MR
- Infant security system in the Family Care Birthing Center
- Expansion of outpatient surgery facilities to include 19 new patient pre-/post-op rooms, two procedure rooms and three GI procedure rooms
- Anesthesia and patient monitoring machines in the surgery suites
- Sleep Disorders Center expansion on the Belleville campus and the opening of a Sleep Disorders Center in O'Fallon
- Breast Health Center remodeling and realignment of space
- 64-slice CT scanner providing traditional CT scans as well as cardiac CT angiography
- Cardiac Cath and Vascular Labs
- Fully digital mammography units as well as breast ultrasound, bone density and stereotactic breast biopsy unit in the Breast Health Center
- Emergency Department renovation and expansion
- Tele-monitoring for Memorial Home Care patients
- Instrumentation for the surgical suites (each year as much as $1 million is spent in this area)
- Patient room furniture, flooring and wall coverings
- 3 Tesla MRI
- Cardiovascular Department equipment
- Information Technology
- Wayfinding and Signage
- Healthy Direction – mobile mammography and health screening vehicle

Other facilities re-investments include updating the hospital's main lobby, hallway and surgical waiting areas, planned renovation of the Family Care Birthing Center along with a $5 million phased facelift of Memorial Care Center over the next 2 to 3 years. Long-term plans may include a fourth medical building on the Belleville campus.

In addition to facilities and program improvements, Memorial also has invested in people. At the height of the physician malpractice crisis, Memorial played a leadership role among area hospitals in raising awareness and support as well as working with area political leaders and attorneys to seek meaningful solutions. Memorial also formed a captive insurance company offering physicians an insurance alternative this keeping them in the community.

While many physicians still left the area during this time, Memorial Medical Group began aggressive recruitment efforts to replace those who had chosen to leave or retire. Over the past three years, over 90 primary care and specialty physicians have been recruited.

As the largest civilian employer in the area, Memorial provides full- and part-time employment to about 2,200 people injecting over $130 million in salaries and benefits into the area's economy.

## EXCELLENCE THROUGH ACCREDITATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Memorial has pursued a tradition of excellence which is evident through its achievements:

- Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)
- MAGNET accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
  - Only about 6% of hospitals nationwide have earned this achievement
- Accredited, Chest Pain Center by Society of Chest Pain Centers
- Certified, Diabetes Outpatient Management Program by American Diabetes Association
- Certified, Endoscopy/GI Center by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
- Accredited by the American College of Radiology as follows:
  - Breast Health Center of Excellence
  - Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL) Nuclear Cardiology
  - CT
  - MRI
  - Diagnostic Ultrasound
- Accredited by the College of American Pathologists
- Accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks
- Sleep Disorders Center – both accredited by the Academy of Sleep Medicine
- ICANL – Non-invasive Vascular Laboratory
- ICANL Echocardiography
- Certified, American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Memorial Care Center
  - Five Star rated facility by CMS
  - Named one of America's Best Nursing Homes by *U.S. News and World Report*
  - Named one of the Best Nursing Homes by HealthGrades
- Recognized by HealthGrades for Cardiac Surgery Excellence
- Named as one of the Best Hospitals in the St. Louis Metropolitan area by *US News and World Report*

# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**MARK W. ECKERT**, MAYOR

101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-2105
Office: (618) 233-6810
Fax: (618) 233-6779

CITY FLAG
DESIGNED BY
FREDRICK L. LANGE
JULY 6th 1964

April 28, 2011

Mr. Mark Turner, President & CEO
Memorial Hospital
4500 Memorial Drive
Belleville, IL 62226

Dear Mr. Turner,

The City of Belleville has enjoyed a 53 year partnership with Memorial Hospital as it continues its mission of "providing exceptional healthcare and compassionate service" to our residents. We understand that Memorial Hospital continues to grow its flagship facility in Belleville and that no services will be leaving the Belleville campus, even as you grow into eastern St. Clair County.

Memorial Hospital has had a long history of providing charity care for the underprivileged and serves a significant number of Medicare and Medicade patients. This new facility will allow Memorial Hospital to continue this practice and make this care available to more of our area residents. We believe that the proposed new, all private bed facility will not only improve patient satisfaction but will allow Memorial Hospital's main facility in Belleville to provide an even better patient experience than ever before, all the while providing more health care options in Illinois.

Please let this letter serve as the City of Belleville's support for the Certificate of Need for the new Memorial Hospital-East project site in eastern St. Clair County. If you would like to discuss this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (618) 233-6810.

Yours truly,

Mark W. Eckert

Mayor Mark W. Eckert

# Cross-city rival fights Memorial's expansion

## St. Elizabeth's says plans fail to meet state criteria

By Kevin Bersett
*News-Democrat*

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville filed a letter of objection Thursday to Memorial Hospital's proposal to build a new $118 million facility in Shiloh.

The letter was filed with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, which is tentatively scheduled to decide on the expansion at its June 28 meeting in Joliet.

Memorial had filed a certificate of need application with the board in April. Plans call for a new hospital, called Memorial Hospital-East, to be built on 100 acres at Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street at the site of the former O'Fallon Sportsmen's Club. The facility would be a 94-bed acute-care facility that would include a cardiac catheterization unit and be a satellite site to Memorial's current base of operations in Belleville.

St. Elizabeth claims Memorial's application fails to meet state criteria for expanding.

"It's not an anti-competitive thing at all," said Mark Reifsteck, division president of Hospital Sisters Health System in Springfield, which operates 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin, including St. Elizabeth's. "We all have rules to follow when we are expanding our services."

Memorial spokeswoman Ann Thomure said hospital officials needed time to review the letter before commenting publicly. Messages left for Shiloh Mayor Jim Vernier were not immediately returned.

The 13-page letter outlines five areas in which St. Elizabeth's contends that the application fails to meet

*Please see* **MEMORIAL, A2**

MEMORIAL

# St. Elizabeth's objects

*Continued from Page A1*

state law:

• The proposed expansion would constitute an unnecessary duplication of hospital services in an area — all of St. Clair and Madison counties and parts of Monroe and Clinton counties — in which the board has determined there is already excess capacity. The letter provides statistics in which it states the calculated bed need for medical-surgical/pediatric, intensive care and obstetrics is already excessive.

• The expansion would duplicate underutilized services at Memorial's current facility.

• It is not the most cost-effective alternative to providing "a contemporary, in-patient treatment setting" for patients that have traditionally received in-patient care at Memorial Hospital. The letter states Memorial should have chosen instead to expand its current facility by building a bed tower in order to meet its goal of privatizing patient rooms.

• The application fails to meet a significant number of review criteria. These include having an excessive project cost and not having enough beds in certain mandated areas for a new hospital.

not include all the required information, including any operating start-up costs or operating deficit.

"It does not meet the criteria," Reifsteck said.

Reifsteck denied that Memorial's expansion plans would affect his hospital's own plans for expansion.

St. Elizabeth's administrators had revealed last fall that they were considering new developments in St. Clair County. O'Fallon city leaders confirmed that the hospital had reportedly looked at a site in Regency Park. A month later, owner Hospital Sisters stated it is still committed to downtown Belleville.

"We are evaluating sites for potential expansion," Reifsteck said Thursday. He said a decision would be made in the "not too distant future."

Memorial President Mark Turner had said in April, upon announcing the plans, that the hospital had researched expansion options for the past five years.

"We are outgrowing our facility here," he said. "We want to become an all-private-bed hospital. We want to reduce the number of patients going to St. Louis for their care. So this is the best way for us to accomcost."

The nine-member, governor-appointed health facilities board will receive St. Elizabeth's letter at least 14 days before it decides on whether to approve the Memorial expansion, said George Roate of the Illinois Department of Public Health's Office of Health Systems Development. Board members will also receive, by the same deadline, a report from his office stating whether Memorial's application is in compliance with state criteria that are related to whether the project is needed and financially viable.

The application process is designed to restrain rising health care costs by preventing unnecessary construction or modification of health-care facilities.

Roate said the board will decide whether to approve the project based on three criteria: whether there is a need, whether the expansion has sound financial backing, and whether the project's construction cost is deemed acceptable.

The board approved last month the closure of Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital in East St. Louis.

*Contact reporter Kevin Bersett at kbersett*

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YOUR VOICE. YOUR CHOICE. SINCE 1858. | SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011 | $1

# Memorial: Rival trying to 'derail' plans

## Hospital responds to St. Elizabeth's objections to Shiloh facility

BY KEVIN BERSETT
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — Memorial Hospital accused a fellow city hospital on Friday of trying to "derail" its proposal to build a new $118 million facility in Shiloh.

Memorial released a two-page response — which includes a list of 18 area officials, including several prominent metro-east politicians, who support the expansion — a day after St. Elizabeth's Hospital filed a letter of objection with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board against the expansion. Memorial's letter only broadly addresses the specific problems St. Elizabeth's claims to have found in Memorial's Certificate of Need application but does question the timing of the objection letter.

"Neither St. Elizabeth's nor any other member of our community chose to ask for a public hearing," Memorial spokeswoman Anne Thomure said in the news release. "Rather, by submitting a letter of opposition only weeks before our project is to be voted on, St. Elizabeth appears to be attempting to derail our project without acknowledging its role and without

*Please see* **HOSPITAL, A2**

BND.COM
**Read Friday's original story on St. Elizabeth's objections to Memorial's plans.**

# SHRINERS ON THE MARCH

# Coleman seeks retrial in deaths of wife, sons

## Attorney asks Wharton to reconsider rulings

BY BETH HUNDSDORFER
*News-Democrat*

The Columbia man a jury found guilty of strangling his wife and two sons is asking the court to set aside his conviction and give him a new trial.

Christopher Coleman, 34, was

were keeping him from God's destiny.

• Failed to declare a mistrial when Meegan Turnbeaugh, one of Sheri Coleman's friends, testified that Sheri told her [illegible] authenticity did not exist.

• Denied pretrial motions to suppress Coleman's statements to police, evidence seized at Coleman's house includ- hear the motion.

*Contact reporter Beth Hundsdorfer at bhundsdorfer@bnd.com or 239-2570.*

# HOSPITAL | Memorial defends project

*Continued from Page A1*

defending its opposition before the communities that have expressed the need of our project, and which we jointly serve."

Earlier in the news release, Thomure explains why the expansion is necessary.

"Our Certificate of Need application allows Memorial to provide all inpatient rooms while reducing Memorial's overall number of beds as well as bring essential and accessible care to the Shiloh and O'Fallon communities."

St. Elizabeth's spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau said she could not comment Friday evening because hospital administrators had not seen Memorial's response. But Mark Reifsteck, the division president for St. Elizabeth's parent company, Hospital Sisters Health System, said Friday when asked why his hospital had not requested a public hearing that the hospital chose to give a written objection because it was a more thorough format than an open-ended hearing. Also, the deadline to request a public hearing had passed weeks ago and this gave the hospital more time for an accurate response, he said.

The nine-member, governor-appointed review board is tentatively scheduled to vote on Memorial's expansion at its June 28 meeting in Joliet. The board is supposed to base its decision on whether the new hospital is needed, whether it has sound financial backing and whether the construction cost is acceptable.

Memorial had filed the application with the review board in March. Plans call for a new hospital, called Memorial Hospital-East, to be built on 100 acres at Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street just south of Interstate 64. The facility would be a 94-bed acute-care facility that would include a cardiac catheterization unit and be a satellite site to Memorial's current operations in Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's had looked at property in O'Fallon near Shiloh as a possible site for expansion. Reifsteck has denied the objection letter was an "anti-competitive" move. He said Memorial just needs to follow the rules for expansion like any other hospital.

The objection letter listed five areas in which St. Elizabeth's contends the application fails to meet state law. St. Elizabeth used state public health statistics to show that there is already an excessive number of beds in area hospitals and that the new facility would duplicate services already underutilized at Memorial's current facility. The letter also argued that the application did not include all the required information and that the project was excessive in cost.

Memorial's response does not refute St. Elizabeth's letter point-by-point but does mention its claims.

"The project will not result in the discontinuation of any services at Memorial's main campus in Belleville," Thomure said. "Contrary to St. Elizabeth's assertion, our project is financially viable and does not result in an unnecessary duplication of services. Moreover, the project will slow outmigration of Illinois patients to Missouri."

Shiloh Mayor Jim Vernier said he thought Memorial's expansion would work out regardless of St. Elizabeth's letter.

"I don't quite understand the motive when (St. Elizabeth's) themselves are trying to expand to the same neighborhood," Vernier said.

Vernier noted that Shiloh, O'Fallon and Scott Air Force Base have a combined population of about 40,000 people but not a single hospital. Belleville, on the other hand, has a similar population and two hospitals.

The list of officials who provided support for Memorial's application included Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert, U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, D-Belleville, and O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham.

Graham said he would write a letter of support for St. Elizabeth's, or for that matter Barnes-Jewish Hospital, if either one of those hospitals planned to expand to his area.

"So we can take two or three," he said. "I don't (know) why it would be bad for anyone in the metro-east to build another hospital."

Memorial's application for an expansion and letters of support for the expansion can be found online at *http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/hfpb/CompApps.htm* or go to *bnd.com* for a link.

*Contact reporter Kevin Bersett at kbersett*

# Hospital turf wars: dispute goes to state review board

## Belleville Memorial, St. Elizabeth's fight over planned $118 million project in Shiloh

BY ANGELA MUELLER
amueller@bizjournals.com

When Memorial Hospital in Belleville's plan to build a $118 million satellite hospital in Shiloh is considered by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB) at its June 28 meeting, representatives from St. Elizabeth's Hospital will be there to object.

St. Elizabeth's, whose Belleville hospital is less than four miles away from Memorial, has filed a letter with the state opposing Memorial's expansion plan. St. Elizabeth's and its parent organization, the Springfield, Ill.-based Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), claim Memorial's project does not meet state requirements for new healthcare services.

In response, Memorial claims that St. Elizabeth's has waited to voice its objection until just weeks before the project goes before the state's certificate of need committee in order to throw a wrench into the proceedings. Memorial filed its original application for the project March 30. Objecting parties could request a public hearing on the project up until April 15.

"St. Elizabeth appears to be attempting to derail our project without acknowledging its role and without defending its opposition before the communities that have expressed the need for our project," Anne Thomure, spokeswoman for Memorial, said in a statement. Memorial, led by President and CEO Mark Turner, is owned and operated by Protestant Memorial Medical Center Inc., a community-based, not-for-profit corporation.

Mark Reifsteck, division president for HSHS, said St. Elizabeth's was not prepared to outline its objections by the April deadline for public hearings.

"Our choice was to follow the HFSRB guidelines for submitting written comment, which had a June 8 deadline," Reifsteck said. "We were just following the rules. I think it's unfortunate that it's being characterized as trying to derail the project."

HSHS and St. Elizabeth's filed their 12-page objection letter with the state June 2. The letter claims that Memorial's plans for a new hospital in Shiloh would be an unnecessary duplication of services in an area that already has excess capacity, that the project is not cost effective, and that Memorial's application is incomplete.

"In our view, the HFSRB staff should recommend that the project not go forward in its current form and that Memorial should be asked to go back and redo its application," Reifsteck said.

Memorial hopes to build a 94-bed hospital, to be known as Memorial Hospital-East, on a 94-acre tract of land at Frank Scott Parkway and Cross Street purchased in 2008. The new facility would expand Memorial's reach and allow for all-private rooms in both locations.

> **'St. Elizabeth appears to be attempting to derail our project.'**
>
> Anne Thomure | Memorial Hospital

Citing information from the Illinois Department of Public Health, HSHS claims there are already more than 680 excess medical-surgical, intensive care and obstetric hospital beds in the area surrounding Belleville and Shiloh. Memorial has said it plans to reduce the number of beds at its Belleville facility once the Shiloh hospital opens, but it has not outlined any specifics as to how many beds would be removed from its main campus.

HSHS also claims that a more cost-effective way for Memorial to privatize its patient rooms would be to build a new patient tower on its existing Belleville campus rather than establish a second campus.

"Establishment of a new, additional hospital located five miles from the current hospital is especially troubling at this time as hospitals attempt to evaluate the impending reductions in reimbursement for inpatient services that will occur as a result of health care reform," HSHS said in its letter.

Memorial's plans are financially viable and will help slow the migration of Illinois patients to St. Louis hospitals, Memorial's Thomure said. "All costs associated with the operation of two separate sites were fully evaluated by Memorial's consultants, who brought their national financial and planning expertise to all aspects of this project."

Memorial worked with three main consultants on the project: Jacob Axel of Palatine, Ill.-based Axel & Associates Inc.; Billie Paige of LaGrange, Ill.-based Shea, Paige & Rogal Inc.; and Mary Jacobs Skinner of Chicago-based Sidley Austin LLP.

The 316-bed Memorial Hospital had income of $16 million on total revenue of $250.4 million in 2010. The 505-bed St. Elizabeth's Hospital, led by President and CEO Maryann Reese, had a loss of $9.8 million on revenue of $186.7 million in 2009, the most recent figures available.

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Back to web version

# St. Elizabeth's plans to purchase land in O'Fallon for possible new hospital site

BY SCOTT WUERZ
News-Democrat

The organization that runs St. Elizabeth's Hospital intends to purchase 105 acres in O'Fallon that could be the site of a new, full-service hospital.

Mark Reifsteck, president of the Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System, said Friday that "all options for the site are on the table," including the possibility that a replacement for St. Elizabeth's 136-year-old downtown Belleville hospital could be built there.

"What, exactly, will happen at the site is unknown at this time," Reifsteck said. "It's a decernment process that could take months or years."

But Reisteck said the site, which is expected to cost $18 million to purchase, is certainly large enough for a new hospital. He said if Hospital Sisters Health System decides to build a new hospital in O'Fallon, he is "very doubtful" that there would be a need for a hospital at the current Belleville site.

"I would say that it would not be the case," Reifsteck said about the possibility of operating two hospitals in St. Clair County. "This area has been identified as a place where overbedding is an issue, not having too few hospital beds. If we build a new hospital, we would defintely be thinking about replacing rather than expanding. But we're still putting our plans together. It's all speculative at this point."

The site is located near Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road, just west of the Regency Conference Center.

The Hospital Sisters Health System board approved purchasing the land on June 13, pending final negotiations with the city of O'Fallon and the property developer.

For more on this story, check back with www.bnd.com for updates.

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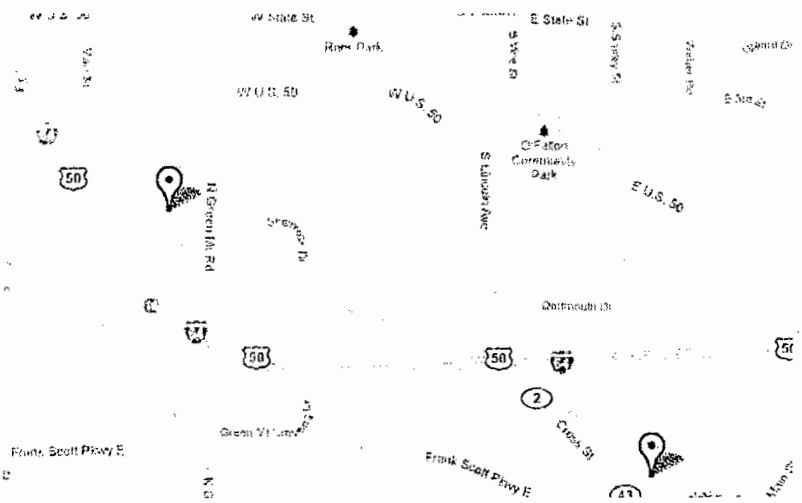


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HSHS Division
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2011**

Mark Reifsteck
HSHS Southern Illinois Division
(618) 641-5879

Kelly Barbeau
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Marketing Specialist
618-234-2120, x1270

*Belleville, IL*
*St. Elizabeth's Hospital*

*Breese, IL*
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

*Highland, IL*
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

# Hospital Sisters Health System Pursuing O'Fallon Property

BELLEVILLE, Ill. – The Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) is announcing its intent to pursue the purchase of a 105-acre tract of property in O'Fallon, Ill., located in the I-64/Green Mount Road corridor. The HSHS board in Springfield, Ill., which operates St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Ill., St. Joseph Hospital in Highland, Ill., and St. Joseph Hospital in Breese, Ill., approved the potential purchase on June 13, contingent upon finalized negotiations with the city of O'Fallon and the property developer.

"Our region continues to change, and we remain committed to providing state-of-the-art, faith-based care for families and individuals in our growing area," says Mark Reifsteck, president of the HSHS Southern Illinois Division. "This move would represent a strategic investment by HSHS to further evaluate and meet those needs."

Based on current negotiations, HSHS would purchase the property for approximately $18 million and potentially close the transaction this fall. The organization believes the property would be an ideal investment based on its accessibility and growth.

"In order to be a region-leading health system, you have to be where the region can access you," says Reifsteck. "Other health systems in St. Louis are continuing to make investments in growing regions. This purchase, if successful, would further signify our system's investment in the metro east region and southwest Illinois."

Reifsteck states that HSHS will be studying and evaluating the exact use for the site as part of their expansion planning but adds that all options are on the table, up to and including a full-service hospital. He adds that regardless of the direction the system pursues for the new site, HSHS remains committed to having a medical presence in downtown Belleville and that there are no changes currently planned for St. Elizabeth's services.

"As part of this strategic investment, we will certainly be considering any variables that would affect the future of the Belleville campus and the services it provides," Reifsteck says. "These variables will also be dependent upon input from the state's Health Facilities and Services Review Board and, of course, finalized negotiations for the property itself. We look forward to working with state and local officials as part of this process."

720 West Main Street
Suite 300
Belleville, IL
62220
P: 618-641-5879
F: 618-222-4748
www.hshs.org

*Affiliates of*
*Hospital Sisters*
*Health System*

The Hospital Sisters Health System includes 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin committed to progressive, faith-based healthcare. The system's Southern Illinois Division includes St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, Ill., and St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland, Ill.

-30-

**About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

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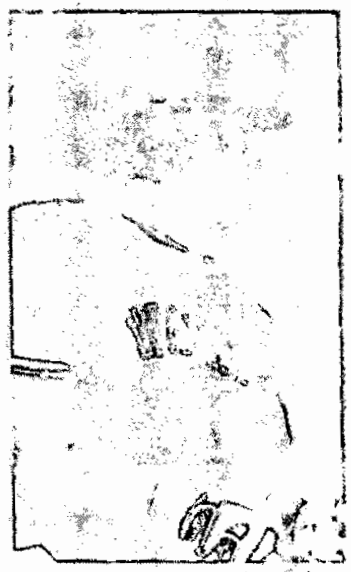

## Waterloo senior named Player of the Year

Pitcher and run-getter Garrett Schlecht was drafted by the Cubs in the ninth round.

SPORTS, D1

### STANDOFF IN MASCOUTAH

Man arrested after keeping police at bay for four hours.

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# Memorial Hospital proposal OK'd

## Health board unanimously approves Shiloh location

BY WILL BUSS
*News-Democrat*

JOLIET — A state health board Tuesday unanimously approved Memorial Hospital's proposal to build a new hospital in Shiloh.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board voted 9-0 in favor of the plan during its meeting in Joliet. The vote paves the way for a new $118.6 million, 94-bed, acute-care expansion hospital on 100 acres at Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street.

"Obviously, we're very excited," said Memorial Hospital President and Chief Operating Officer Mark Turner. "We're looking forward to the next step. This is a real victory for all of St. Clair County and all of the communities that we serve."

Turner spoke before the board, along with Shiloh Mayor Jim Vernier and Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert, in support of the expansion.

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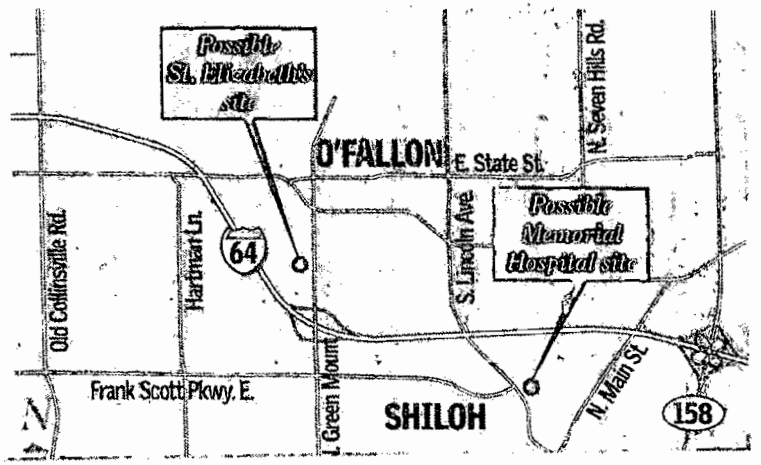
- Comment: What do you think about the board's decision?
- Read previous stories.



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**President and Publisher**
Jay Tebbe: 239-2100



# MEMORIAL | Proposal for Shiloh location is approved

*Continued from Page A1*

Turner stressed that the Belleville hospital would remain the flagship as the hospital moves forward to provide private rooms for patients.

"I think that it was very clear to the board that we are maintaining Belleville as our flagship," he said. "Our commitment to Belleville is strong, and at the same time we're progressing and moving forward and we will be there to meet the needs of the community."

"I'm very pleased," Eckert said. "Memorial works hard, and their continued commitment to Belleville is why I was here in support of their overall project. I think their plans with what they're going to do here just strengthens their Belleville flagship location. How can you not get behind that vision? And it's good for the Belleville area and it just strengthens Belleville. I applaud Mark Turner. I applaud the board."

"I am thankful for the nine votes that we received considering the earlier applications," Vernier said. "It is going to be a great thing for our region."

Belleville's other hospital, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, had issued a letter earlier this month objecting to Memorial's proposal. Memorial filed a certificate of need application with the board in April. On June 2, St. Elizabeth sent its letter to the board claiming that Memorial's application fails to meet state criteria for expanding. At that time, officials from St. Elizabeth's said that the move was not an anti-competitive reaction.

Last Friday, the organization that runs St. Elizabeth's Hospital announced that it intends to purchase 105 acres in O'Fallon that could be the site of a new, full-service hospital. Mark Reifsteck, president of the Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System, said that there is a possibility that a replacement for St. Elizabeth's 136-year-old downtown Belleville hospital could be built there.

Tuesday, Reifsteck said he was not expecting Memorial's application to gain unanimous passage after two northern Illinois hospitals' separate proposals calling for new hospitals to be built in Crystal Lake and Huntley were each voted down by the board earlier in the day by an 8-1 margin.

"We were surprised by the outcome," Reifsteck said.

Board member Dr. James Burden questioned Turner and fellow presenters from Memorial Hospital about the low percentage of beds in use throughout metro-east hospitals and pointed to the recent closing of Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital in East St. Louis. Burden also questioned the Belleville's hospital's commitment to the metro-east and likened their cause to riverboat gamblers.

Turner responded by reminding Burden and fellow board members that the Belleville hospital is already investing in its Belleville property by building a new orthopedic and neurosciences center there and has recently been spending $15 million a year in capital improvements. The new hospital in Shiloh will bring 94 new beds as the hospital eliminates 100 in all for a net reduction of six beds.

"We are not going anywhere," Turner said.

"I'm concerned," Burden said before placing his vote. "It seems like we're being a little inconsistent, to put it mildly. But I guess I have a little riverboat in me, too. I will vote yes, tongue in cheek and fingers crossed."

Board member and Shiloh resident Robert Hilgenbrink commended Turner and hospital officials for their work and presentation.

"I also applaud the applicant and appreciate the complexities of what they've addressed," Hilgenbrink said. "And I vote yes."

Turner said the next step is the design planning of the new satellite hospital, which could take 12 to 18 months. He said the new hospital could then open as soon as June 2017.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

# IDOL |

*Continued from Page A1*

were both Carrie Underwood tunes. "They told me I had a lot of potential."

She also auditioned last year in Milwaukee.

"They told me then I needed to be a little older," she said.

She intends to try again next year when she will be even older.

Some competitors were corralled near an entrance, waiting to get in and audition. They sang together and separately, waiting nervously.

"Some really good people are getting turned away. It's scaring me," said Bailey Bush, 15, of Clinton, Ind.

"I'm too nervous to be in my seat," said Alyx Trigg, 20, of Arnold, Mo.

He said he arrived about midnight with friends and they partied with a few people who also were there early.

His friend Chelsea Lancaster, 21, of Oakville, Mo., who had already performed, came by to bolster Trigg's confidence.

She might not have been a good role model, because she said she blanked out and forgot the words to the song she intended to sing.

"I've never done that before," she said. "I didn't think we would get that much time to sing and I

# SLOTS |

MEMORIAL GROUP INC.

June 30, 2011

The Honorable Mark W. Eckert
Mayor of Belleville
101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220-2105

Dear Mark:

Words cannot adequately express how much I appreciated you making the trip to Joliet yesterday for the CON hearing. It was a very long day and thankfully, we received a favorable outcome.

Taking an entire day out of your busy schedule means a great deal not only to me, personally, but to our organization as well. I look forward to working with you as we open a new chapter in Memorial's continued commitment to providing ***exceptional healthcare and compassionate service***.

Your comments to the Board were on target and pivotal to our success in reaching the unanimous approval. Your commitment to Belleville and its residents is beyond description and I hope you understand the deep commitment our organization has for Belleville as well. Our victory was your victory and victory for both Shiloh and Belleville.

Again, please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for your time and commitment to Memorial.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark J. Turner
President and CEO

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MEMORIAL GROUP INC.

June 30, 2011

The Honorable Mark W. Eckert
Mayor, City of Belleville
101 S. Illinois St.
Belleville, IL 62220-2105

Dear Mayor Eckert:

As you probably know by now, Memorial's certificate of need application to build a new 94-bed satellite hospital in Shiloh was unanimously approved Tuesday by the Illinois Health Facilities Services and Review Board.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you – on behalf of myself and our boards of directors – for taking the time to write and submit a letter of support for this project. We were honored and certainly very humbled by the broad-based level of community support we received – and we know that the review board members were impressed with these strong endorsements.

Again, I want to extend my sincere thanks to you for your support. As we move ahead, I hope that I can count on your continued partnership with Memorial Hospital.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark J. Turner
President and CEO

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Friday, Jul. 01, 20118 Comments

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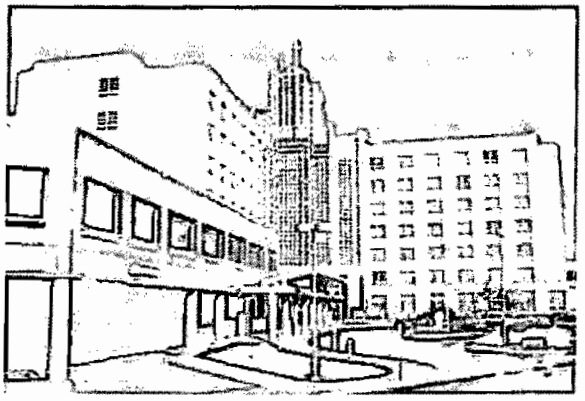
# St. Elizabeth's Hospital to spend $4 million for renovations

BY WILL BUSS - News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE -- Upgrades totaling $4 million are under way at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, demonstrating the hospital's commitment to Belleville, officials said.

Hospital spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau said $2.4 million has been invested in a new cardiac monitoring system that should be installed before the end of this month. Another $1.6 million will be spent on interior refurbishing in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit and Critical Care Unit, and the medical and surgical areas on the fifth and sixth floors are included in the upgrade project. That project is expected to begin by July and will take 10 months to complete.

Plans call for 14 semi-private rooms to be converted to private rooms, adding to the hospital's existing 83 private rooms. The visitor lounges and nurses' stations also will be updated with new interior decor.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Dr. Terry Wade, St. Elizabeth's chief medical officer, said the hospital is making an investment in the 135-year-old hospital in downtown Belleville while the hospital continues to look for future expansion opportunities in Belleville or O'Fallon.

In September, the hospital's parent organization, Hospital Sisters Health System of Springfield, announced it was in the initial stages of discussing how its network of 13 Illinois and Wisconsin hospitals can better serve the metro-east.

By October, Jim Burke, vice president of business development and administration for Southern Illinois Division of the Hospital Sisters Health System of Springfield, said that HSHS was still committed to downtown Belleville, regardless of future expansion. There are no plans to stop providing health care in downtown Belleville, he said.

Wade said these latest investments further support the hospital's commitment to health care service downtown.

"Medical care will have to be provided in a facility that is up-to-date and makes it easy to move people who are older and sicker in and out the building for different reasons," Wade said. "We're also looking at two sites of land to decide if we need to move, how we need to move and whether we need to move. One is in Belleville and another is in O'Fallon. We have to decide what to build and how much to invest in that move."

Barbeau said no expansion plans have been made at this point.

"We're still performing our due diligence," Barbeau said. "No decisions have been made."

Across town, Memorial Hospital has announced an expansion that would bring a new branch hospital to Shiloh. On April 1, the hospital unveiled plans to build a new $118 million hospital, which will be known as Memorial Hospital-East. It will include a cardiac catheterization unit and allow for all private patient rooms at both hospitals in Belleville and Shiloh.

The plans need final approval and are pending a review by the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board in June.

**Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.**

## COMMENTS

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Like

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### nx65

Maybe they should have thought about many of the long term employees that left over the past 5 years. Out of towners were brought in to run the hospital. Nurses and other staff members were either forced to leave or let go. St Elizabeth is not the hospital it once was. Many of the past leaders are probably rolling over in their graves.

04/24/2011 05:28 AM Report Abuse Like Reply

### Paulski

Why dont they spend some of that money on security. Thugs constantly hang out near the hospital, cars are broken into, and they have two officers working...???

04/23/2011 09:07 PM 3 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

### melsey2009

Maybe St. Elizabeth's should quit worrying about the decorations and start worrying about their huge public relations problem. They should use that money to staff the hospital the way it should be so that they can take care of the few patients that still go there.

04/23/2011 03:01 PM 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply

### sentinel

I was born at St.Elizabeth's Hospital a long, long time ago; and I've visited it many times over the years. Now the old gal is getting another "face lift" for about $4 million. "$1.6 million will be spent on interior refurbishing" and new interior decor. How about those long waits in the Emergency Room? How about all those doctors leaving Illinois for the last few

years? Does fresh paint fix any of these problems?

Are they trying to turn M*A*S*H into CASH...a Metro Area Surgical Hospital into a "cash cow" to pay for a new $118 million hospital planned in a nearby town? Good Luck with that. If they want to show "commitment to Belleville" they would add a new police sub-station there; to take reports on victims dropped off at the hospital. How about car thefts, break-ins, robberies in the area around/on hospital parking lots? How high are the crime statistics in that part of the city...only a couple blocks away from City Hall?

04/23/2011 02:41 PM 3 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**Whatupwiddat**

Why so negative? Any real solutions to offer?

04/23/2011 06:03 PM in reply to sentinel Report Abuse Like Reply

**sentinel**

"Any real solutions to offer?"...so, you don't think a police sub-station on site would help security around the hospital? (Guess you don't read the crime blotter.) They can check the parking meters in the area too, since the city has just one officer assigned to that duty.
The article shows the hospital's solution to raising more money: convert semi-private rooms to private room$...what's next, call the rooms "suites" with "deluxe room service"?
There isn't much room for the hospital to expand, since the Cathedral bought several nearby properties for a planned "retirement village" it wants to build. The two hospitals are the biggest employers in town; so the mayor gets very nervous when St.Elizabeth's chief medical officer uses that 4-letter word MOVE..."We're also looking at two sites of land to decide if we need to MOVE, how we need to MOVE and whether we need to MOVE."
It's a 135-year old hospital, there must be "blight" somewhere; maybe TIF funds will fix everything :)

04/23/2011 08:26 PM in reply to Whatupwiddat Report Abuse Like Reply

**Whatupwiddat**

Not in a TIF district, nice try!

04/23/2011 10:59 PM in reply to sentinel Report Abuse Like Reply

**sentinel**

Are you new here? Eckerts' (no relation) Country Store wasn't in a TIF district either, but they got one when they asked the city, i.e. Mayor Eckert (no relation), for "help" with a $5.5 million expansion plan. They got $975,000 of incentives, from one of twenty TIF districts here in the "Positivity City". There's

always room for one more :)
If my comments seem "negative", maybe it's like the city's budget (minus, negative, deficit-spending)... they went on a binge annexing areas into the city recently, now they have to provide services to more new houses and new streets; while older areas (like 135-year old hospitals) deteriorate. Do you really think they won't "help", using your tax dollars?!

04/24/2011 11:28 AM in reply to Whatupwiddat Report Abuse Like Reply

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St. Elizabeth's
HOSPITAL
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

September 29, 2011

Mark Eckert
Mayor of Belleville
101 S. Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Dear Mayor Eckert,

Thank you for the opportunity to get together with you in my office at the end of August. As we discussed, setting up quarterly meetings between us would be beneficial. My assistant, Yvonne, will set those on our calendars. My hope is that we can come to a better understanding of how St. Elizabeth's future plans are aligned with the City of Belleville, and how the Sisters would never consider abandoning their long standing mission in this wonderful city.

When we were together in August we spoke about the possibility of figuring out a way to direct the city employees through Healthlink to use St. Elizabeth's Hospital or Belleville Memorial preferentially. Working to accomplish this will benefit our citizens, our physicians, our hospitals and the City of Belleville.

Please call if you have any concerns. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Maryann L. Reese

Maryann L. Reese, RN, MHA, FACHE

cc: Mark Reifsteck

211 South Third Street
Belleville, IL 62220
618-234-2120
www.steliz.org

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Wednesday, Oct 12, 2011

Posted on Mon, Oct. 10, 2011

# Public hearing Tuesday over proposed St. Elizabeth's Hospital campus in O'Fallon

BY WILL BUSS
News-Democrat

The city's planning commission will hold a public hearing Tuesday night over St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville's proposal to develop a new medical campus in town.

City Administrator Walter Denton said residents will be able to give feedback to issues concerning the potential development. One is an amendment to the zoning at the 106-acre site located just east and along North Green Mount Road in O'Fallon, north of Interstate 64 and south of Highway 50. The other is the creation of a tax increment financing district, which the hospital in pursuing because of undermining at the site.

"They say they are not going to purchase the property unless a tax increment financing district is approved because of undermining on the property," Denton said.

The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday at O'Fallon City Hall.

The city is anticipating a new medical center will be built at that site. Denton said city leaders and the hospital's owners, Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), have been discussing the potential development for the past two years. He said no further or more definitive plans have been submitted at this time.

"We're setting up the property to be a medical campus, which could stand alone, regardless of whether St. Elizabeth's, HSHS, purchases it," he said. "The intention is they will. The intention is that the project would be with HSHS."

Hospital spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau said St. Elizabeth's Hospital is withholding further comment at this time.

"There has been no decision on our side," Barbeau said. "We're just waiting for the public hearing Tuesday night before we make any further statements."

Earlier this year, the HSHS announced interest in the property and has reinvested in its 136-year-old hospital in downtown Belleville. In April, St. Elizabeth's Hospital announced $4 million in upgrades were under way in the form of a new cardiac monitoring system and interior refurbishment in the existing hospital's Intensive Care Unit, Critical Care Unit and medical and surgical areas on the fifth and sixth floors.

A year ago, Jim Burke, vice president of business development and administration for Southern Illinois Division of the Hospital Sisters Health System, said that HSHS was still committed to downtown Belleville, regardless of future expansion. He said there are no plans to stop providing health care in downtown Belleville.

The hospital's potential expansion comes as Belleville's other hospital is also about to grow.

In June, the state approved a plan by Memorial Hospital in Belleville to build a 94-bed, $118 million satellite hospital in Shiloh to be known as Memorial Hospital-East. The new hospital will include a cardiac catheterization unit and allow for all private patient rooms at both hospitals in Belleville and Shiloh. It is slated to open by June 2017.
Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.

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Wednesday, Oct 12, 2011

Posted on Wed, Oct 12, 2011

# O'Fallon panel backs rezoning for St. Elizabeth's despite residents' worries

BY KEVIN BERSETT
News-Democrat

A proposal by St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville to develop a new medical center in O'Fallon cleared a preliminary hurdle Tuesday night despite opposition from the campus' potential neighbors.

The city's Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the city rezone the proposed site and amend its comprehensive plan to allow for the new campus, which is planned for a 106-acre site located just east and along North Green Mount Road, north of Interstate 64 and south of Highway 50.

The City Council is scheduled to meet Nov. 7 and 14 to take up the commission's recommendations. During the first meeting, the council will also have a public hearing on whether to allow the site and some surrounding area to be turned into a tax incentive financing district.

Hospital and city officials said the center will not be built unless public money is used to remediate undermining on the property. Remediation could cost an estimated $6 million to $10 million and would be repaid through TIF money generated by the parts of the campus that would generate property tax revenue, City Planner Ted Shekell said. The nonprofit hospital does not pay either sales or property taxes, he said.

During a sometimes contentious public hearing that lasted three hours and drew about 75 people, several residents from the Main Street and Misty Valley neighborhoods, which are adjacent to the site's vacant land, questioned why the development was necessary and what impact it would have on their neighborhoods.

Residents were worried about the noise and increased traffic the center would bring and how it would affect their property values.

Steven Amizich questioned why St. Elizabeth's couldn't pay for the remediation after the public was told its parent company, Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System, had $1.7 billion in reserves.

Shekell refused to answer questions about the TIF, saying those will be addressed at the Nov. 7 council meeting.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital's proposal also would need to be approved by the Illinois Health Facilities Board. City and hospital officials acknowledged this was no slam dunk, especially considering the board approved in June a plan from Memorial Hospital in Belleville to build a new acute-care hospital just three miles away in Shiloh.

One man questioned the need for a second facility. But Shekell said the campus would provide jobs and better access to health care for a growing community, whose residents now must travel 20 minutes or more away to get to a hospital.

"I think it would be good to see a second hospital," Shekell said.

What exactly the center would look like is yet to be determined, said Mark Reifsteck, president of the Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System. Shekell said the $300 million center would include 200,000 square feet of medical office space and a "significant" facility, up to a hospital, that would likely be three to five stories tall.

The city plans to study noise, traffic and buffer issues related to the development if the council approves the proposal. The public hearing process would then repeat itself next spring when the hospital would bring back a site plan for approval by the City Council, Shekell said.

If the campus is approved by the city and state approximately within the next year, Shekell expected the hospital would break ground in 2013.

Shekell said there are no plans to use eminent domain to acquire residential properties and that the size of the site allows for future expansion of the campus. But he stressed several times that the deal is not done.

"It's not a foregone conclusion they'll be here," Shekell said.
Contact reporter Kevin Bersett at kbersett@bnd.com or 239-2535.

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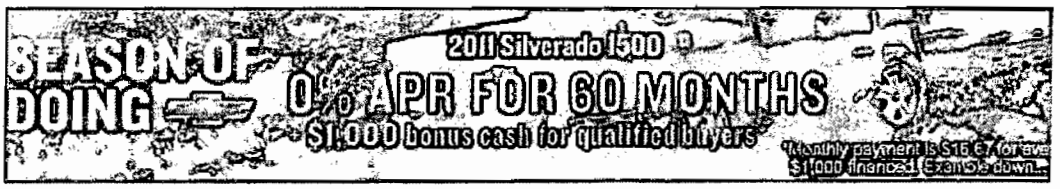





NEWS - .BREAKING NEWS

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 20115 Comments



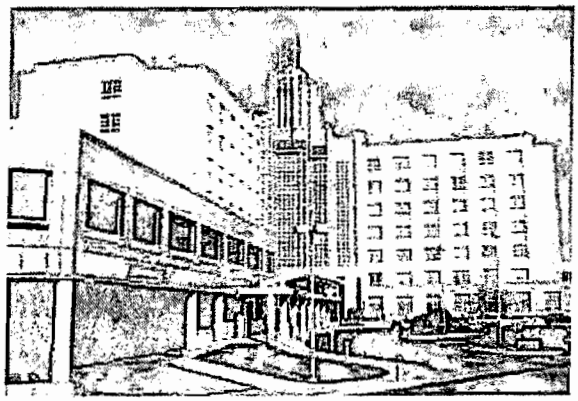
# St. Elizabeth's Hospital ownership pleased with planning commission's recommendation

News-Democrat

The parent company of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville is happy efforts to build a new hospital in O'Fallon have passed an initial hurdle.

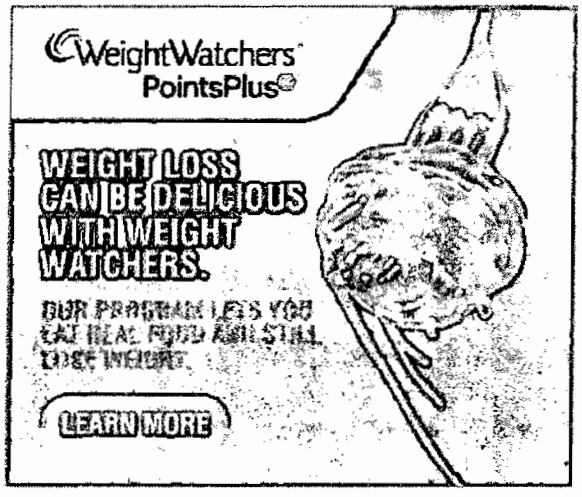
The O'Fallon Planning Commission unanimously recommended the hospital's proposal to build a new campus on 106 acres off North Green Mount Road in O'Fallon Tuesday night following a public hearing. Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health Systems is pursuing rezoning and a tax increment financing district on the property because it is undermined.

City Planner Ted Shekell has said that remediation could cost an estimated $6 million to $10 million and would be repaid through TIF money generated by the parts of the campus that would generate property tax revenue. The nonprofit hospital does not pay either sales or property taxes.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Poll:
Do you support St. Elizabeth's plans for a facility in O'Fallon?
◯ Yes. The hospital needs another location to serve metro-east residents.
◯ No. It would reduce St. E's presence in Belleville and harm surrounding neighborhoods in O'Fallon.
◯ Who knows?
Vote View Results




Hospital Sisters Health Systems President of Southern Illinois Division Mark Reifsteck said the commission's recommendation is another step toward bringing a new hospital to the metro-east.

"We were very pleased with the planning and zoning commission unanimously moving to accept the recommendation on both issues," Reifsteck said. "Now they send it on to the City Council."

Reifsteck also said that the three-hour hearing raised a lot of good feedback about the proposed development from city residents living in the adjacent neighborhood.

"I was pleased with the input from the public," he said. "I thought it was very thoughtful and if I was in one of those houses, that would be of interest to me, too. I thought it was good dialogue."

HSHS has not unveiled further details for the proposed hospital. The City Council is expected to discuss the issue when it meets on Nov. 7.

For more on the story, read the News-Democrat Thursday or go to www.bnd.com.

## COMMENTS

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**nurse98**

how can they build another hospital when they can't keep the one they have

17 minutes ago Report Abuse Like Reply

**realityofitall**

Here's my question..I believe a TIF takes the property taxes an entity would pay and that money is used towards improvements such as building the facility. Correct? If St. E's or HSHS is a non profit entity and does not pay sales or property taxes, where will the money come from?

Today 01:18 PM Report Abuse Like Reply

**HoldTheseTruths**

I can hear the death groan for St. Elizabeth's...if we loose this hospital (which I believe we will), it is all down hill then.

It is Eckerts belief that they're committed to staying. He has not considered all the changes needed to the building, cheaper to build NEW.

Time will tell which one of us is CORRECT!

Today 01:12 PM Report Abuse Like Reply

**On_the_Level**

My wife's doctor is in the St. E medical building in Belleville and he is moving to Memorial Hospital by early 2012 as St. E is closing. He explained to my wife that he wasn't pleased about the need to move from St. E. But with the complex closing he had no choice. I agree with you. This will be a big loss for Belleville.

32 minutes ago in reply to HoldTheseTruths Report Abuse Like Reply

**sean2374**

I just someone with some common sense figures out the traffic situation. And the company that designed Frank Scott Pkwy or Green Mount shouldn't be allowed in the door.

Today 12:57 PM Report Abuse Like Reply

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# O'Fallon panel backs rezoning for St. Elizabeth's

## City Council to consider plans in November

By Kevin Bersett
*News-Democrat*

A proposal by St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville to develop a new medical center in O'Fallon cleared a preliminary hurdle Tuesday night despite opposition from the campus' potential neighbors.

The city's Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the city rezone the proposed site and amend its comprehensive plan to allow for the new campus, which is planned for a 106-acre site located along North Green Mount Road, north of Interstate 64 and south of Highway 50.

The City Council is scheduled to meet Nov. 7 and 14 to take up the commission's recommendations. During the first meeting, the council will also have a public hearing on whether to allow the site and some surrounding area to be turned into a tax incentive financing district.

Hospital and city officials said the center will not be built unless public money is used to remediate undermining on the property. Remediation could cost an estimated $6 million to $10 million and would be repaid through TIF money generated by the parts of the campus that would generate property tax revenue, City Planner Ted Shekell said. The nonprofit hospital does not pay either sales or property taxes, he said.

*Please see* **HOSPITAL, A2**

10/12/11

# HOSPITAL | Some residents concerned

*Continued from Page A1*

During a sometimes contentious public hearing that lasted three hours and drew about 75 people, several residents from the Main Street and Misty Valley neighborhoods, which are adjacent to the site's vacant land, questioned why the development was necessary and what impact it would have on their neighborhoods.

Residents were worried about the noise and increased traffic the center would bring and how it would affect their property values.

Steven Amizich questioned why St. Elizabeth's couldn't pay for the remediation after the public was told its parent company, Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System, had $1.7 billion in reserves.

Shekell refused to answer questions about the TIF, saying those will be addressed at the Nov. 7 council meeting.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital's proposal also would need to be approved by the Illinois Health Facilities Board.

City and hospital officials acknowledged this was no slam dunk, especially considering the board approved in June a plan from Memorial Hospital in Belleville to build a new acute care hospital just three miles away in Shiloh.

One man questioned the need for a second facility. But Shekell said the campus would provide jobs and better access to health care for a growing community whose residents now must travel 20 minutes or more away to get to a hospital.

"I think it would be good to see a second hospital," Shekell said.

What exactly the center would look like is yet to be determined, said Mark Reifsteck, president of the Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System. Shekell said the $300 million center would include 200,000 square feet of medical office space and a "significant" faculty up to a hospital that would likely be three to five stories tall.

The city plans to study noise, traffic and buffer issues related to the development if the council approves the proposal. The public hearing process would then repeat itself next spring, when the hospital would bring back a site plan for approval by the City Council, Shekell said.

If the campus is approved by the city and state, approximately within the next year, Shekell expected, the hospital would break ground in 2013.

Shekell said there are no plans to use eminent domain to acquire residential properties and that the size of the site allows for future expansion of the campus. But he stressed several times that the deal is not done.

"It's not a foregone conclusion they'll be here," Shekell said.

*Contact reporter Kevin Bersett at kbersett@bnd.com or 239-2535.*

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Friday, Nov 4, 2011

Posted on Fri, Nov. 04, 2011

# 'We will never abandon Belleville': St. Elizabeth's plans 'replacement' hospital in O'Fallon

BY DANIEL KELLEY
O'Fallon Progress

St. Elizabeth's Hospital hopes to transfer all of its inpatient care from Belleville to O'Fallon with the construction of a "replacement hospital."

Hospital President and CEO Maryanne Reese gave new details of St. Elizabeth's plans during a meeting with residents of the Misty Valley neighborhood near the proposed construction site of a $300 million hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of North Green Mount Road.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert late Thursday he hadn't yet heard about Reese's statement and doesn't know anything about St. Elizabeth's plans.

"It's a very concerning situation to the city leaders," he said. "I only hope we can work things out in a postive way for what presence they still have in Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's officials have said all along that they intend to keep some presence in downtown Belleville. Plans for building a hospital in O'Fallon are still in the proposal stage and have received approval from the state.

Hospital officials and O'Fallon Ward 5 Aldermen Dennis Renner and Michael Bennett held the question-and-answer session Wednesday at the Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon. Coordinators said the meeting was intended to give residents the chance to voice concerns dealing with the project near their homes.

Reese, also a resident of Ward 5, said St. Elizabeth's plans to transfer all of its inpatient care from the 300-bed hospital in Belleville to the proposed 144-bed hospital in O'Fallon. The Belleville site still will have outpatient, urgent care and other services, she said.

"We will never abandon Belleville," Reese said, adding the fewer number of beds in O'Fallon was made possible through improved health care options allowing for more patients to be helped through outpatient services.

The proposed hospital would be built south of Cambridge Boulevard with the northern half of the site reserved for smaller, medical buildings. St. Elizabeth's parent group, the Hospital Sisters Health System, plans to purchase the property for the medical center Nov. 22.

An expansion of services, including oncology, in O'Fallon will draw patients, who currently travel to St. Louis for health care, Reese said.

"You shouldn't have to go across the river if a loved one has cancer," Reese said. "You shouldn't have to go across the river, if you go into labor prematurely. We should be able to take care of that in our own community."

On Monday, the O'Fallon City Council will consider granting initial approval to create a 106-acre tax increment financing district to reimburse the Hospital Sisters up to $22.5 million in development costs through property taxes on the site. Hospital Sisters officials have said they would not approve the purchase of the property without the TIF district's approval.

Chief among residents' concerns was noise and light pollution from the site, which hospital officials said would be addressed when St. Elizabeth's seeks approval of a detailed site plan from the City Council.

Residents also were concerned about a potential drop in property values.

"This is tough for me to swallow -- this giant building," said Jane Smith, of O'Fallon. "This is huge and it's a big concern."

Reese said her experience pointed toward an increase in home property values near the hospitals.

"We want to be a long-term institutional presence in your community, and people want to live near where they work," Reese said. "I believe homes in your neighborhood would be coveted."

Reese added St. Elizabeth's was not deterred by Memorial Hospital's plans to build a $118 million satellite hospital nearby in Shiloh. The 118,400-square-foot, five-story building is planned to be built near the intersection of Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street in Shiloh.

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# St. Elizabeth's plans 'replacement'

## All inpatient care would move from Belleville to O'Fallon, top official says

BY DANIEL KELLEY
*O'Fallon Progress*

St. Elizabeth's Hospital hopes to transfer all of its inpatient care from Belleville to O'Fallon with the construction of a "replacement hospital."

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*Please see* **HOSPITAL, A2**

# HOSPITAL | Some concerns

*Continued from Page A1*

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NEWS - METRO-EAST NEWS

Tuesday, Nov. 08, 2011 3 Comments



# O'Fallon gives initial OK to TIF district for development of $300M hospital

BY DANIEL KELLEY - O'Fallon Progress

In the face of familiar opposition, O'Fallon aldermen unanimously gave initial approval Monday night to create a 106-acre, $22.5 million tax increment financing district to spur the construction of a medical campus in the city.

Central School District's board and its previous superintendent, Steve Amizich, oppose the proposed tax incentive, which is intended to partially reimburse St. Elizabeth's Hospital for the development of a $300 million hospital on the site. Up to $10 million in TIF funds is expected to be used for mine remediation under the proposed site, located north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

St. Elizabeth's parent group, Hospital Sisters Health System, has said it will not go through with the planned $18 million purchase of the property for the new hospital without the city's final approval of a TIF district. Should HSHS purchase the property, St. Elizabeth's plans still must be approved by the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board.

The plans include St. Elizabeth's transferring all of its inpatient care from the 300-bed facility in downtown Belleville to the proposed 144-bed hospital in O'Fallon. Hospital officials believe an expansion of services, including oncology, will draw local patients currently traveling to St. Louis for healthcare.

O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said the proposal would create 1,200 jobs within the city -- jobs O'Fallon Township High School graduates must currently leave their hometown to pursue.

"O'Fallon has moved a giant step closer to a 100-year partnership with St. Elizabeth's," Graham said. "This is a defining moment in the history of our city."

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville generates $313 million in direct economic impact, according to a study conducted by the Illinois Hospital Association.

HSHS President and CEO Mark Reifsteck said the TIF was necessary to offset the cost of remediation, and the hospital's focus on charitable care made it financially essential. St. Elizabeth's provided more than $50 million in free and discounted health care to needy residents in 2009, Reifsteck added.

Central School District board members voted to oppose the proposed TIF during a special meeting on Friday evening. The board has not rescinded a resolution passed in 2008 threatening legal action against the city should the council have passed a similar TIF on the same property.

Central Superintendent Pat Anderson read a statement from the Central board to the O'Fallon council detailing the district's opposition. Anderson said the TIF would create "financial distress" in the district and possibly cause a reduction of staff and noninstructional programs.

"Generally, the school district is supportive of development, but not at the expense of school children," Anderson said.

Graham said the district's financial objections to the TIF were in contrast to Central's growing collection of property taxes compared to student population. Graham pointed to the district's $809,000 in tax revenue servicing 400 students in 1994 compared with the district's $5 million in tax revenue servicing 500 students in 2010.

"They've added $4 million and 100 students," Graham said. "We want them to be successful. This is about what is best for O'Fallon as a whole."

Amizich said he objected to the TIF and asked the council to consider an economic incentive not reliant upon property taxes. He said he believed a TIF would inflate property values and cause an increase in property taxes.

Graham said the TIF would not increase property taxes.

**COMMENTS**

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**PhDProfessor**

This is a $22.5 million tax increment financing corporate giveaway at the expense of the local school district and personal property owners whose taxes will increase to make up the difference. O'Fallon Township High School graduates will have to leave town anyway because they won't be able to afford the property taxes to live here.

7 minutes ago Report Abuse Like Reply

**isayitlikeitis1**

One of the main reasons O'Fallon is such a growing community is its school system! Many young couples move here and pay the high taxes so their children (including mine!) will have the best education possible, but if the City takes money away from the schools for projects such as this, it is a slap in the face not only to the school districts, but to the citizens who moved here because O'Fallon makes its education system a priority. I can't imagine St. Elizabeth's would increase our property values, either. O'Fallon, if you approve this TIF, get ready for people to move!

18 minutes ago 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply

**SITE MAP**

**ILRed**

This is just another example where the kids will loose. Corporate welfare at the cost of our future. Sounds like a great deal, right? TIFs have and always will take money from our local schools. Central has much more to loose than this article indicates and the taxpayer will ultimately have to front the bill.

35 minutes ago 2 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

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# Should TIF be used to lure hospital?

BND 11-20-11 AS

## YES: The medical campus is an investment in the future

GARY L. GRAHAM

O'Fallon is not unlike every other city in the nation; we're all suffering from the pressures of a distressed economy. Unemployment is up, revenues are down, the state government is in economic chaos, the federal government has reduced economic assistance, and there are increasing concerns about layoffs and more cuts at Scott Air Force Base.

Given all these circumstances, we're on our own to improve our local economy.

The Hospital Sisters Health System approached us with a proposal to locate a St. Elizabeth's medical campus on Green Mount Road in O'Fallon. Because of the age and location of the current hospital complex in Belleville, the Sisters were evaluating how to provide high-quality health care that is more easily accessible to metro-east residents.

An estimated 30 percent of the metro-east population is currently seeking medical care in St. Louis because it's easier to drive Interstate 64 across the river than to travel local streets to Belleville.

The Sisters preferred the O'Fallon site because of its central location in the region and its access to the interstate highway.

However, the Sisters were very concerned about the underground coal mines and said they would not purchase the property unless the mine problem was solved.

We received estimates that it could cost up to $10 million to fix the mines. There were few options on how to remediate the mines because the project did not involve retail (with sales tax revenue) and St. Elizabeth's Hospital is tax-exempt. Tax increment financing is possible because mine remediation is an allowed eligibility factor under Illinois' TIF law and was recently upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court. While the hospital building would be tax-exempt, the adjacent medical office buildings would be taxable and could create enough property taxes to pay for the mine remediation.

With this project, $10 million in mine remediation and various other capital improvements (such as roads, traffic signals, and utility extensions) create a total TIF budget of $22.5 million.

The purpose of economic incentives is to make an investment in a project with hopes that the benefit will be far greater to the community.

The positive outcomes for O'Fallon and all of Southwestern Illinois are numerous. With an investment of $22.5 million in TIF incentives, the city of O'Fallon and the metro-east region would receive $300 million in construction and more than $300 million in annual economic impact to the regional economy.

The medical campus is a long-term project that would create much-needed construction jobs for years to come.

The medical campus would provide thousands of good-paying jobs for metro-east residents and would provide an opportunity for today's O'Fallon children to work and live in O'Fallon when they are grown.

The medical campus would provide stability for the community with a charitable institution that has been committed to the metro-east for 136 years.

The medical campus would provide enhanced quality of life for thousands of people throughout the region who would have quick access to exceptional medical care.

The medical campus would not raise anyone's taxes. TIF money is generated from the property taxes paid by the businesses in the TIF district.

The land has been vacant forever and the various taxing bodies would receive the same tax revenue they have always received.

The medical campus itself would not bring additional students into the school districts, so there would be no impact to school district budgets. There is evidence that health care facilities stabilize property values, so the medical campus may help with property tax assessments for taxing bodies.

Finally, the medical campus will not be built unless there is a TIF. I've publicly said many times that I am not a big fan of TIF, but I believe we need to consider all available options to improve our economy.

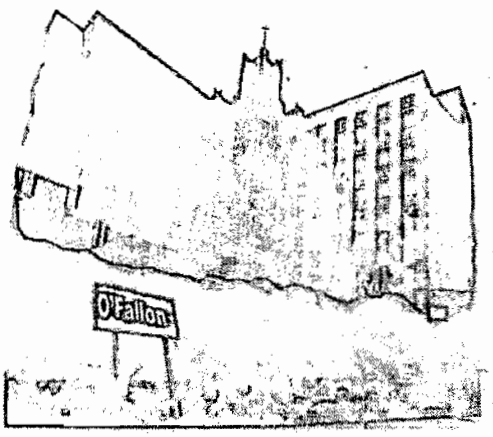
The Green Mount Medical Campus is an outstanding investment in the future of O'Fallon and the region.

*Gary L. Graham is mayor of O'Fallon.*

## NO: The city gets nothing out of it — and it's not eligible

JOE BEHNKEN

The Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act, originated in 1977, started out innocently enough. The legislative intent was to provide infrastructure to developers that they would normally expect to be provided by the city. This helped small communities develop whose primary source of revenue was property taxes. The incremental increase in property taxes due to the development was used to pay debt incurred for furnishing streets, sewers and other infrastructure.




In the mid-1980s came the era of the big box stores. Greedy developers and naive elected officials conspired to use tax increment finance proceeds to pay for just about everything, including the real estate used for the development. The cities made out like bandits because of the increases in sales tax revenue.

The taxpayers suffered because the TIF property real estate taxes were not being used to provide services. Therefore, the pool of assessed value did not increase with the new developments. The more sales tax collected by the cities, the more money they wasted. O'Fallon is a good example of that.

The medical campus tax increment finance district is particularly punishing and abusive to the taxpayers. The biggest reason is the property is not eligible for TIF money. You can ring City Hall with "TIF professionals" and pay them $50,000 each and they will tell you what you want to hear.

One of the largest commercial developers and brokers in Southwestern Illinois has stated that the subject property, in its current state, is one of the hottest commercial spots in Southwestern Illinois.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is going to receive $22.5 million and the city is receiving nothing. When tax money is given to a private sector entity, typically that entity makes some commitment to the taxpayers. Furthermore, that commitment is collateralized by a "claw back" agreement, whereby the receiving entity has to refund the taxpayers' money received if it does not fulfill its commitment.

Theoretically, the hospital could sell the property in two years for $44 million with no recourse to the city. The city is going to use proceeds from general obligation bonds to pay the hospital up front. The taxpayers will be on the hook for the $22.5 million irrespective of whether there is ever any property tax revenue placed in the TIF fund.

With the big-box retail TIFs like Sam's and Wal-Mart in O'Fallon, at least the cities had a chance of recovering money in the TIF fund because they were tax-paying entities and the cities also enjoyed the "windfall" of sales tax collected. This is not the case with the medical campus TIF. The hospital, like many, is an IRS Section 501 charitable entity and is exempt from property and sales tax.

The debt service on a 3 percent interest general obligation bond is around $1.55 million per year.

There is no chance of recovering enough to make those payments from revenue derived from the property taxes going into the TIF fund. The hospital complex will not pay any property tax. The trend is toward tax-paying physician private practices being owned by tax-exempt hospitals. Therefore, there is little chance of the medical campus actually paying property taxes on any of its activities.

The Hospital Sisters Health System is the entity that owns St. Elizabeth's Hospital. According to information on its website, it generates surplus money from its operation. In 2010 it generated $154.6 million in surplus money. Generally in the private sector, we call this net operating profit.

In January 2009, the East-West Gateway Council of Governments issued an interim report assessing the effectiveness and fiscal impacts of the use of local development incentives in the St. Louis region. In that report they concluded that among the massive tax expenditures over the past 20 years (approximately $1.3 billion in tax commitment to TIF projects alone), there has been little growth associated with that public investment over the long term. The primary net result has been a redistribution of spending and taxes. The best example of redistribution is all the car dealerships that left Belleville to come to O'Fallon. Most of those dealers received the benefit of TIF districts. Another good future example will be St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

*Joe Behnken is president of OurTaxMoney.org, a citizen-based organization whose mission is to promote fiscal responsibility and transparency in government.*

# SOUND-OFF

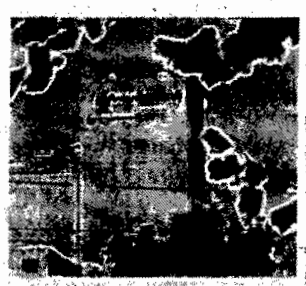
BND 11-21-11 A4

## Better without TIF

If Belleville would get rid of TIF, I don't think the city would have money problems. Belleville is no longer a big city, it's composed of 21 little towns called TIF districts. If you are not in a district you cannot complain. When you are put in a TIF district, your property assessment is frozen and new taxes go into the TIF fund to do things like give property owners money for awnings with their signs on them or extend a sidewalk so they can put tables on it without reimbursing the city. I understand they have so much money in TIF they don't know what to do. Let this be a warning to O'Fallon.

## Driving away business

I find it interesting. Mayor Gary Graham of O'Fallon, population 19,000, in his eagerness to steal St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville, population nearly 50,000, forgets the history of St. Elizabeth's by 33 years. He wants to fill up a mine with concrete next to a failed conference center that has not even paid its construction costs. This move will create a lot of driving for employees, doctors, patients and families and be



a waste of gasoline. I have a hospital five miles away that will get my business if this fiasco goes through.

## A developer's dream

Please help me understand the migration by the hospitals to high-traffic areas when the highways provide access to top hospitals in St. Louis. Could this all be about a developer's dream? Add in a TIF and an an undermined site and you smell a scam. Prepare the area for the many low-wage employees (maintenance, medical assistants, dietary, housekeeping, clerical and security) who require affordable rentals. Add in more congestion and you wonder how leaders are able to con the taxpayer on how this improves the quality of life. Build a satellite center, if necessary, not a white elephant at the taxpayers' expense. St. Elizabeth's Hospital should have learned from its misadventure in Monroe County.

## Let's vote on TIFs

It's clear to see that St. Elizabeth's Hospital and O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham are not concerned about the residents of Misty Valley and the effects of mine remediation, noise, traffic, etc. It's all about the almighty dollar. TIF should be put to a vote.

# Opinions

OUR VIEW

## TIF package bad for the taxpayers

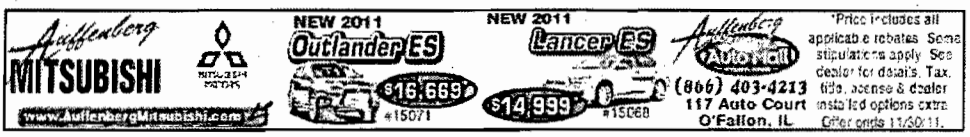
ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL said it initially crossed the planned site for its new campus off its list because the land is undermined and too costly to fix. Too bad for taxpayers that O'Fallon's leaders aren't crossing it off theirs.

Tonight the City Council is expected to approve a $22.5 million tax increment financing package for St. Elizabeth's. About $10 million will go to filling in the old coal mine. If the buyer or the seller won't pay to do that, why should the taxpayers?

And why a TIF at all? TIFs were created to help blighted communities, but there is nothing blighted about O'Fallon. When Realtors in St. Clair County talk location, location, location, they likely have O'Fallon in mind.

Also troubling, this project seemingly is not so much about creating new jobs as it is shifting existing jobs from the current hospital in Belleville. An East-West Gateway study found that's about all TIFs accomplish in the St. Louis region — reshuffle the chairs with little public benefit.

Taxpayers should expect more from their elected officials.



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NEWS - EDUCATION

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 4 Comments

# O'Fallon school district vows legal action against TIF for new St. Elizabeth's Hospital

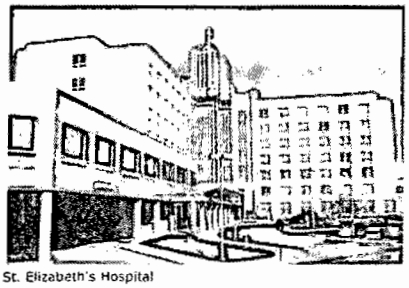


BY DANIEL KELLEY - O'Fallon Progress

O'FALLON -- Central School District has vowed to take legal action against a $22.5 million tax increment financing district O'Fallon aldermen have created for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's planned construction of a $300 million medical campus.

Central board members voted Monday to pursue "whatever legal means it has at its disposal to stop" the tax incentive from diverting property tax revenue from the school district, according to Central School Board Attorney Kurt Schroeder.

Central's board passed a resolution detailing its planned opposition in a 5-1 vote with Chris Monroe as the lone dissenting board member during a special meeting. School board members Todd Wobbe, Kim Haverkamp, Kipp Reed, Joann Miller and Jason Shaw voted in favor of the resolution. Board member Steve Pyeatt was absent.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Later that evening, the O'Fallon City Council unanimously approved creating the 106-acre TIF district, which hospital officials have said is necessary to push forward plans to replace the current 300-bed hospital in Belleville with a new 144-bed hospital in O'Fallon. Mayor Gary Graham along with aldermen Ed True of Ward 2 and Jerry Albrecht of Ward 7 were absent.

The Central school board believes the site is not eligible as a "blighted area" required for TIFs under state law, the TIF will increase property taxes for current residents and businesses, and the site would be developed without the adoption of a TIF that diverts property tax revenue from taxing districts within the TIF, according to the resolution.

The TIF will reimburse St. Elizabeth's Hospital for the remediation of former coal mines and infrastructure costs at the proposed site, located north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road. Officials with the hospital's parent group, the Hospital Sisters Health System, have said HSHS' board plans to purchase the property for the medical campus for $18 million.

Ward 5 Alderman Michael Bennett, whose ward includes Central School District, said he was very disappointed with the threatened legal action, and that Central's arguments against the TIF don't "hold water."

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"We've had too many people look at that site and pass on it because of mine subsidence. It will be no more expensive to run a school district with a hospital on that site than without," Bennett said.

"It is particularly frustrating as a Ward 5 resident that now I will have one governing board suing another in my ward. In this case, the only people making money is their attorney and our attorney," he said.

Along with the creation of the TIF district, the council approved a redevelopment agreement between the city and HSHS outlining the city's plan to issue bonds to reimburse St. Elizabeth's for TIF-eligible expenses. The bonds will be issued within 60 days of St. Elizabeth's receiving state approval for the project by the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board.

The bonds are necessary to jumpstart construction and are expected to be paid back through TIF-generated revenue, City Administrator Walter Denton said. If the TIF does not generate enough revenue to pay for the principal and interest of the bonds, then the redevelopment agreement states St. Elizabeth's must pay the difference in cost.

The bonds will be issued in two sets. The city has agreed to issue up to $10 million in the first set of bonds designated toward mine remediation.

"The bonds are split into two sets because with the tax exempt status of the hospital, a large portion of the development may not be taxable," Denton said. "The first set is to make sure the mine remediation is taken care of ... then the hospital will go ahead and build everything else. And at some point in the future if there is enough (TIF) revenue, then a second set of bonds may be issued to cover and reimburse St. Elizabeth's for TIF-eligible expenses that have been incurred."

The second set of bonds is "really up in the air" whether it will be issued, Denton said.

"Until the mine remediation is taken care of, we don't know how much money will be available," Denton said. "A lot of things will be TIF-eligible, but certainly all of them will not be reimbursed."

**COMMENTS**

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**CityInspector**

Mr. Bennet is so quick to defend the interest of the real estate developers. He leaves out an important fact. Darwin Miles paid 4 million for 30 acres in 2007. He knew the property was undermined! It didn't stop him! Mr. Miles in early 2008 has his hand out for TIF money! Mr. Bennet should be representing the interest of the Tax Payers rather than the developers. After all the tax payers pay his salary. Maybe the reason these people passed on the site had more to do with the HUGE price not the undermining. Today St. E's will pay a record setting amount of money for "blighted" land. If the land is so blighted, why does it costs so much. Mr. Bennet what about the millions of dollars the City will spend reimbursing St. E's for the check St. E's is writing to these well connected property owners?

7 minutes ago Report Abuse Like Reply

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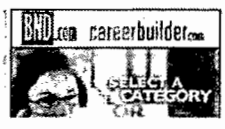


**SITE MAP**

**isayitlikeitis1**

I love living in O'Fallon! However, I am in the same boat. I am ready to move before property values go down the toilet. Between the traffic, the people who will be wandering around the hospital, and the other assorted problems that St. Elizabeth's has brought to its current neighborhood, I am ready to move out of here. The only problem is...where do we move?

17 minutes ago Report Abuse Like Reply

**ccofallon**

I suppose my taxes will continue to rise while I am living in O'fallon, you may say "don't like it move" well my house will go on the market this spring...
We will see what happens to the property values that surround this area where the hospital is going especially in the subdivisions of Cambridge Commons and Misty Valley. Look at the properties around the current St. E's and the run down housing around there, oh and let's not forget the crime. The property values will go down and taxes will go up thanks to my alderman - see you at the polls! I would also like a candidate to run against Graham, I am about done with him too.

I don't suppose any provisions will be placed in a contract with St. Elizabeth that will specify they have to pay taxes if they do not get a certificate of need? So in the end they can make money off the whole deal if they don't build. Got to love business!

28 minutes ago Report Abuse Like Reply

**BlueDiamond**

Can the Mayor & Aldermen Answer the following question & keep a straight face? Is this area really blighted? I think not!

31 minutes ago Report Abuse Like Reply

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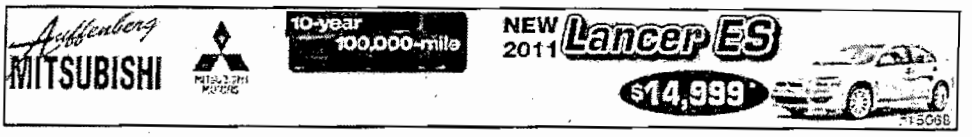




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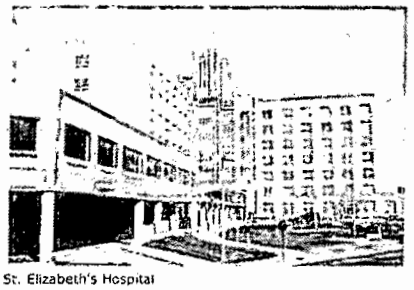
# St. Elizabeth's Hospital purchases O'Fallon land for $18 million

BY WILL BUSS - News-Democrat

O'FALLON -- Hospital Sisters Health Services has purchased land in O'Fallon for $18 million where it plans to build a new medical center for St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Hospital Sisters, the Springfield-based Roman Catholic health care mission that owns and operates the Belleville hospital, closed on the deal Tuesday, a day after the O'Fallon City Council to create a tax increment financing district in the area. The land is located north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

The council's decision Monday night paved the way for the hospital to develop a $300 million, 144-bed hospital in the 106-acre, $22.5 million TIF district.



St. Elizabeth's Hospital

**.STORY:** St. Elizabeth's planned land purchase a 'fair' deal, hospital official says

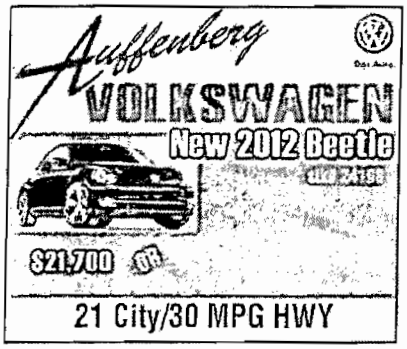
**.STORY:** O'Fallon school district vows legal action against TIF for new St. Elizabeth's Hospital

**.LINK:** More Belleville hospital news

In a released statement Wednesday, HSHS Southern Illinois Division President and Chief Executive Officer Mark Reifsteck said Hospital Sisters is pleased to be moving forward with this development.

"We look forward to an ongoing partnership with the city of O'Fallon and know that our project could bring continued economically sound growth to the community for decades," Reifsteck said. "Our goal is to achieve the mission of HSHS by providing region leading, high-value health care for individuals, families and communities we serve."

Specific plans for the new medical center have not been announced, and the project has not received approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board. However, hospital President and CEO Maryanne Reese has said the hospital plans to eventually transfer all of its inpatient care from Belleville to O'Fallon.

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**Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.**

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**Paulski**

If they are making so much money why are they laying off or firing several longtime employees??

11/24/2011 08:24 PM Report Abuse Like Reply

**FireDogLake**

St Clair County (and Madison) are well known for their easy ways in filing suits ... but that aside, do you believe, for even one-second, that if direct expenses were reduced for a business that they would pass on even one cent of the savings to us ? Today's business model is to go for the gold. Fewer and fewer businesses exist - they are owned by others.

Banking is the most obvious - we have no more local banks - NONE !!! The best we can find is regional ... and even they are positioning for buyouts by bigger banks.

Switch to a credit union - they are local - they do what banks used to do. Checking - savings - money market - car and personal loans - mortgages - IRA's - credit / debit

cards - they pay better rates - have better services - and charge less when lending.

C r e d i t - U n i o n s . . . are like coops, or mutuals, in that they are member oriented ... some even pay dividends or bonus adjustments at the end of the year. And their deposits are insured too - jus tlike banks.

Banks - like buggy whips, are a thing of the past. The bigger, the worse.

**Bad banks** - *bad, bad, banks.*

11/25/2011 10:23 AM In reply to Pallski 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply

**OFallonite1**

Bank of O'Fallon - Locally owned and operated.
Excellent to work with. Friendly staff.

11/25/2011 04:11 PM In reply to FireDogLake 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply

**TAXPAYERTOO**

BANK OF O'FALLON.....IS .....AWSOME.....

11/26/2011 05:51 AM In reply to OFallonite1 Report Abuse Like Reply

**THEBIGONE1**

So much for for the big lie that doctors and hospitals are the victims of being ran out of our "judicial hellhole" we've been hearing the foreign owned Chamber of Commerce tell us about for 20 years.

11/24/2011 07:42 PM Report Abuse Like Reply

**Hopkins1**

I, too, have had bad experiences with St. E's. I do not have much respect for them nowadays.

11/24/2011 09:55 AM 5 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**ducky1970**

Nice that they can spend that much money. Could it be because they've been slowly but surely getting rid of many of their long-term employees to cut costs? Question is, who's going to staff this new hospital once you've ticked off so many people who've been loyal to you for years??

11/24/2011 09:38 AM 5 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**jimbo7**

They certainly don't give current employees a bonus or raise. I know someone who has worked there for many years and hasn't had a raise in at least 5. I bet Mr. Verneir and several other old administrators get their share...

11/24/2011 02:03 PM In reply to ducky1970 2 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**jimbo7**

St. E's needs to increase their revenue by cutting back on the "free" stuff at their hospital. Their entire business operation needs to be re-evaluated; moving from the "we serve

everyone, no matter if you can pay or not" to "if you can't pay go somewhere else". Those who compare the values of Memorial to St. E's need to consider that factor. Bottom line is St. E's needs someone who is going to move them into the REAL WORLD model.
I've made several comments that the BND thinks should be removed. I don't know why...

11/24/2011 08:19 AM 5 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**CityInspector**

St. E's is very profitable. They bragged at the public hearing in O'Fallon that they had $1.9 billion in cash reserves! I've heard that they cleared over $150 million last year. So they aren't loosing money. Further, St. E's likes to brag about the $50 million in charity work they did last year. But that is only 2.9% of their revenue. Hey, I give about that much to charity each year. Do you think I could qualify as a tax exempt institution and not have to pay property tax, sales tax, or income tax?

11/24/2011 10:12 AM in reply to jimbo7 4 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

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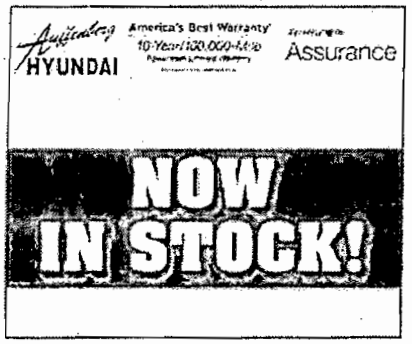

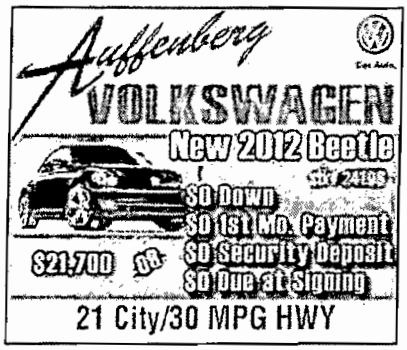


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**melsey2011**

absolutely not true!! I know that for a fact. I have seen the budget numbers.

11/24/2011 06:45 PM in reply to CityInspector Report Abuse Like Reply

**Speedy_62269** , Make December a "do something nice" month!

Wow, tax exempt already and now in a TIF? Hey O'Fallon, why not buy the land for them also?

11/24/2011 08:14 AM 9 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**CityInspector**

They did go to O'Fallon's web site and look at the TIF Plan Budget! Land acquisition costs is one of the items that St. E's can be reimbursed for! That's why St. E's bought this land and is not staying in Belleville. The Tax Payers of O'Fallon are paying for this and the well connected landowners made off with $150,000 an acre

for "blighted land"! Smell a rat?

11/24/2011 09:59 AM In reply to Speedy_62269 3 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**awoman2**

I believe the landowners are Belleville residents. Shame that this is all happening.

11/24/2011 01:08 PM In reply to CityInspector Report Abuse Like Reply

**Speedy_62269** , Make December a "do something nice" month!

So let's just see who "gets" a 2012 Mercedes Benz S550 4matic for Christmas this year....sniff sniff

11/24/2011 11:26 AM In reply to CityInspector 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply

**CityInspector**

St. E's says it paid a fair price for the land, but they admit they wouldn't purchase it without the TIF! Their figures and reasoning don't stand up to scrutiny!!!! St. E's compares their land purchase that is undermined and needs $10-$12 million in remediation to two purchases that are NOT UNDERMINED! St. E's land should be worth significantly less not more! Further, the two purchases St. E's uses as comparisons were sold in 2008! That was before the impact of the real estate collapse! Nearly every property took a 20% hit or greater! St. E's who just received approval for more than 22 million dollars says its a fair price. Since they are getting the 22 million dollars, do you really expect them to say anything else? This speaks volumes about their credibility! The Attorney General should look into this! St.E's wrote the check yesterday, but the City of O'Fallon is going to reimburse them for their land costs. See the TIF budget at O'Fallon's website!

11/24/2011 07:54 AM 6 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**hunter47**

What ever happened to going to the bank and getting a LOAN. TIF has been abused since it started and they'll keep abusing it until the attorney general steps in.

11/26/2011 01:25 AM In reply to CityInspector Report Abuse Like Reply

**CityInspector**

That's how TIF's work, they create blight by moving a business from one City to another. The only winner's are the players getting the tax handout. In this case, I've heard th wealthy landowners received $150,000 an acre for their property! This is not what the TIF law was supposed to do. There needs to be an investigation into this by the District Attorney or the Attorney General's Office. This stinks!

11/24/2011 07:36 AM 8 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**Marf**

What a shame for the people from further south, Smithton, Freeburg, Hecker, Milistadt. I hope Memorial is ready for the influx, because I'm not driving that far to get health care. I could be a Barnes quicker since there are fewer traffic lights. It's a shame for Belleville that it's going to wind up empty!

12/24/2011 07:33 AM 7 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**politicorrectnot**

It's simply a reflection of the DECAY that's been going on in Belleville for some time now. Belleville will eventually just be an extension of ESL. Without paying customers NO business can exsist and business and the people will continue to migrate East and South AWAY from St.Louis and ESL.

11/24/2011 09:31 AM In reply to Marf 5 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

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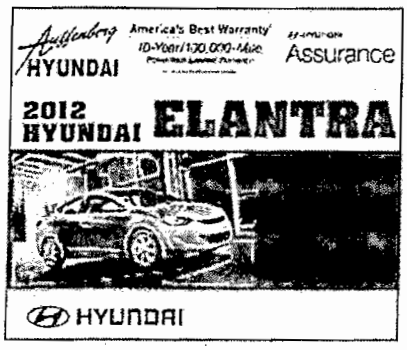

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**awoman2**

I guess that is why Memorial has just finished a new huge building in Belleville, is refurbishing their rehab center, and still making money. Could St. Elizabeth's be a product of poor management and not because they are in Belleville. If your theory and statements are true, then how come St.E's couldn't make in Monroe County? Isn't that South Away from St.Louis & East St. Louis?

11/24/2011 09:48 PM in reply to politicorrectnot 2 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**hunter47**

And Memorial didn't need TIF money. The waterfall looks great.

11/26/2011 01:26 AM in reply to awoman2 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply

**Bruiser**

Unfortunately, I fear that you are absolutely correct in your assessment.

11/24/2011 07:31 PM In reply to pallidcortectnol Report Abuse Like Reply

**mike1950**

That kind of cash would go a long way to improve the present facility! Big mistake!

11/24/2011 07:30 AM 6 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**Paulski**

St E's building in Belleville will become another Kenneth Hall Hospital

11/24/2011 06:18 AM 9 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

**CityInspector**

That's why the state needs to rewrite this TIF law. It has been abused so badly that it is now creating blight! TIF's in Shiloh, Fairview Heights, and O'Fallon are one of the main reasons for blight in other areas of the metro east. Go out and look at that property and say with a straight face it's blighted. So it's undermined. Most of St. Clair County is undermined.

11/24/2011 10:16 AM In reply to Paulski 2 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

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BND 11-27-11 A4

# Raw deal for the taxpayers

REGARDING the TIF proposal for the St. Elizabeth's Hospital campus, let us dissect O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham's inaccurate and borderline misleading statements.

He states that about 30 percent of the metro-east population travel to St. Louis hospitals because it's easier than traveling the streets of Belleville. Well, the 30 percent may be an accurate, but his reasons are quite inaccurate.

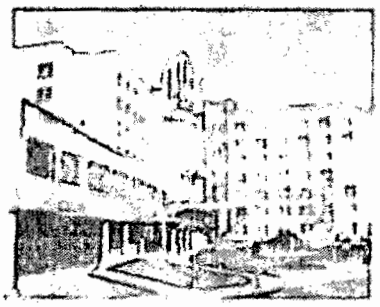
The root cause is that Illinois experienced a mass exodus of health providers due to malpractice insurance rates. Also, East St. Louis hospitals no longer exist. Obviously these are the prime factors in the 30 percent.

As for his claim that thousands of good-paying jobs will be created, that is not true. Hospital Sisters Health System employs 2,350 total; all do not work in Belleville. When and if the new campus is built in O'Fallon, many jobs will be transferred there, thus eliminating the chances of many O'Fallon residents getting jobs.

TIF was created to offset infrastructure cost for developers and the taxes collected on these new businesses in time would offset the TIF costs.

The Sisters reported a surplus of $154.6 million in 2010. The $22.5 million of TIF will never be recovered due to the fact that the Sisters will pay no taxes because their organization is tax-exempt. Sounds like a sweet deal for the Sisters and a raw deal for O'Fallon. Undoubtedly the O'Fallon residents may get stuck with this deal whether they want it or not.

**Kevin Sheridan**
*Fairview Heights*



## We don't need another TIF

TIF FOR St. Elizabeth's Hospital, good, bad, or a question?

First, I thought TIFs were for blighted areas; this area looks busy. Second, the site is over abandoned coal mines, which have to be considered structurally. Third, should someone pay $18 million for a building site that may need $10 million remedial work before construction? What is the real value of this land and who should pay for the remedial work, and who profits?

Fourth, should the taxpayers be held hostage for problems created by past profitable enterprises?

Regarding accessibility to St. Louis hospitals: If so many cases have to go to St. Louis, why not just build a nice helicopter pad with a field hospital and save some money — you know, like MASH.

At the time of this writing, the outcome of the City Council vote is not known. But it is hard to imagine that common sense and logic will be in attendance, so I will have to assume that a new TIF will come into existence.

**Lew Hiatt**
*Belleville*

## What was the point?

In the Nov. 21 Sound-off last Monday, "Let's vote on TIFs," the writer says to be concerned about the residents in Misty Valley because of the new St. Elizabeth's Hospital site. Misty Valley is on the other side of town from where St. Elizabeth's will be.

BND 11-28-11
A4

## Too important to miss

I read the article Tuesday concerning the TIF battle that is brewing in O'Fallon over support for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's planned construction. I'm not a politician, but have to wonder about the O'Fallon City Council. The article states that the vote to approve the TIF was unanimous, but later in the article that Mayor Graham and Aldermen Ed True and Gary Albrecht were not present for the vote. I am baffled as to what was so pressing as to preclude their attendance when a TIF package worth millions and millions of taxpayer dollars is on the agenda. Sounds on the surface like someone is getting shortchanged here.

## One way or the other

O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said in his guest column on Nov. 20 that St. Elizabeth's Hospital would provide good-paying jobs for metro-east residents. However, he also said that the medical campus would not bring additional students into the school districts. He can't have it both ways.

## Traffic consequences

Oh joy. If they move St. Elizabeth's Hospital to O'Fallon there will be 10 times — 100 times — more traffic on Frank Scott Parkway. All of us who live along that area are just going to be so pleased. St. Clair County will have to widen Frank Scott Parkway to four lanes in each direction because there will be so much traffic. And it was only finished 10 years ago. So, gee, more construction. Boy, things are moving right along in St. Clair County.

**O'FALLON, ILL. > City hires law firm to help with suit over tax district** • The O'Fallon, Ill., City Council has hired a law firm to represent the city in a lawsuit filed by a local school district.

Central School District 104, which comprises an elementary and middle school in O'Fallon, filed the lawsuit Nov. 22, a day after the city approved a tax increment financing district built around a 106-acre tract north of Interstate 64 near Green Mount Road.

The tract is the location of a proposed $300 million hospital complex backed by Hospital Sisters Health System. Health System officials said they wouldn't accept the land unless it was packaged into a TIF district. City officials said funds from the special tax district is supposed to pay off $8 million to $10 million in remediation work on the site because of mine shafts and underground caverns.

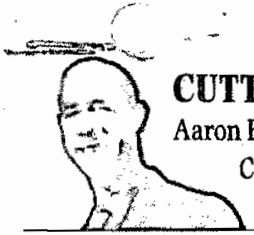
The school district's lawsuit challenges the TIF district's legality.

City officials said the school district was worried it could lose potential property taxes.

Belsheim & Bruckert LLC of O'Fallon will represent the city in the case because of the firm's expertise in TIF law, and City Attorney Dale Funk will serve as co-counsel.

Legal costs are not known, but city officials said the amount can be reimbursed through money raised by the tax district. A court date has not been set. (Special to the Post-Dispatch)

Post 12-7-11 A2



**CUTTING EDGE**
Aaron Robinson brings CyberKnife to St. Clare | 4

**BOOK OF LISTS**
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**BRIGHT LIGHTS**
Will Lindenmayer puts $8 million in home firm | 5

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# St. Louis Business Journal

VOL. 32, NO. 17 24 PAGES stlouis.bizjournals.com December 23-29, 2011 $2.00


# HSHS pours millions into Illinois hospitals


BY ANGELA MUELLER
amueller@bizjournals.com


Hospital Sisters Health System expects the price tag for its new hospital campus in Highland, Ill., to top $62 million.

HSHS plans to invest $47.4 million to construct a replacement hospital for the aging St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland. In addition, an outside investment group will spend nearly $15 million to build a medical office building on the new campus, according to documents filed with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

But St. Joseph's is not the only new hospital Springfield, Ill.-based HSHS has in the works for the Metro East. HSHS also is considering building what could be a $300 million replacement hospital for St. Elizabeth's in Belleville on 100 acres it bought for $18 million in O'Fallon, bringing its total investment in the region to more than $350 million.

**PEGGY SEBASTIAN**
*President, CEO, St. Joseph's Hospital*

"The Sisters have been committed to these areas — Highland and Belleville — for well over 100 years, and these areas continue to grow," said Mark Reifsteck, president of the Southern Illinois division of HSHS.

St. Joseph's and St. Elizabeth's are two of the oldest facilities among the 13 hospitals HSHS operates in Illinois and Wisconsin, Reifsteck said. "They both either needed a significant investment in improvements or replacement."

The 27-bed St. Joseph's was built in 1948, with additions in 1964 and 1974. HSHS plans to replace it with a 25-bed, 95,000-square-foot hospital to be built on a 72-acre site on the southeast corner of Illinois Route 160 and Troxler Avenue, just more than a mile north of its current location.

A joint venture team of Korte & Luitjohan Contractors Inc. and McCarthy Building Cos. Inc. has been awarded the preconstruction services contract for the project. Richmond, Va.-based Odell Associates Inc. is the architect.

The campus plans also call for a three-story medical office building that will be connected to the hospital building. The office building is being


ST. JOSEPH'S | 17

# ST. JOSEPH'S: *System has total of $1.34 billion in unrestricted cash and investments*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

developed by a separate investment group — Highland Healthcare Investors LLC — which will lease space in the building to St. Joseph's for clinical services such as imaging, labs, outpatient rehab, audiology, neuro-diagnostics and a geriatric adult day psychiatric program as well as nonclinical services such as medical records and conference rooms. Additional space in the office building will be leased to physicians.

The managing partner in Highland Healthcare Investors is Frauenshuh HealthCare Venture Properties, a Minneapolis-based health-care real estate firm. The investment group will provide $2.7 million in equity financing for the office building and borrow $8 million from HC REIT Inc., according to filings with the state. St. Joseph's will provide $4.1 million in debt financing for the project.

The project is scheduled to be considered by the Illinois Certificate of Need committee in February. Upon approval, ground would be broken next spring, with the hospital ready to receive its first patients in the summer of 2013.

Once the new facility is completed, the current hospital, which sits on about three acres in a mostly residential area of Highland, would be demolished and the land sold, Reifsteck said.

The new hospital campus site, which St. Joseph's acquired in January, allows plenty of room for future growth, according to Peggy Sebastian, president and CEO of St. Joseph's.

"A multi-year, master campus plan is in place," Sebastian said. "The plan allows for the expansion of what we believe will be our most aggressive area of growth, the diagnostic and treatment centers. The potential need for a second medical office building, as well as the need for additional patient beds, is all part of the site expansion plan. The 60-plus acres allows for development of the medical campus of the future that may include a cancer treatment center, dialysis center or other complementary services."

According to CON filings, St. Joseph's, which has an annual operating budget of about $24 million, expects acute-care admissions at the hospital to increase by a total of 51 percent between 2010 and the end of the new hospital's first full year of operations. The system expects the increase to be prompted by population growth in the region and the addition of primary care physicians to the hospital's staff. Two new primary care physicians, Dr. David Berkenbile and Dr. Nitu Aryal, joined the hospital's staff in July, and the hospital is continuing to recruit physicians. St. Joseph's currently has a medical staff of 90.

**DR. NITU ARYAL**

*Joined St. Joseph's medical staff in July*

Expanding its staff of physicians is a strategy across the HSHS system. In the past three years the HSHS Medical Group in Southern Illinois has doubled from 35 providers to 70, Reifsteck said. "I would expect that to continue to expand by seven or eight providers a year."

According to a recent Fitch ratings report, HSHS, through its parent entity Hospital Sisters Services Inc., added 50 full-time physicians systemwide in the last six months of 2010.

"Along with the acquisition of established physician practices, HSSI has many newly recruited physicians, which requires startup costs," the Fitch report said. "While the investment in physicians' practices is expected to depress profitability in fiscal 2011, Fitch believes HSSI's physician alignment strategy is critical to protecting its market position in its service areas." HSSI had an operating margin of 0.9 percent on total revenue of $1.89 billion in fiscal 2010, according to the report.

HSHS has an annual capital budget of around $200 million, Reifsteck said. As of Dec. 31, 2010, the system had unrestricted cash and investments totaling $1.34 billion, according to the Fitch report.

HSHS continues to work on a plan for its 110-acre site in O'Fallon, which it closed on in late November. O'Fallon has approved $22.5 million in TIF funding for the site, in part to reimburse St. Elizabeth's for the remediation of coal mines under the site. O'Fallon's Central School District has voiced opposition to the TIF financing.

BRIAN CASSIDY

**Mark Reifsteck said HSHS has an annual capital budget of $200 million.**

Reifsteck said plans for the site have not been finalized, but a $300 million replacement hospital is being considered.

"I'm still working on financial modeling for different scenarios for a full gamut of services to help our senior leaders make a final decision," Reifsteck said. "That's our number one priority right now."

— Follow Angela Mueller on Twitter @Angela_Mueller

O'Fallon Progress A1
12-29-11

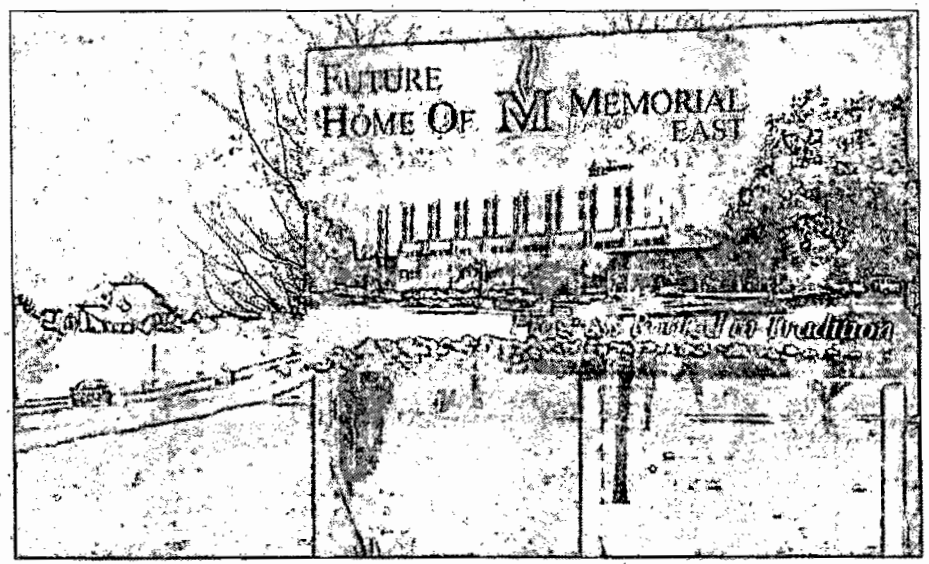
# 2011

## This year had its share of ups and downs in the communities of O'Fallon and Shiloh. Here's a look at the top 10 stories of 2011.

## *Memorial to build hospital in Shiloh*

In June Memorial Hospital and Shiloh officials celebrated the state's approval for the planned construction of a $118 million satellite facility in the village.

Memorial's plan to construct "Memorial Hospital-East" was given the go-ahead by a unanimous vote from the state's Health Facilities and Services Review Board, which met in Joliet. Memorial Hospital President and Chief Operating Officer Mark Turner said hospital officials were very excited and looking forward to the next stages of design and development.




*PROGRESS/Jamie Forsythe*

**This is one of two signs near the intersection of Cross Street and Frank Scott Parkway that designate the future location of Memorial Hospital East.**

Turner said one of the main points he emphasized to the board was the proposal did not add patient beds to the area and was, in fact, giving up six beds total between the Belleville and Shiloh sites. "We are keeping 216 beds in Belleville and the 94 beds in Shiloh, and they will all be private rooms, which enhances care to both communities," Turner said.

"We also drove home the point we are committed to maintaining the Belleville campus as our flagship hospital. We are just looking forward to servicing both communities," he added.

Shiloh Mayor Jim Vernier said he was "elated" by the project's approval.

The 94-bed hospital will include medical/surgical, obstetrics, intensive care and cardiac catheterization services. The plan discontinues 100 patient beds at Memorial's current hospital in Belleville. The 118,400-square-foot, five-story building is planned to be built near a lake at the intersection of Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street.

The board has approved a timeline giving the hospital until the summer of 2017 to complete construction, but Turner said the project may be done sooner than that.

SEE YEAR PAGE A6

### Inside

2 **Heroin epidemic**
3 **Cop shoots woman**
4 **Shiloh violates Open Meetings Act**
5 **Central school renovation**
6 **New Enterprise Academy closes**
7 **Construction starts on Three Springs**
8 **O'Fallon creates TIF for medical campus**
9 **Schwarz closes**
10 **O'Fallon airman slain in Germany**

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HIGHLAND SHOOTOUT

## East St. Louis flies high

Flyers win showdown with Cahokia; Central suffers first defeat of season. SPORTS D1

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# What's in store for city's future?

## St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Meredith Memorial Home top leaders' concerns

BY LAURA GIRRESCH
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — A committee of elected city leaders on Saturday discussed St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to move to O'Fallon and the fate of the Meredith Memorial Home.

The city's Personnel and Strategic Planning Committee meets quarterly to discuss future plans for the city, and the meeting drew about 20 residents, who primarily wanted to hear about the hospital and the Meredith Home.

### St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Mayor Mark Eckert said St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been silent on its plans to move to O'Fallon.

Hospital Sisters Health Services, the Springfield-based Roman Catholic health care mission that owns and operates the Belleville hospital, has paid $18 million for land in O'Fallon on which the organization plans to build a new medical center.

Eckert expressed frustration that hospital administrators won't disclose a timeline or plans for what will remain in Belleville. They also won't tell him why they want to leave or hear him out on what the city could offer to do to redevelop the Belleville property and keep the hospital in town.

Maryann Reese, president and chief executive officer of St. Elizabeth's, said hospital administrators weren't invited to Saturday's meeting, so she didn't attend but wishes she could have been there to respond to Eckert's concerns.

She said hospital administrators have met with Eckert, and that St. Elizabeth's and Hospital Sisters Health Services haven't released concrete plans because they don't yet have any. The only definite aspect at this point, she

*Please see* BELLEVILLE, A2

For the leader of the U.S. Transportation Command, there is

# 'NO TYPICAL DAY'

## District 201 keeps mum on plans for property

School board has started work on strategy for land

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# BELLEVILLE | Hospital exec wishes she had been invited to meeting

*Continued from Page A1*

said, is that they've purchased land in O'Fallon.

She said she doesn't know what will move to O'Fallon or remain in Belleville, but added that the Hospital Sisters "made it clear they're not going to abandon Belleville. They've been serving Belleville for 136 years."

"We wish we would have been invited to the meeting so that we could talk about whatever the mayor wanted to talk about," Reese said. "But we weren't and we don't have any plans. We're discerning, and we'll never abandon Belleville."

Eckert said that if the hospital decides to apply for a certificate of need with the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board, he and other city leaders will fight it.

"I think it does not behoove us to just wave goodbye to St. Elizabeth's," he said.

Hospital Sisters Health Services closed on the deal in November, just after the O'Fallon City Council created a tax increment financing district in the area. The land is north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

The plans call for a $300 million, 144-bed hospital in the 106-acre, $22.5 million tax increment financing district. Although the hospital hasn't yet sought its certificate of need, the hospital administration has said St. Elizabeth's plans to transfer all inpatient care to O'Fallon.

Eckert said hospital administrators will only say that St. Elizabeth's will maintain a presence in Belleville, and they become evasive when he tries to ask for more details.

He says losing the hospital completely "would be detrimental to our downtown and the city of Belleville."

Ward 5 Alderman Joseph Hayden at the meeting questioned the hospital's motive for wanting to move to O'Fallon.

Eckert said he can't understand why. He said Belleville has been supportive, the hospital has a rich history in Belleville, and that there are simply more residents in Belleville than in that corridor of O'Fallon. He said he doesn't take it personally and understands the administrators have a job to do, but he also said he wonders whether they just have no personal ties to Belleville and just want to add to their resumes that they built something brand new.

"The group driving the bus right now has no interest in trying to redevelop here," he said.

Ward 2 Alderwoman Melinda Hult questioned whether the hospital even has a firm plan yet, and Eckert said he thinks everything is still in flux.

But he said he doesn't think St. Elizabeth's is merely considering a move.

"I don't think you buy $18 million of land to speculate," he said.

Eckert also said the city would be willing to help with infrastructure and other development costs if the hospital were to stay in town.

Indeed, at one point, the city offered to close permanently Lincoln Street between Third Street and Centerville Avenue in order for the hospital to expand in that direction. The city also offered to help with expansion to the Washington Street coupler.

"They've never allowed us to do that," Eckert said.

In June, a state health board voted unanimously to approve a request by Belleville's other hospital, Memorial Hospital, to build a new satellite facility in Shiloh. Memorial is working on a new $118.6 million, 94-bed, acute-care expansion hospital that will be built on 100 acres at Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street.

St. Elizabeth's told the state health board that Memorial's application failed to meet state criteria for expanding. Belleville backed the satellite location because Memorial remained committed to keeping its home base in Belleville, Eckert said.

Eckert said he would have understood if St. Elizabeth's tried to move in the mid-1990s: Downtown was struggling, major shopping centers hadn't yet come to town, there was no new housing, and the city didn't have many ordinances to enforce property maintenance. But he pointed to the city's commercial development, new housing, the addition of Lindenwood University and the forthcoming Illinois State Police crime lab as reasons for the hospital to stay.

"How do you leave here now?" Eckert said. "We're not deteriorating, we're growing."

### Meredith Memorial Home

Eckert said during the meeting the city still is looking for grants, donations and tax increment financing for demolition money for Meredith Home, but that prominent Belleville Democrat Bruce Cook and his wife, Sandra, who paid off the city's $500,000 loan on the building, have agreed to pay for development of a memorial park there after the demolition, which could cost $450,000. The urban park is intended to be in their late daughter's name.

While a couple of residents spoke in favor of demolition of the building at 16 S. Illinois St., several others spoke against it.

One of them, Ken Barker, said problems with the building, such as asbestos, shouldn't mean it needs to be torn down. He mentioned the much older buildings found in Europe.

"Do they just knock it down and build a parking lot?" he asked. "I'm asking for maybe a little change in mindset."

He also believes there's still time to save the building, but Eckert said that as part of the Cooks turning over the deed to the city, it must be a park "in perpetuity."

Ward 5 Alderman Joseph Hayden said he thinks the property would better serve the community as a retail establishment, providing needed sales tax income.

He and Belleville resident Joy Schreiber don't think the city should have gotten involved with the sale.

"Is it the city's position that if we don't like it, we buy it?" Hayden asked.

City leaders purchased the property from the Diocese of Belleville in 2010 because they wanted to control what went in that spot, which they considered a main focal point in the city.

Eckert said he heard a group wanted to open a home there for troubled boys, and city leaders didn't think that would have been a good thing for the center of downtown.

And after the city bought it, he said, a boutique hotel developer had considered the property but wanted the city to contribute half of the $12 million project cost. A lack of parking was going to be an issue with any developer, he said. The way he sees it, taxpayers would have ended up pouring money into a development that the city ultimately would have no ownership of or control over.

Ward 7 Alderman Phil Elmore said he supported the city taking control of the building.

"That's the front door of our city," he said.

Also during the meeting city leaders discussed:

- The possibility of development near the Scheel Street MetroLink station. National and regional agencies will study the potential for the land, which is owned by the St. Clair County Transit District.
- A regional plan for sustainable development, in which the East-West Gateway Council of Governments will work with Belleville and Swansea to seek public opinion on what's important to residents regarding the future of the city and village.
- A proposed study for a new parking garage downtown.
- Forthcoming updates to the city's comprehensive plan.

*Contact reporter Laura Girresch at lgirresch@bnd.com or 239-2507.*

# St. E's commits to Belleville

DEREK HOLTMANN | News-Democrat

St. Elizabeth's Hospital President and CEO Maryann Reese watches as the Rev. John Myler, pastor of St. Peter's Cathedral, blesses a patient room in the newly renovated fifth floor of the Belleville hospital. City leaders and Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce members gathered Monday to see the refurbished Med-Surgical Unit.

## Hospital has 'no intention' of leaving, as it remodels unit

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — Administrators unveiled the newly renovated and updated fifth floor Monday at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and reaffirmed their plans to continue services downtown.

City leaders and Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce members gathered to see the refurbished Med-Surgical Unit and 36 rooms that will provide patients with privacy and more space for visitors.

The recently completed work is the first phase of more than $4 million in ongoing upgrades at the 136-year-old hospital in downtown Belleville. In addition, the hospital invested $2.2 million last year in a new cardiac monitoring system.

Two months ago, hospital owner and operator Hospital Sisters Health Services in Springfield purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million after the O'Fallon City Council approved a $22.5 million tax increment financing district that covers the property. HSHS has announced that the land, located north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, is where the hospital plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital.

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See more photos of the new unit
Check out our online gallery

On Monday, hospital Chief Executive Officer Maryann Reese said no further plans have been made for that property and the company has not yet filed a certificate of need with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. But she said the company remains committed to downtown Belleville.

"The Hospital Sisters have always been committed to St. Elizabeth's Hospital and to the city of Belleville and to the community," Reese said. "They have a long tradition and they have no intention of leaving that commitment."

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said he is pleased by the hospital's reinvestment and visible and continuing dedication to the downtown area.

"We're excited about these

Please see HOSPITAL, A2

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# HOSPITAL | Renovations

*Continued from Page A1*

improvements, and I'm very, very happy to hear them talk about other improvement plans in this facility," Eckert said. "We just want to continue working with St. Elizabeth's. Selfishly, we want St. Elizabeth's here, and that's been my message all along and that has not changed. This is a very nice day of celebration here to see this ongoing commitment."

The fifth floor now has a new coat of taupe and pale-blue paint as well as new medical equipment. Each room has new furniture and a flat-screened TV. Reese said that research has shown that private rooms make patients feel better and provide them with more dignity and privacy.

"This is a nurse-friendly unit," Reese said. "It's a unit that takes into consideration nursing care and was really developed by nurses as well. We used to do a lot of hunting and gathering, is what I called it. We had one whole unit, and this is a big unit, with four big halls, and we had one place for linen. So nurses were hunting and gathering for linen. So now there is linen storage on every single wing. There's a medications server on every single wing, not just the centrally located ones. There's supplies on every single wing. The goal is to get the patient and the nurse together and put the nurse at the bedside, not hunting and gathering, but at the bedside. That's a good thing."

Reese also said the hospital will next set its sights on the sixth floor, where similar renovations will get under way and also provide patients with single-room occupancy. The hospital also has plans to refurbish the third floor.

One of the hospital's three Intensive Care Unit wings has already been overhauled. Another is currently closed for renovation and there are plans to do the same with the third.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

# Sierra Club cont swap threatens

*Associated Press*

HARRISBURG — A proposed land swap between the Shawnee National Forest and a coal company could harm endangered Indiana bats in violation of federal law and the forest's management plan, an environmental group claims.

The Sierra Club said there is evidence the bats are living on a 384-acre tract of heavily forested land within the national forest that St. Louis-based Peabody Energy wants for a coal mine. Peal National F trade the County fo company o Jackson co Jim Ber of the Sier National F told the S the exchar the Endan as well a plan for National I itly state endanger not be exc

## METRO-EAST HOME SALES B

| 2009 | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | Ma |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Clair | 126 | 133 | 168 | 193 | 20 |
| Madison | 148 | 154 | 167 | 240 | 2( |

| 2010 | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | M |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Clair | 103 | 153 | 197 | 255 | 2 |
| Madison | 122 | 140 | 262 | 286 | 2 |

| 2011 | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | M |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Clair | 122 | 153 | 173 | 179 | 1 |
| Madison | 98 | 158 | 188 | 228 | 1 |

# St. Elizabeth's ends lease for Cathedral lots

## Hospital seeks to save money

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — St. Elizabeth's Hospital is no longer leasing parking space on St. Peter's Cathedral Church's property.

The neighboring hospital had leased parking space at the northwest corner of West Harrison and South Second streets and a smaller parking lot at the southeast corner of West Garfield and South Second streets. But a statement issued Tuesday by Hospital Sisters Health Systems Division spokeswoman Melissa Sterling stated the move was made to save money as HSHS works to reinvest in the Belleville hospital.

Sterling said canceling the lease will save an estimated $40,000 a year for Springfield-based HSHS, which owns and operates St. Elizabeth's. The savings will be redirected toward further renovations at the Belleville hospital, including creating more private patient rooms.

"As the overall state of health care is continually in flux, St. Elizabeth's Hospital continues to work to be good stewards of our finances," Sterling said in a released statement. "This means careful and reasonable use and management of our limited resources. The decision was made to end our lease agreement with Cathedral for the parking lots after a review of the total number of parking spaces surrounding our campus. This also allows the hospital to save approximately $40,000 per year that can be redirected in to further renovations of our facility."

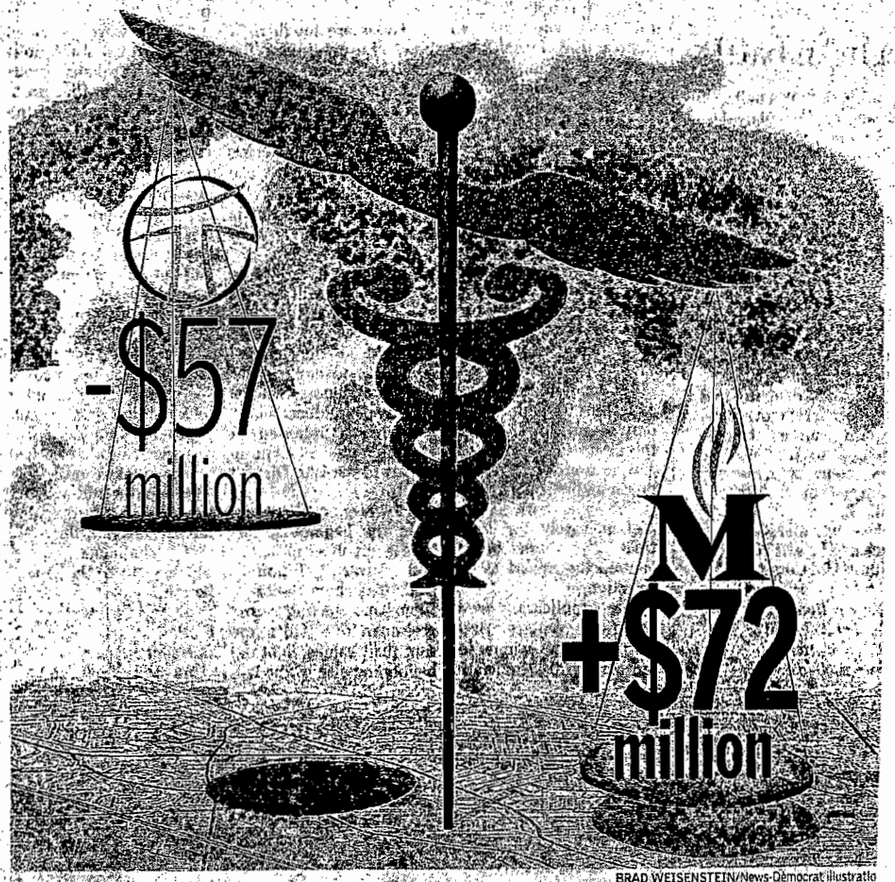
Cathedral's pastor, the Rev. John Myler, said, "We have a very good relationship with them and we just wanted to let people know why the hospital parking signs have come down."

Hospital Sisters Health System operates 13 local hospital systems in Illinois and Wisconsin, including St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland and St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

8-15-12

# St. Elizabeth's falls into financial hole




BRAD WEISENSTEIN/News-Democrat illustratio

## Meanwhile, Memorial thrives in difficult time

By Laura Gerresch
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — The two hospitals in town paint very different pictures of a medical center's ability to thrive in a harsh economic climate.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital lost almost $57 million during the past four years, according to the hospital and the tax forms it must file to keep its nonprofit status.

During that time, Memorial Hospital made about $72.4 million.

And eight months after St. Elizabeth's announced that it purchased 106 acres of land along Interstate 64 in O'Fallon for $18 million, it's still unclear what St. Elizabeth's owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, plans to do with that land and what will be left of St. Elizabeth's in Belleville. Hospital leaders have only said they won't abandon the Belleville site, and they point to investment in improvements there as evidence.

Maryann Reese, president and [illegible] officer of St. [illegible] ing losses occurred before she came to the hospital 18 months ago, so she doesn't know exactly what led to them.

But she was there for part of the 2011 fiscal year, which saw a $23 million loss.

Speaking for her tenure, she said a few of the likely contributors are the hiring of physicians — there's an initial loss until they build up their patients — lagging Medicaid reimbursements from the government, and costs associated with improvements to the hospital called for under the Affordable Care Act.

"I'm not complaining about that," said Reese, who is a nurse. "I want to see the quality in hospitals across the country improved. ... We have to spend money to do that."

St. Elizabeth's is far from the only hospital suffering in Illinois.

About 40 percent of the state's hospitals are either operating in the red or just barely making it, said Danny Chun, spokesman for the Illinois Hospital Association.

**ST. ELIZABETH'S OPERATING LOSSES**

2008:
$11,969,458
2009:
$7,691,509
2010:
$14,269,613
2011:
$23,062,053
Total losses:
$56,992,633

**MEMORIAL HOSPITAL EARNINGS**

2008:
$20,281,706
2009:
$8,640,015
2010:
$17,691,408
2011:
$25,801,797
Total earnings:
$72,414,926

# HOSPITALS | Eckert says city would be willing to help St.

*Continued from Page A1*

"Everyone's broke — the federal government, the state government," Chun said.

One in three hospitals in Illinois is losing money, and another 12 percent have operating margins of 2 percent or less, he said.

He listed several factors that contributed to the losses. Among them is a reduction in Medicare payments under the new health care reform law. Also problematic is the fact that the state is about $1.9 billion behind in paying Medicaid bills to hospitals. And Chun said Illinois already doesn't pay well; hospitals receive only 75 cents on each dollar of care they provide.

"All these financial issues are hitting all at once, and it's not getting better," he said. "It is one of the more challenging times in the history of health care."

Memorial — even though the state is about nine months behind in Medicaid reimbursements to the hospital — is part of the lucky 60 percent that are thriving.

Mark Turner, the hospital's president and chief executive officer, said Memorial saw a 10 percent increase in inpatient and outpatient visits during the past five years and a 25 percent increase in emergency room patients.

He said the hospital has worked hard to cut operating costs to prepare for a decade of declining Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements. But at the same time, it has invested $62 million in capital improvements.

Memorial also us planning a new satellite facility in Shiloh: a $118.6 million, 94-bed, acute-care expansion hospital that will be built on 100 acres at Frank Scott Parkway East and Cross Street.

Reese emphasized that she's trying to turn things around at St. Elizabeth's and said she was hired to do so.

The 136-year-old hospital is in the midst of more than $4 million in ongoing upgrades.

It remodeled the fifth floor to include all private rooms. They've also cut back on costly marketing, and they're working on employee engagement.

It has negotiated better prices on contracts and implemented programs to make them work as lean as possible to keep revenue and expenses in line.

"Those are the things that are going to turn this hospital around," said Melissa Sterling, a spokeswoman for the hospital. She said that investments now are meant to serve the current location and put whatever ends up at the O'Fallon site in a position to succeed.

Sterling noted that the hospital was losing money before Reese came in.

"Inheriting losses is just the reality," Sterling said. "So all we can do is look forward and focus on making today the best possible today it can be."

## Looking ahead

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said he's frustrated about not knowing what St. Elizabeth's plans are for Belleville.

He thinks that if it moves most of its operations to O'Fallon, it will lose customers who will then go to Memorial or to a hospital in St. Louis rather than go to the O'Fallon location.

Belleville has the largest population of any city in the metro-east, Eckert pointed out.

"I feel like it's a mistake," he said.

He also said he, other city leaders and the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce are more than willing to make infrastructure improvements to help the hospital, and in fact have already offered to do so.

"We'd be at the table in a heartbeat to see how we can help," he said. "I'm not going to just sit here and wave to them as they exit out to the interstate."

St. Elizabeth's and its owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, haven't yet applied with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for a Certificate of Need, which would be required if the hospital system wanted to build a new health facility.

To get to the point of being ready to apply for one, the organization would have to have the architectural design and engineering mostly complete and be nearly ready to start on the project, HSHS spokesman Brian Reardon said.

He thinks the organization is "months if not more than a year" away from publicly announcing architectural renderings and a plan.

Reardon said the hospital system' s goal is access to health care across the region. A location on Interstate 64 will provide access from multiple communities and referring facilities, such as the HSHS hospitals in Breese and Highland.

To do that, they're considering building a $300 million facility that would be a combination of medical office buildings and acute care. Reese at one community meeting said it could be a "replacement hospital" offering inpatient care with 144 beds, and that Belleville could keep outpatient, urgent care and some other services.

But Reese and Reardon emphasize no plans are certain.

Reardon said one thing's clear: It makes more economic sense to build a new facility in O'Fallon than to completely remodel the one in Belleville.

For the hospital's fiscal year that ended June 30, it spent $5.3 million in charity care and more than $11.4 million in unreimbursed Medicaid, according to Reardon.

"That underscores that we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# Elizabeth's stay in Belleville

have a deep commitment to serving the underserved, and we're going to continue to do that," Reardon said. "We just want to make sure we have a sustainable mission and have facilities that are modern, accessible. That's what we're all about."

Hospital's leaders have pressed Eckert on what he'd like to see remain in Belleville, but he's not willing to do that.

"That's just admitting and giving in that I'm not through fighting to keep the hospital here," he said.

The way O'Fallon Director of Finance and Administration Dean Rich sees it, HSHS is either going to build a new hospital or leave the area. It can't make the Belleville hospital modern enough to grow it for the long run, and they can't build a new one in Belleville because it doesn't have the space.

The O'Fallon City Council approved a $22.5 million tax increment financing district that covers the St. Elizabeth's property.

Rich thinks the opening of a new hospital will be good for the entire metro-east.

"It's never to O'Fallon's advantage for Belleville to lose anything, but it's to all our disadvantage if St. Elizabeth's goes away," he said.

---

*Contact reporter Laura Gir-resch at lgirresch@bnd.com or 239-2507. Follow her on Twitter at twitter.com/BND-Belleville.*


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SUPERIOR RETAINING WALLS

# Administrators relocated back to St. Elizabeth's main campus

By WILL BUSS
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — St. Elizabeth's Hospital has relocated administrators from nearby Richland Plaza III to the hospital's main campus.

Hospital spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau said the hospital had housed its Southern Illinois Division Administrative Services for its parent company, Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health Systems, as well as its patient accounts department for the past six years in the three-story building at 720 W. Main St.

She said the move is not the result of layoffs, but to relocate administrators back to the hospital's campus.

"The move from Richland was made namely to consolidate our patient accounts personnel closer to the hospital and the other departments they have to interact with on a daily basis," Barbeau said in a released statement. "In addition, these colleagues — from both departments — that are now close to the hospital can therefore take advantage of the many internal events, activities and other benefits provided to them on site."

According to Terry Johnson, president of Johnson Properties Inc. in Fairview Heights, the hospital has vacated 21,000 square feet — the entire third floor and portion of the second floor — in the building.

Barbeau said the hospital moved to Richland Plaza III in 2007 from the former Health Education Building, which sat across from the hospital and was demolished by the following year.

# HOSPITAL

*Continued from Page A1*

Clients also were advised to ask their primary care physician for a referral to another physician who is in-network or to see another physician in the same medical group if they are part of the network.

The hospital declined to comment further on the move.

In a statement issued Tuesday afternoon, Melissa A. Sterling, Southern Illinois Division director of marketing, communications and planning for the hospital's parent company, Hospital Sisters Health Systems, said "hospitals routinely engage in payor negotiations to maintain all contracts, and these negotiations take place at the system level. It is our practice to not comment on any ongoing or future negotiations with the insurers, but it is important to note that maintaining contract reimbursement enables hospitals to make improvements and keep technology updated so we can provide the best possible care to our patients."

A spokesman from Aetna could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

This move is coming as another Belleville hospital might soon lose a major health insurance provider. A contract dispute about hospital and physician reimbursement rates between Memorial Hospital in Belleville and United Healthcare is running up against a deadline.

United Healthcare's current contract with Memorial Hospital continues through the end of June, and the insurer's contracts with physicians employed by Memorial Medical Group will expire at the end of August if the contract with the hospital is not renewed.

Memorial Hospital chief financial officer Joe Lanius said the two sides continue to meet.

"We're continuing talks with them and exchanging proposals," Lanius said. "It's a back-and-forth process. They are certainly indicating that they are willing to negotiate with us."

Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.

# Hospital drops Aetna

## St. Elizabeth's will stop accepting it July 1

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville will be leaving Aetna's network.

**AT A GLANCE**

In addition to St. Elizabeth's dropping Aetna, Memorial Hospital could drop United Healthcare by the end of the month if a contract dispute isn't settled.

The health care insurance provider recently sent letters to those covered under Aetna Life Insurance Co. informing them that the Belleville hospital will drop the provider from its network July 1.

The letter did not provide reasons for the termination, but stated, "if you go to this health care professional after this date, it may cost you more."

*Please see* **HOSPITAL, A2**

6/5/13

VOL. 76 No. 45 The nation's largest official labor weekly since 1937 Thursday, June 20-26, 2013

IBEW 1 helping rebuild Page 3

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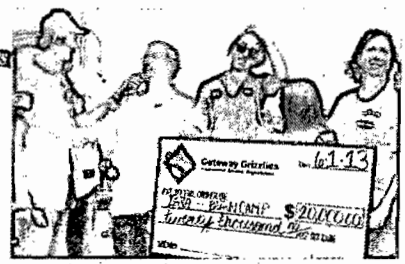

Steamfitters 439 support burn camp Page 12

## Sherwood Kerker, crusading editor for working families, dies at 82

*Sherwood Kerker at the Occupy St. Louis rally in downtown St. Louis in 2011.*

Sherwood P. Kerker, a crusading editor for the rights of working families as editor of the St. Louis *Labor Tribune*, died June 16 at his home in O'Fallon, MO. He had been in failing health for several days.

### 'FIGHTING EDITOR'

Brother Kerker was a classic "fighting editor" who relished using the Labor Tribune to fight for workers and their unions.

He wrote articles and series about shoddy work on nonunion projects; he boosted strikes and boycotts, and he would drive throughout eastern Missouri and southern Illinois to take photos and write stories wherever union workers needed help in their struggles against employers.

Brother Kerker came close to changing the course of American history during organized labor's fight against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

When it was learned that U.S. Rep. Richard A. Gephardt (D-St. Louis), then the majority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, was leaning — along with the rest of Congress — toward passing the measure, Kerker composed an open letter to Gephardt urging him to oppose the measure, even though President Clinton was an ardent supporter.

Brother Kerker convinced a long list of top labor leaders in the St. Louis area to add their names to the open letter, which was published on the front page of the *Labor Tribune*.

Gephardt did an about-face. He became the highest-ranking opponent of NAFTA in Congress and led an impressive-but ultimately unsuccessful- fight on the floor of Congress against the anti-worker trade deal.

### AGAINST RTW

One of his proudest achievements included his tireless fight against the right-to-work (for less) campaign in Missouri in 1978, which voters overwhelmingly defeated that November.

He instituted an "honor roll" in the 1980s that publicly praised bars and restaurants for refusing to sell anti-union Coors beer.

### GOING UNDERCOVER

Once he posed as a non-union contractor in order to get inside the office of the anti-union Congress of

See KERKER page 7

## Missouri labor, business leaders support immigration reform

St. Louis – As the Senate took up debate last week on the bipartisan immigration reform bill, Public Policy Polling released the results of a new Missouri poll showing overwhelming voter support for the legislation.

Labor, business and community leaders and supporters of immigration reform held a press conference last week at the St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce's Regional Collaboration Center to discuss how the poll shows Missouri voters are in favor of bipartisan immigration reform.

St. Louis Labor Council President Bob Soutier presented the poll results, which showed that Missouri voters overwhelming support immigration reform.

SOUTIER

**"Immigration is a big issue in the labor community," Soutier said. "There are about 19 million immigrants in this country. Some illegally. Some legally. If you compare that to the organized workforce in this country, the AFL-CIO represents about 15 million people. So there's more than there are organized workers in this country. So it's an issue. They're not going away. They're here. We need to deal with it.**

"Obviously, there are people within our organizations who don't understand the immigration issue. However, we're working very hard to help them understand it and know that the immigrants that are in this country are the same as us. We all started as immigrants in this country and we're trying to build a bigger and a better community."

The poll of 806 likely voters in Missouri showed that:

- 72 percent support bipartisan immigration reform;
- 78 percent support a bill that includes a tough but fair path to citizenship;
- 58 percent are more likely to vote for an elected official who supports comprehensive immigration reform; and
- 86 percent said it was very or somewhat important that the United States fix its immigration system this year.

The poll was sponsored by the Alliance for Citizenship, Partnership for a New American Economy and Republicans for Immigration reform, three organizations who represent the broad support for immigration reform across the political spectrum.

"We need immigration reform," Soutier said. "We need to put this thing to bed. We need to allow these people the right and a path to citizenship in this country. If we're going to grow not only as a community in St. Louis, as a labor community in St. Louis, as the United States of America, we need to do this and the labor community in St. Louis fully supports that."

### COMPETING GLOBALLY

Joe Reagan, president and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber, said, "We believe in and support talent-oriented immigration policies that will strengthen our workforce, spur regional economic growth and contribute to the vitality of our bi-state region." Reagan said. "We support policies that allow our region to successfully compete in this global economy,

REAGAN

See IMMIGRATION POLL page 8

## Belleville hospital planning union-built regional health center

By CARL GREEN
Illinois Correspondent

**Belleville** – St. Elizabeth's Hospital officials are seeking to transform the 138-year-old institution into a union-built, 144-bed regional health center that would be located along Interstate 64 in nearby O'Fallon.

Officials estimate they will invest about $300 million in the project.

The hospital's current location on the south side of Belleville would continue to be used for specialists, imaging, lab work and primary care, but it would no longer have patient rooms for overnight stays.

Hospital officials brought their plans to the Southwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council at its meeting last week as they began an effort to build community support for the project. It would be located on 114 acres between exits 14 and 16 on the northeast side of I-64, near Green Mount Road and the Hilton Garden Inn.

Charles "Totsie" Bailey, president of the Building Trades Council, said the project deserves labor's backing.

"We're going to support it 1,000 percent," he said. "It's great for the economy and the whole metro-east area."

Bailey noted that by building with union workers, the hospital will keep the construction money in the community. "They're all local people who will benefit," he said. "That's a win-win situation, period."

### IMPROVED HOSPITAL CONNECTIONS

The hospital is owned by Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), which operates 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin. One idea of the building project would be to provide better connections to the group's two other local hospitals, both called St. Joseph's, one in Highland and the other in Breese.

See ELIZABETH page 3

Periodicals Publication

## On The Inside

Robin Hood tax ..... 2
Roorda to run for Senate .. 3
Laborer remembered ..... 4
Blanchette Bridge progress. 6
Labor History ..... 11

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see page 5 for changes in your notices

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# Roorda announces for state senate

ROORDA

**Barnhart** –State Rep. Jeff Roorda announced last week that he will run for the state senate next year in an attempt to replace State Sen. Ryan McKenna, also a Democrat, who is retiring. Roorda is finishing a final term in the Missouri House of Representatives.

Except for his family, he said, serving in the Missouri Legislature has been the single greatest experience of his life.

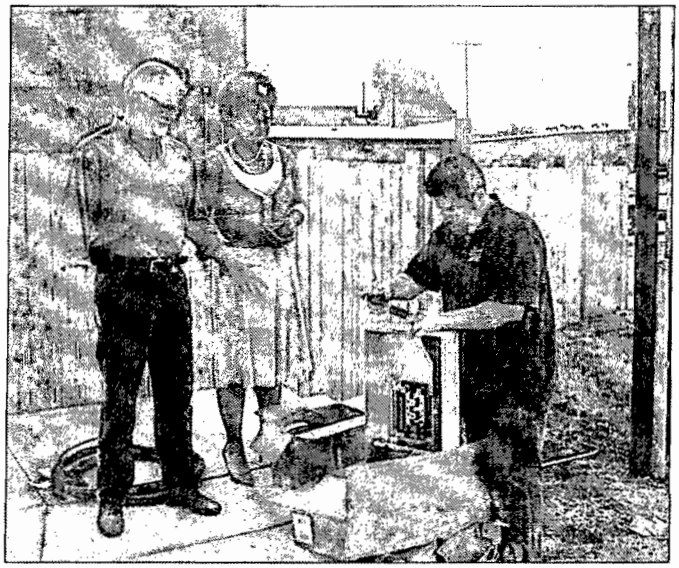
Roorda said the 22nd District in Jefferson County has a long tradition of sending individuals to the State Senate who bring moderate, common-sense values to the institution.

"I would be honored to carry on the tradition of those who have served before me as the Senator in the 22nd, like Ryan McKenna, Bill McKenna and Jay Nixon, all of whom have strongly encouraged me to run.

"I've spent my entire adult life in the service of my community, whether it was my time in the Legislature, my career as a police officer, my service with the local fire and ambulance district boards, or my first job as a 911 dispatcher. I have a heart for service and I love my community. I can tell you from my experience in the Capitol, what our community needs in the Senate is a public servant, not another politician looking out for the agenda of well-funded special interest groups.

"I'm honored to have the endorsement of virtually every Democratic office-holder in the 22nd District and even some Republican officeholders that think that now is the time to return to good old fashion mainstream thinking."

# IBEW putting a new face on Old North St. Louis



***Old North St. Louis** – Marty Sanderson, of Sanderson Electric and a member of IBEW Local 1, begins the job of wiring the new pavilion at a community park across the street from Crown Candy Kitchen on St. Louis Avenue in Old North St. Louis. Watching him are Dave Erving and Kuleya Bruce, both of Rebuilding Together-St. Louis, which has helped with the project. IBEW Local 1 through the Electrical Connection – the joint labor management association of IBEW Local 1 and the St. Louis Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) – is donating the wiring and electrical service. The project was coordinated by IBEW Local 1 Business Representative Dave Roth. Because of this effort, the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group has reached out to IBEW Local 1 to do their electrical work.* Labor Tribune photo

# • *Elizabeth*

*From page 1*

St. Elizabeth's President and CEO Maryann Reese said the traditional location used to be at the center of the community, handy to railroads and two-lane highways, but now is out of the way and difficult for many patients to reach. She noted that in the St. Louis region, most of the large medical centers are located in the I-64 corridor, and that's where the hospital bought the land 2½ years ago. The current location is limited in its potential growth and functions. As one example, she said, it often has poor cell-phone reception.

### A UNION-BUILT PROJECT

Reese said the hospital is definitely planning on a union-built project. "We want to make sure it's on budget, on time, and of lasting quality," she said.

Jim Burke, vice president of the HSHS Southern Illinois Division, told the Building Trades Council that the medical center has two major hurdles to clear. One is to get a final decision from the hospital system itself to invest the money. The other is to obtain a Certificate of Need from a state committee, the Health Facilities and Services Review Board. Detailed plans will go to that board for consideration next year, he said.

"It is probably *the* hurdle," Burke said. "We can still get there, but that thing is beyond our control. Community support – or lack of it – can influence the board one way or the other."

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT NEEDED

Burke noted that Belleville supporters of the hospital have found it difficult to endorse a move to O'Fallon, but he said the community will be better served by the move.

"It's tough for a lot of folks, personally and politically," he said. "But it is not a good idea to have that hospital shrink into a small, community hospital."

He noted that the Belleville site has several up-to-date medical buildings that would be used for decades to come. "It would not be an abandoned building, like a Ballpark Village hole in the ground," he said. The remaining clinics could also provide urgent care, which provides office treatment that doesn't require an emergency room.

### O'FALLON ALREADY ON BOARD

O'Fallon has already approved a tax increment financing district of up to $22.5 million for the I-64 site, which could be used to prepare the site for construction by protecting it from potential mine subsidence. The Central School District agreed to the plan after long negotiations.

Reese, a nurse, was made CEO 2 ½ years ago, in part to lead a turnaround effort to stem losses. The hospital was honored last year as one of the top 50 hospitals in the nation for cardiovascular care after a review of 1,000 hospitals. The hospital co-exists in Belleville with a large competitor, Belleville Memorial Hospital, which has announced expansion plans of its own, in this case a 94-bed satellite hospital in nearby Shiloh.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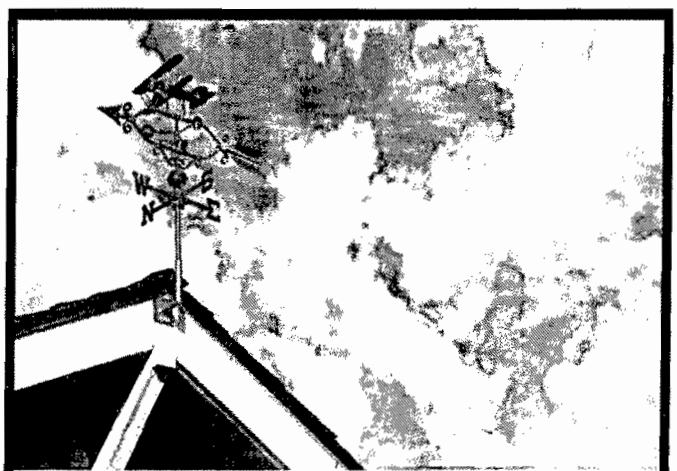

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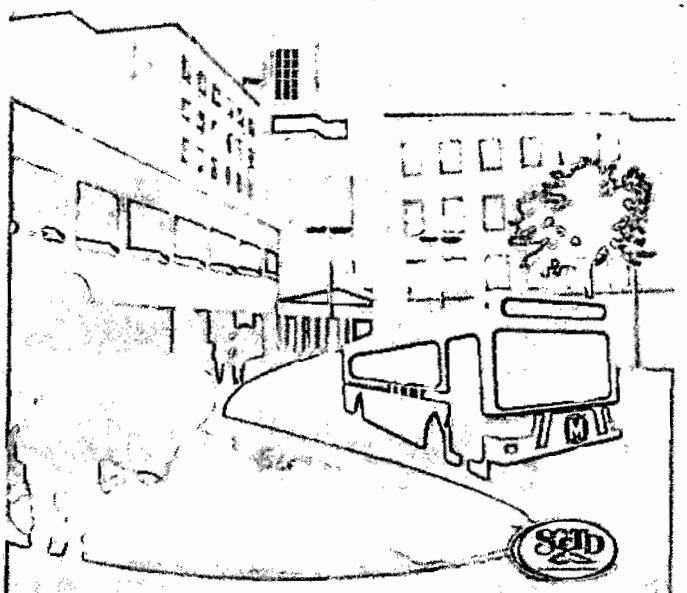

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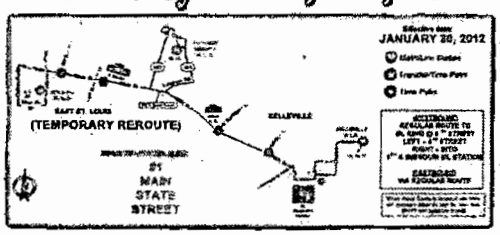


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# Video visit with Santa

Read about 5-year-old Grace Munie of Belleville who talked with Santa Claus.

Story on Page B1; watch video on BND.COM

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12/28/13

# Flu cases surge at St. Elizabeth's

## Twice the number of cases in December; there still is time to get a flu shot

BY MIKE FITZGERALD
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — Patients suffering from the flu have been keeping St. Elizabeth's Hospital busy in December, with twice the number of cases reported for this month compared to December a year ago.

Fifty-three people were treated for the flu at St. Elizabeth's emergency room in December, while another 80 were treated at the hospital's urgent care center, according to Kelly Barbeau, a hospital spokeswoman.

At Memorial Hospital, in Belleville, a moderate increase in flu cases has been reported, though statistics were not available, according to Megan Moulton, a hospital spokeswoman.

Flu symptoms include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle and body aches, headaches and fatigue.

The St. Clair County Health Department is reminding county residents that it's not too late to get a flu shot.

"The most effective way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated," said Marsha Wild, the department's infectious disease manager. "We are seeing an increase of the

*Please see* FLU, A2

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For more information, call Deacon Wayne Weiler at the Cathedral of St. Peter at 618-234-1166.

final payments will be made early next month.

President George W. Bush signed the EUC program into law in 2008 and several extensions have been authorized since. The program supports families and local businesses. It allows them to collect unemployment insurance benefits for 99 weeks instead of the standard 26 weeks.

President Barack Obama has urged Congress to extend the program through next year. Gene Sperling, the director of the White House's National Economic Council, said Friday that President Barack Obama wants an

as Congress

Jobless benefits

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**VOL. 155, NO. 362**

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# FLU

*Continued from Page A1*

incidence (of the illness) throughout the area."

It remains unclear how many people are suffering from seasonal flu symptoms, since the illness is not a reportable condition, unless a person is admitted to a hospital intensive care unit or a death results from the illness, Wild said.

Statewide, at least 60 people have been admitted to intensive care units because of the flu, with 24 of those cases reported for people in the ages from newborn to 49. There were 36 cases reported for people age 50 and older, Wild said.

Most of the people seeking treatment for the flu at the hospital are those who have not been vaccinated, said Barbeau.

Aside from a immunization, the most effective method for avoiding the virus that causes the illness is frequent hand washing, she said.

"We encourage a lot of hand hygiene — washing the hands regularly, using GermX (hand sanitizer)," Barbeau said.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that, with few exceptions, all people age 6 months and older get vaccinated annually, either by a shot or nasal spray, as the most important step in preventing the disease.

The St. Clair County Health Department recommends that you follow the three C's:

- clean — properly wash your hands often;
- cover — cover you cough and sneeze; and
- contain — contain your germs by staying home if you feel sick.

One of the biggest myths about the flu shot is that it can give you the flu. It cannot, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If you develop flu-like symptoms after being vaccinated, it means you probably were exposed to the flu before receiving the vaccination, or during the two-week period it takes to develop immunity after receiving the shot. It also may mean you are sick with another ailment that causes flu-like symptoms.

County health departments do not provide flu shots to the general public, but personnel there can direct you to locations that provide vaccinations. A federal government website, www.flu.gov, allows users to type in their ZIP codes to determine the closest locations that provide vaccinations, such as urgent care centers and pharmacies.

Children up to age 19 are eligible for immunizations through the Vaccine for Children program at the health department if: their family's private insurance does not pay for it; they have an active Medicaid card; their families have no insurance; or if they are Native American or an Alaska native.

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Contact reporter Mike Fitzgerald at mfitzgerald@bnd.com or 618-239-2533.

# BOBCAT

*Continued from Page A1*

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rambling, one-story former home, is more than, "Just an organization, it's

gram was first introduced, the national unemployment rate then

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# Rehabilitate health board

January 8, 2014

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BND

O'Fallon and Shiloh leaders recently spoke about the lack of a nursing home to serve their combined 40,000 residents. It is not for a lack of interest by those who risk their money on nursing homes, it is because the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board will not issue a certificate saying there is a need for the beds.

Delmar Gardens for nearly a decade has owned a 17-acre plot in O'Fallon. O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said the state board won't even talk about the company's $25 million proposal with a potential payroll of $25 million.

Delmar Gardens facilities are not the types of places you need to worry about urine and disinfectant smells overwhelming you as disinterested staff drag wheelchair-bound seniors down the halls. They are the types of places you'd like to go on vacation.

If they came to O'Fallon it would be to operate a facility that takes seniors from assisted living to full-service nursing home care -- a popular option that eases transitions for seniors.

So why should the state have a say in whether a new place wants to build?

Since 1974 the board has existed to control health care costs by making sure health facilities do not overbuild. The recent reality was that the board was a bed of corruption, with Tony Rezko and others selling influence over multi-million- dollar board decisions.

Graham said the board is political, and that's probably true. Avoiding competition is preferred by those already in business, but creating it is good for consumers.

There was a recent reform movement, and supposedly there's a new attitude at the state board since the corruption scandal.

Delmar Gardens may want to revisit this issue. Graham and state lawmakers would be wise to push for this $25 million development while guarding against the facilities board members returning to their pay-to-play ways.

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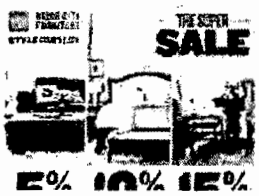


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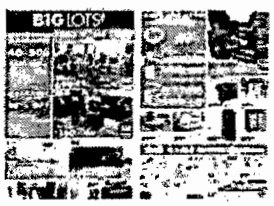


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St. Elizabeth's
HOSPITAL
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

January 24, 2014

**VIA FAX & CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mark Eckert
Mayor of Belleville
101 S. Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Dear Mark,

I have read your June 18 letter, and am certainly open to meeting with you to discuss the points raised (as you know we meet quarterly and have met in between on various issues). However, I am concerned that the tone of the letter infers you anticipate a lawyer for the City being present. I don't see any reason for lawyers to be involved at this point, and would like you to confirm in writing that the meeting will not include attorneys. Also, if you plan for any non-lawyer City representatives or for that matter anyone other than yourself to attend, it will be helpful for me to know that as well so I might bring other hospital representatives to contribute likewise to our discussion.

After I hear from you as to attendees you anticipate if any other than you, I will have Yvonne work with your staff to set something up in the next week or two. I am going to respond to your June 18 letter in writing before our meeting, as I think that will be helpful to framing our discussion. I look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,

Maryann Reese

St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Maryann L. Reese
President & Chief Executive Officer

211 South Third Street
Belleville, IL 62220
618-234-2120
www.steliz.org

06/24/2014 15:18 6182224650 ADMIN PAGE 02/02

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# Hospitals head east: St. Elizabeth's, O'Fallon, to meet needs for 100 years

By Georgia Hillyer

Progress EditorMarch 13, 2014 Updated 1 hour ago

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St. Elizabeth's Hospital

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Plans for a St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon are moving forward.

There is no guarantee that a hospital will be built, says Walter Denton, city administrator, but the city plans to increase Green Mount from I-64 to Highway 50 to five lanes to help encourage other development in the area, as well.

Fixing the congested North Green Mount corridor to roll out the welcome mat for St. Elizabeth's was listed as City Council's top priority in its recent strategic planning meeting. St. Elizabeth's has purchased 105 acres at North Green Mount, Regency Park Dr. and Highway 50.

Mayor Gary Graham said the Belleville hospital expects to seek a certificate of need later this summer from the Illinois Health and Facilities Services Review Board.

Melissa Sterling, St. Elizabeth's marketing director for Southern Illinois said, "St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Hospital Sisters Health System are working through a comprehensive business plan for what will go on the O'Fallon property. We are being very deliberate with this process because we want to ensure that whatever health care operation we may put on the land will be around for the next 100 years and provide appropriate health care services to the metro-east population over the long term."

O'Fallon Development Director Ted Shekell said, "We are working on what St. Elizabeth's needs from us so we can be ahead of the curve.

Regardless of what happens with the hospital, Green Mount needs expansion. The hospital accelerated the need for it."

Graham said though Green Mount is a county road the city is expecting to carry the cost burden for its expansion.

"The county doesn't have the money," he said. "This was our promise to St. Elizabeth's."

The future of Scott Air Force Base, is also a major concern for the city, said Graham.

The base no longer has a hospital and military active duty and retirees depend on Metro East and St. Louis hospitals for medical care.

A new Base Realignment and Closure Commission is being planned he said.

Graham said the Hospital Sisters Health System hopes to receive the certificate of need by the end of 2014 and to break ground in O'Fallon in 2015.

The cost of expanding Green Mount from I-64 to Highway is expected to cost $2.8 million. Council approved a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) for the area but the city would be required to front the money for construction and the hope that future tax revenues would reimburse the costs.

Graham told City Council, "You have to provide us with a funding mechanism (for the Green Mount Road expansion.)"

Public Works Director Dennis Sullivan said the city is seeking federal funds for Green Mount, but so far no funds have been awarded.

"If we don't have access in that location we won't get development," said Graham. "If the area grows out, we'll get more back than we put in in sales tax."

**ghillyer@bnd.com**

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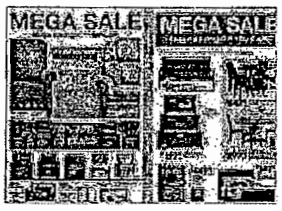


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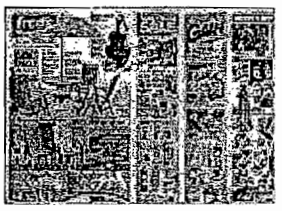

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# Timeline: St. Elizabeth and Memorial hospitals

News-DemocratApril 29, 2014 Updated 5 minutes ago

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A shuttle near the front of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

DERIK HOLTMANN — Derik Holtmann/BND

- Related Stories:
- St. Elizabeth's proceeding with O'Fallon hospital; will 're-envision' Belleville campus

1875: St. Elizabeth's Hospital opens in Belleville

1958: Memorial Hospital opens in Belleville

April 2011: Memorial Hospital President Mark Turner announces plans to expand with a new hospital, Memorial Hospital-East, in Shiloh.

June 2011: St. Elizabeth's announced that it intended to buy more than 100 acres in O'Fallon. Mark Reifsteck, president of the Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System, said that there is a possibility that a replacement for St. Elizabeth's 139-year-old downtown Belleville hospital could be built there.

June 2011: The state of Illinois approves plans for Memorial Hospital-East, despite St. Elizabeth's opposition claiming Memorial's application failed to meet state criteria for expanding.

November 2011: St. Elizabeth's Hospital purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon.

January 2012: $4 million upgrades begin at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville.

January 2014: Memorial Hospital-East construction begins.

June 2014: St. Elizabeth's announces plans to move forward with O'Fallon facility.

Early 2016: Memorial Hospital-East scheduled to open.

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# Belleville hires Chicago attorney to keep St. Elizabeth's in town

By JACQUELINE LEE AND MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratApril 29, 2014

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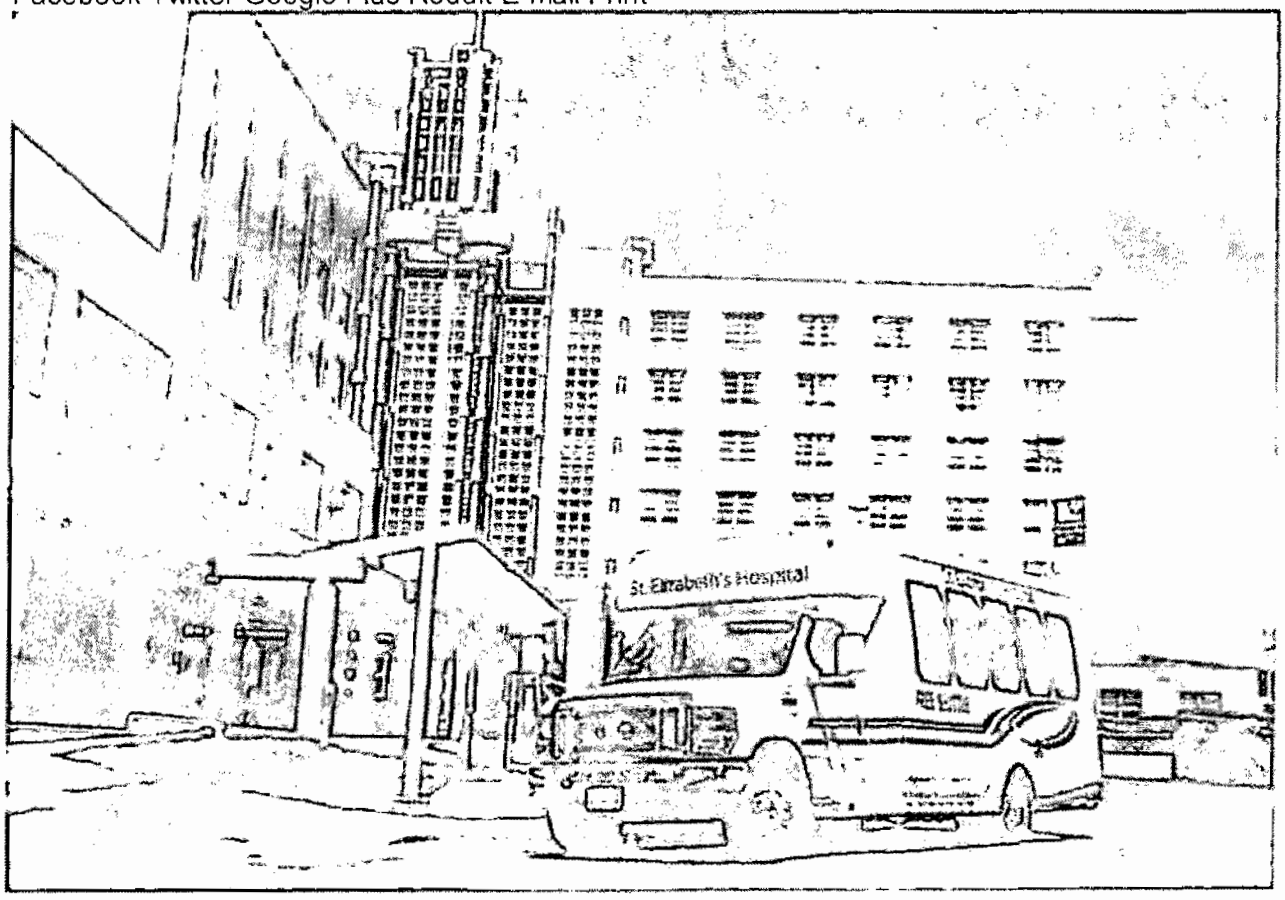


St. Elizabeth's hospital free shuttle service transports patients and employees between the various parking lots and buildings on their belleville campus.

DHOLTMANN@BND.COM Buy Photo

BELLEVILLE — The city of Belleville hired a Chicago-based attorney specializing in health law in an effort to keep St. Elizabeth's Hospital in town.

"We don't want to see the main structure of this hospital leave downtown," said Mayor Mark Eckert. "We don't want to lose the ER, surgery, hospital beds -- all the services we've had for 140 years. We value the mission and the ministry they do here."

Mark Silberman, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, will work on a consulting basis for Belleville. He could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

In an emailed statement Melissa Sterling, regional director of communications for St. Elizabeth's parent company, Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health Systems, said: "We are disappointed to learn that the city of Belleville has hired an attorney to fight against our hospital that has served this community for nearly 140 years. During that time it has been our mission to embody Christ's healing love for all people through our health care ministry. We have regularly met with Mayor Eckert to inform him about our plans to deliver high-quality health care to the residents in the community, and we have asked him for his thoughts."

The City Council voted 14-0 Monday to approve Duane Morris' services.

The city will be billed hourly for Silberman's services but the cost -- likely between $300 and $500 per hour -- and other contract details have not been finalized, Eckert said.

The 2014-15 budget includes $50,000 for additional attorney services, an amount that should cover Silberman's costs in addition to legal services related to other city needs, Eckert said.

Eckert said the city's decision is in response to growing concerns that St. Elizabeth's Hospital will move from 211 S. Third St. in downtown Belleville to O'Fallon.

St. Elizabeth's administrators said in 2012 they had no intention of leaving Belleville after announcing plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road. HSHS purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million.

But Belleville city leaders said they feel St. Elizabeth's has been "unclear" on what will be left of the Belleville campus in the future.

"You can't pick up the whole hospital and move it to O'Fallon and say you will still have a strong presence in Belleville," Eckert said.

Instead of buying property in O'Fallon, HSHS could have made $18 million in improvements to the Belleville site, Eckert said.

Eckert said city leaders want to maintain hospital services in Belleville, and he wants the hospital to know the city wants to help them redevelop the current site.

"There's been no one willing to talk," Eckert said of St. Elizabeth's administrators. "They have their minds made up, it appears, to move the hospital. They've been very inconsistent as to what might still be left in Belleville."

Belleville Ward 5 Alderman Joe Hayden said St. Elizabeth's should not be wary of the city's move to hire a legal consultant.

"I don't look at it as much as us making a threat as we're stating our concerns and willingness to fight for them to stay here," Hayden said.

Sterling also said: "As the mayor and many of our community leaders know, we have been carefully and thoughtfully planning for how best to deliver health care in the region for the long term. As part of our planning process, our goal is to have a project that is fiscally sound and that will allow us to provide tertiary inpatient health care services to metro-east and Southern Illinois residents for decades to come."

St. Elizabeth's Hospital has not filed for a certificate of need with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, a step necessary before any new medical facility can be constructed.

O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said in March that he anticipates St. Elizabeth's will file for the certificate this summer.

Silberman will mainly assist Belleville City Attorney Garrett Hoerner if the hospital applies for the certificate, Eckert said.

"If the certificate of need application is filed, we want to have somebody with experience to help us speak

our concerns out about how this will negatively impact the city of Belleville," Eckert said. "We don't feel it's right to negatively impact one city to allow another city to have growth and prosperity."

Before joining Duane Morris, Silberman served as acting general counsel to the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board, now called the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

A spokeswoman for Memorial Hospital in Belleville did not say if Memorial planned to oppose a certificate of need request from St. Elizabeth's.

"Since we've not seen an application, I don't think it would be appropriate to comment on that at this time," said Ann Thomure of Memorial.

When asked about Belleville hiring an attorney, Thomure said, "Our only comment is that we remain concerned about access to services in our community, especially for the under-served population."

Belleville city leaders said that it does not make sense for St. Elizabeth's to join Memorial in the O'Fallon area because Belleville remains the largest city south of Springfield and has long been the metro-east's medical center.

"With Memorial already building one out in Shiloh, I question the need for two out in that area," Hayden said. "When you look at the amount of acreage they've bought, it doesn't look like they want to build a satellite like Memorial out in Shiloh."

Hayden said the departure of St. Elizabeth's, the city's second largest employer, would economically devastate Belleville. And, he doesn't believe Memorial could handle all the health care needs in Belleville.

Eckert said Belleville has been a good partner to St. Elizabeth's for many years, providing extra police patrol and deploying snow plows to keep the emergency roads clear when necessary.

Contact reporter Jacqueline Lee at jlee@bnd.com or 618-239-2655. Follow her on Twitter at https://twitter.com/BNDJLee. Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

**See below for an interactive timeline**

Contact reporter Jacqueline Lee at jlee@bnd.com or 239-2655. Follow her on Twitter at twitter.com/BNDBelleville. Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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America Airport.

## Fight to keep St. E's

Some individuals want to present statistics to justify St. Elizabeth Hospital's move. Belleville can match and exceed the household incomes of any area in St. Clair County, especially when factoring in unincorporated areas and neighboring communities. Promoting an area dependent on the military and St. Louis commuters is faulty. The real beneficiaries for a new hospital are the land speculators and construction industry. Don't buy the sales pitch. A physician's recent proposal to unify Memorial and St. E's is spot on. An interstate hospital is not magical, as St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis and the Forest Park Hospital in Missouri realized. Rebuff the modern day medicine man/music man. We have enough sprawl. There are 200 reasons why Belleville remains the center of St. Clair County.

## When a door closes ...

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert should not be concerned about St. Elizabeth Hospital possibly leaving town. If it does leave, all he has to do is what he did with the old Belleville West. Pay millions of dollars for the building and then sell it to a college, maybe Lindenwood University. Turn it into dorms, maybe a medical school. Everything will work out fine. When God shuts a door, he always opens a window. 5/8/14

## Let St. E's move

The proposed St. Elizabeth Hospital location in O'Fallon is ideal. O'Fallon has a per capita income of $68,500, whereas Belleville is $36,000. Belleville cannot keep the homeless people from wandering around the St. Elizabeth's and the area is ripe for crime. I don't feel safe and look forward to the much safer location in O'Fallon. If Belleville fights St. Elizabeth's, it may not have any medical presence in the city. 5/5/14

# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

MARK W. ECKERT, MAYOR

101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-2105
Office: (618) 233-6810
Fax: (618) 233-6779

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FREDRICK L LANGE
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SENT VIA: **E-Mail to ystroder@sebh.org**
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June 18, 2014

Maryann L. Reese, RN, MHA, FACHE
President and CEO
St. Elizabeth's Hospital
211 S. 3rd St.
Belleville, Illinois 62220

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Ms. Reese:

The intent of this letter is to facilitate meaningful communication between the City of Belleville ("Belleville") and St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Our goal is to avoid the real and meaningful harm that will result to Belleville if St. Elizabeth's abandons the downtown area. This was the reason for our meeting scheduled on May 14, 2014. We were disheartened when St. Elizabeth's canceled the meeting, but even more so by the apparent unwillingness or lack of interest in rescheduling the meeting.

As was reported in several of the local newspapers, Belleville has retained the services of an attorney whose background includes an understanding of the Illinois Certificate of Need process. We hope that has not acted as a deterrent to our meeting, because the focus of this relationship has been on how to evaluate and communicate positive options and alternatives to St. Elizabeth's, other than abandoning the downtown area. Our attorney has made us aware of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board's regulatory requirement that St. Elizabeth's evaluate ***alternatives to the proposed project.*** That is the exact type of discussions we wanted to have and something we fear St. Elizabeth's has failed to meaningfully do.

By our own efforts, as well as with the assistance of various consultants, we have begun to explore various options available to St. Elizabeth's short of abandoning the downtown area. Among the discussions that have been had, but certainly not an exhaustive list, include:

- Exploring potential renovations of the existing hospital and/or construction of a replacement hospital, including expanding the site by land acquisition and street vacation;
- Exploring tax breaks and additional incentives that could be provided to St. Elizabeth's Hospital;
- Exploring alternative uses for all or some of the existing hospital;

- Exploring the potential of partnering with St. Elizabeth's in the establishment of a smaller replacement hospital in the downtown area;
- Identifying outside potential partners who could enter into a joint venture with St. Elizabeth's to increase access to patient care, scope of care, and profitability; and
- Evaluating traffic patterns, potential road closures, or public works projects that would assist in addressing whatever concerns have yielded the desire to abandon the downtown area for O'Fallon.

Belleville is willing to assist in addressing whatever concerns are motivating St. Elizabeth's plan to abandon the downtown area. However, to be clear, St. Elizabeth's unwillingness to meet with us has resulted in our lack of a meaningful understanding of what is motivating this move. What we ***have heard*** concerns us, but we would rather work from fact, not fiction.

Prior representatives of St. Elizabeth's have commented that the move is designed to improve patient payer-mixes and to move to a more affluent community such as O'Fallon. It is also designed to result in closer access to the highway, thus allowing St. Elizabeth's to draw patients from the St. Louis area. These motivations, if true, would be truly disheartening, especially, considering the mission of St. Elizabeth's hospital:

> The Mission of St. Elizabeth's Hospital flows from that of our sponsor, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, who are particularly committed to serving the sick, the aged, the poor and the terminally ill. For the Sisters and those of us who choose to join with them through affiliation with the Hospital Sisters Health System, our mission is *"to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry."*

The barriers of access to quality care are notably more prevalent in the downtown area of Belleville than they are in the O'Fallon community. This is especially true when you consider the establishment of Memorial Hospital East in Shiloh.

Belleville is confident we could assist St. Elizabeth's in designing a project that results in lesser cost and matches the scope and need of the project you are envisioning. We are prepared to explore joint ventures, whether with Belleville, or identifying alternative partners, that would address whatever identifiable and valid concerns are motivating St. Elizabeth's plan to abandon the downtown area. We can discuss supplementing or augmenting existing health care resources to create a worthwhile project that results in St. Elizabeth's continuing to be a part of the downtown area. We will get as creative as necessary, but what it requires is communication.

Accordingly, we implore you to reschedule the meeting between Belleville officials and St. Elizabeth's leadership prior to submitting a plan with the Certificate of Need Board to abandon the downtown area. The harm that will result from this is overwhelming: harm that will adversely affect local business, the stability of the community, the ability to attract future business and, most importantly, the access to care that the citizens of Belleville have come to expect (and still dearly need). We would rather be your partner in pursuing success than your

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opponents. However, if St. Elizabeth's persists in its plans to abandon the downtown area, we will have no choice but to oppose this project and to do everything in our power to protect the citizens of Belleville. Please do not let it come to that.

I am available to discuss and will make whatever accommodations are necessary to facilitate a meeting between our people.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert
Mayor

# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**MARK W. ECKERT, MAYOR**

101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-2105
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June 18, 2014

Maryann L. Reese, RN, MHA, FACHE
President and CEO
St. Elizabeth's Hospital
211 S. 3rd St.
Belleville, Illinois 62220

Ms. Reese:

The intent of this letter is to facilitate meaningful communication between the City of Belleville ("Belleville") and St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Our goal is to avoid the real and meaningful harm that will result to Belleville if St. Elizabeth's abandons the downtown area. This was the reason for our meeting scheduled on May 14, 2014. We were disheartened when St. Elizabeth's canceled the meeting, but even more so by the apparent unwillingness or lack of interest in rescheduling the meeting.

As was reported in several of the local newspapers, Belleville has retained the services of an attorney whose background includes an understanding of the Illinois Certificate of Need process. We hope that has not acted as a deterrent to our meeting, because the focus of this relationship has been on how to evaluate and communicate positive options and alternatives to St. Elizabeth's, other than abandoning the downtown area. Our attorney has made us aware of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board's regulatory requirement that St. Elizabeth's evaluate ***alternatives to the proposed project***. That is the exact type of discussions we wanted to have and something we fear St. Elizabeth's has failed to meaningfully do.

By our own efforts, as well as with the assistance of various consultants, we have begun to explore various options available to St. Elizabeth's short of abandoning the downtown area. Among the discussions that have been had, but certainly not an exhaustive list, include:

- Exploring potential renovations of the existing hospital and/or construction of a replacement hospital, including expanding the site by land acquisition and street vacation;
- Exploring tax breaks and additional incentives that could be provided to St. Elizabeth's Hospital;
- Exploring alternative uses for all or some of the existing hospital;

- Exploring the potential of partnering with St. Elizabeth's in the establishment of a smaller replacement hospital in the downtown area;
- Identifying outside potential partners who could enter into a joint venture with St. Elizabeth's to increase access to patient care, scope of care, and profitability; and
- Evaluating traffic patterns, potential road closures, or public works projects that would assist in addressing whatever concerns have yielded the desire to abandon the downtown area for O'Fallon.

Belleville is willing to assist in addressing whatever concerns are motivating St. Elizabeth's plan to abandon the downtown area. However, to be clear, St. Elizabeth's unwillingness to meet with us has resulted in our lack of a meaningful understanding of what is motivating this move. What we ***have heard*** concerns us, but we would rather work from fact, not fiction.

Prior representatives of St. Elizabeth's have commented that the move is designed to improve patient payer-mixes and to move to a more affluent community such as O'Fallon. It is also designed to result in closer access to the highway, thus allowing St. Elizabeth's to draw patients from the St. Louis area. These motivations, if true, would be truly disheartening, especially, considering the mission of St. Elizabeth's hospital:

> The Mission of St. Elizabeth's Hospital flows from that of our sponsor, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, who are particularly committed to serving the sick, the aged, the poor and the terminally ill. For the Sisters and those of us who choose to join with them through affiliation with the Hospital Sisters Health System, our mission is *"to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry."*

The barriers of access to quality care are notably more prevalent in the downtown area of Belleville than they are in the O'Fallon community. This is especially true when you consider the establishment of Memorial Hospital East in Shiloh.

Belleville is confident we could assist St. Elizabeth's in designing a project that results in lesser cost and matches the scope and need of the project you are envisioning. We are prepared to explore joint ventures, whether with Belleville, or identifying alternative partners, that would address whatever identifiable and valid concerns are motivating St. Elizabeth's plan to abandon the downtown area. We can discuss supplementing or augmenting existing health care resources to create a worthwhile project that results in St. Elizabeth's continuing to be a part of the downtown area. We will get as creative as necessary, but what it requires is communication.

Accordingly, we implore you to reschedule the meeting between Belleville officials and St. Elizabeth's leadership prior to submitting a plan with the Certificate of Need Board to abandon the downtown area. The harm that will result from this is overwhelming: harm that will adversely affect local business, the stability of the community, the ability to attract future business and, most importantly, the access to care that the citizens of Belleville have come to expect (and still dearly need). We would rather be your partner in pursuing success than your

opponents. However, if St. Elizabeth's persists in its plans to abandon the downtown area, we will have no choice but to oppose this project and to do everything in our power to protect the citizens of Belleville. Please do not let it come to that.

I am available to discuss and will make whatever accommodations are necessary to facilitate a meeting between our people.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert
Mayor

# St. Elizabeth's recognized for stroke care

By Maria Hasentsab
*News-Democrat*

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville was designated an Emergent Stroke Ready Hospital — one of just 21 in the state and the only one in the metro-east.

The Illinois' Stroke Law, passed in 2009 and updated in January, identifies hospitals capable of providing emergent stroke care and directs emergency medical services to transport possible acute patients to theses hospitals.

At St. Elizabeth's, if a potential stroke patient arrives, staff members alert an on-call experts for immediate video-conference consultations. Then, neurologists from UCLA, Yale, the Colorado Neurological Institute and other facilities have the ability to interact face-to-face with the patient, family members and emergency room staff in order to make and an immediate diagnosis and begin advanced stroke treatment and interventions.

The advanced technology allows residents from the metro-east, to remain close to home, saving valuable time, when it matters most, according to St. Elizabeth's.

"Receiving this high-level designation once again reaffirms our commitment to offering region leading, high-quality stroke care for all residents of the Metro East," said Dr. Shelly Harkins, chief medical officer at St. Elizabeth's.

Medical professionals say that surviving strokes can be a matter of time, so if you think someone may be suffering a stroke act quickly and use the following acronym to identify potential symptoms:

- Face — look for an uneven smile or drooping eye;
- Arm — check if one arm is weak;
- Speech — listen for slurred speech or inability to speak; and
- Time — call 911 immediately.

6/20/14

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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# St. Elizabeth's Hospital plans to make 'major announcement' Wednesday

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratJune 24, 2014 Updated 49 minutes ago

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A shuttle near the front of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

DERIK HOLTMANN — Derik Holtmann/BND

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville plans to make what it is calling a "major announcement" Wednesday about the future of healthcare in the metro-east.

"St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and its affiliate Hospital Sisters Health System, will announce how it plans to deliver healthcare services in the future to the residents of Southwestern Illinois at a news conference at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday," according to a news release from the hospital.

A spokeswoman for the hospital declined to provide details about the announcement.

In November 2011, HSHS purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million. The hospital announced plans at that time to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

However, there has been no progress since then, and the hospital has declined to say whether it plans to keep its Belleville hospital open.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital will need to file for a certificate of need with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, a step necessary before any new medical facility can be constructed.

The Health Facilities and Services Review Board said Tuesday afternoon that St. Elizabeth's has not applied for the certificate of need.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital and HSHS leadership, physicians and community leaders will be at the announcement Wednesday, according to the news release.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said Tuesday afternoon that he was not aware of the announcement and was not invited to attend.

However, O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said he was notified Tuesday afternoon and planned to attend.

Graham said he did not know what the announcement was about, but he said, "If I'd have to guess ... that they're moving forward with applying for the (certificate of need)."

St. Elizabeth's administrators said in 2012 they had no intention of leaving Belleville.

In April, the city of Belleville hired a Chicago attorney to help keep the hospital from leaving town.

At that time, Eckert said that hospital leaders had not been clear about the future of St. Elizabeth's in Belleville. Eckert said city leaders want to maintain hospital services in Belleville, and he wanted the hospital to know the city wants to help them redevelop the current site in downtown Belleville.

Memorial Hospital, the other hospital located in Belleville, in recent years has continued to expand its Belleville campus and in January began construction on a 94-bed, all-private room hospital on Cross Street in Shiloh.

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By MARIA HASENSTAB

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**Scott Martin** Good site for a future parking garage. See yah!!
13 hours ago · Like · 1

**Lizabeth Bailey Marty Homa** I Was Born there at St. Elizabeth in Belleville Illinois and I Never was a wanted Child So my parents left me there 43 years ago never Knew my Parents it really Makes St. Elizabeth a bad Memory for me So tear it Down!!
13 hours ago · Like · 4

**Nancy O'Dowd Nerone** Yeah, forget about all those jobs...tear it down. Geez.
12 hours ago · Like · 5

**Jo Anna Riley** The jobs will go where the hospital goes.

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**Jo Anna Riley** The jobs will go where the hospital goes.
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**Lori Friess** Still sad to see it go ☹
11 hours ago · Like

**Kathy Mueller Hansen** Lizabeth Bailey Marty Homa, so sorry to hear that happened to you! Thank goodness they didn't harm you though. I understand your feelings and please disregard others that don't. {{{{{{{HUGS}}}}}}}
11 hours ago · Like · 1

**Lizabeth Bailey Marty Homa** Kathy Mueller Hansen it was never a great life at all. its what i always if i knew now what the life was choose for me i wish i was never borned at all. Kathy things did happen to me and they was not good at all. i live with all the hell that happened 43 years ago
11 hours ago · Like

**Joan Reeves** Ugh, they suck. Cya.
11 hours ago · Like

**Tony LeRoy** There closing down the one in Belleville?
9 hours ago · Like

**Michael Wright** Yup Tony LeRoy
8 hours ago · Like

**Genia Way** Took them long enough. They should've purchased land on the 255-S corridor not within blocks of the new Memorial. That's where another hospital is really needed. Doesn't seem like anyone did their homework. If I were them, I would sell the O'Fallon/Shiloh property and scout out 255S . The needed specialists for the Metro East could drive over from St. Louis in no time for work. Most patients request a transfer to St. Louis because of the specialists.
8 hours ago · Edited · Like · 1

**Megan Hill** Horrible excuse for a hospital. Tear it down.
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Dennis Wagner Just remember - they have to still apply for the certificate and then it has to be approved.....Hopefully they will not abandon Belleville and leave us with a very large empty building - Belleville does NOT need another white elephant -- especially in this location.
8 minutes ago Like

Write a comment

# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**MARK W. ECKERT,** Mayor
101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-2105
Phone: 618-233-6810

June 25 2014

Due to the St. Elizabeth's media announcement this morning.

I am certainly disappointed that, despite repeated requests, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been unwilling to meet with the City of Belleville to explore a modernized hospital in Belleville. The City of Belleville does not oppose a modernization of St. Elizabeth's Hospital; however, the City does oppose it being done in a way that abandons the downtown Belleville area, deprives Belleville's residents of the essential access to healthcare they have come to depend upon, and unnecessarily disrupts the commerce that has built up around this hospital over the last 100+ years. I am further concerned that what is motivating this proposed move could be more related to questions of payer-mix and service area than of maintaining access to care for those in need. Nevertheless, I am confident that the benefits lauded by St. Elizabeth's (jobs, construction, continuity) can all be achieved in Belleville without the fundamental disruption to our downtown area and the Belleville community. The City of Belleville remains prepared to discuss how to pursue a new St. Elizabeth's in Belleville and, if necessary, the City of Belleville remains prepared to voice our opposition to abandoning Belleville's downtown area.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert
Mayor

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# St. Elizabeth's proceeding with O'Fallon hospital; will 're-envision' Belleville campus

By MARIA BARAN

News-DemocratJune 25, 2014 Updated 4 minutes ago

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A shuttle near the front of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

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O'FALLON — Officials from St. Elizabeth's Hospital and its owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, announced Wednesday morning they would pursue plans to build a new hospital in O'Fallon.

The officials also said they would continue to provide healthcare services at the hospital's existing St. Elizabeth's campus in Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's president and CEO Maryann Reese said: "After years of planning, I am happy to announce that the St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors has approved building a regional hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land located 7 miles from our current hospital campus."

She added: "This project will provide area residents with access to a state-of-the-art medical facility, boost the local economy, and enhance the quality of life for Southwestern Illinois. St. Elizabeth's also will re-envision our existing campus with input from Belleville residents."

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However, there had been no progress since then, and the hospital has declined to say whether it plans to keep its Belleville hospital open.

The hospital officials said the new location will be more centrally located for the metro-east region served by the St. Elizabeth's. They said the new location will be "more accessible to underserved pations than the hospital's current campus."

Reese said St. Elizabeth's will continue to provide a range of outpatients services and maintain various support functions at its Belleville campus.

Before any new medical facility can be constructed, a permit -- called a certificate of need -- must be granted from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

Officials at the Health Facilities and Services Review Board said Tuesday afternoon that St. Elizabeth's has not applied for a certificate of need.

St. Elizabeth's administrators said in 2012 they had no intention of leaving Belleville.

In April, the city of Belleville hired a Chicago attorney to help keep the hospital from leaving town.

At that time, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said that hospital leaders had not been clear about the future of St. Elizabeth's in Belleville. Eckert said city leaders want to maintain hospital services in Belleville, and he wanted the hospital to know the city wants to help them redevelop the current site in downtown Belleville.

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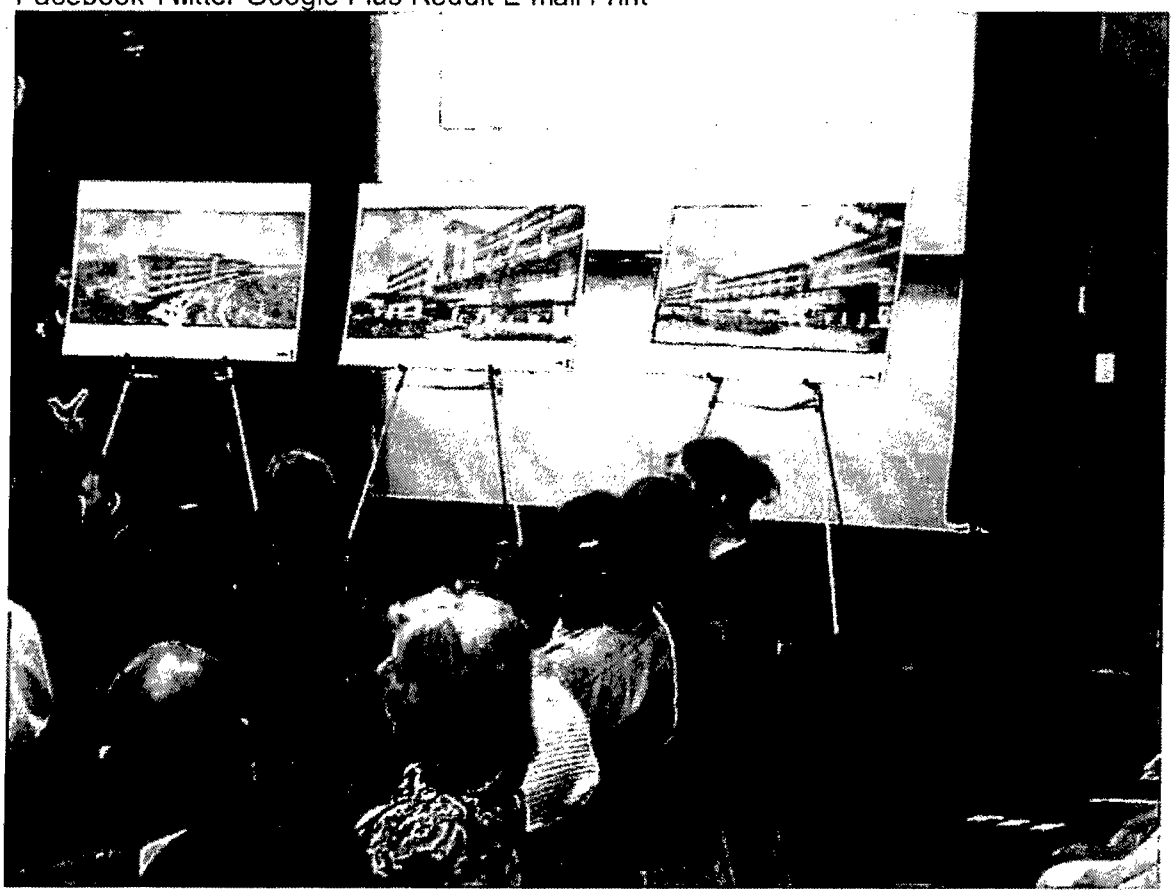
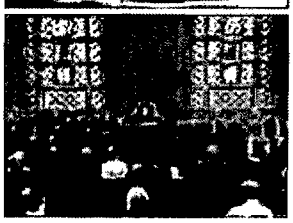


Renderings of proposed St. Elizabeth's Hospital site in O'Fallon. TIM VIZER — tvizer@bnd.com



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A festive crowd of about 100 attended the announcement at the hospital's chapel. Dignitaries included Catholic Diocese of Belleville Bishop Edward Braxton, O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham and state Sen. Bill Haine. Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert was not on hand; he had said Monday that he was not invided.

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Reese said St. Elizabeth's will continue to provide a range of outpatients services and maintain various support functions at its Belleville campus.

The new St. Elizabeth's will continue to be a teaching hospital and will provide 144 private patient rooms, an emergency department, operating rooms, an intensive care unit and inpatient rehabilitation. Inpatient and outpatient services offered at the new location will include cancer care, birthing suites, telehealth consultations, stroke care and heart care.

"In addition to providing the most advanced health care for the metro-east region, our new hospital will be better able to serve those who need us most," Reese said. "Our 140-year-long commitment to care for all residents in the metro-east region is as strong as ever, and the location for St. Elizabeth's will provide quicker and more convenient access for many residents currently living in underserved neighborhoods."

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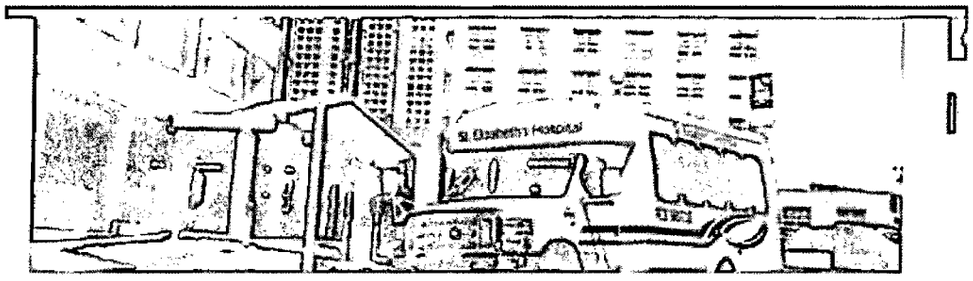
St. Elizabeth's

## Thomure, Anne

**From:** Moulton, Megan
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014 10:54 AM
**To:** Thomure, Anne
**Subject:** RE:



**O'FALLON: St. Elizabeth's announces plans to move forward with O'Fallon...**
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Officials from St. Elizabeth's Hospital and its owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, announced Wednesday morning they would pursue plans to build.

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Jane Crouch Putting the cart before the horse. What if the certificate of need is denied?
about an hour ago · Like · 1

Scott Martin So they are building a new 144 bed hospital and they already have an existing 144 bed one. Again, see ya later Bellevegas!! Still a great place for a parking garage...
48 minutes ago · Like

Genia Way Terrible move. This hospital will go under. Just watch. This area does not have the demographics to sustain 4 hospitals within miles of each other while most specialists are in St. Louis.

And Shiloh/O'Fallon, the writing is on the wall. These hospitals are coming so traffic access NEEDS improvement. Do not wait until 5 yrs down the road, after the hospitals are already open, to widen your two lane roads. There is too much traffic and too many subdivisions on these roads now. Broadening roads should've been started already!

Has anyone done an impact study? Probably not. Both hospitals should pay for the studies and also fork over the money for the extra sewer/water and road expansions. Can you imagine trying to get on two lane Cross St. or Frank Scott Pkwy with two hospitals?
33 minutes ago · Edited · Like · 1

Megan M. Moulton
*Social Media/Outreach Coordinator, Community Relations*
Memorial Hospital

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(618) 257-6806
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*www.memhosp.com*

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**From:** Moulton, Megan
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:08 AM
**To:** Thomure, Anne
**Subject:**

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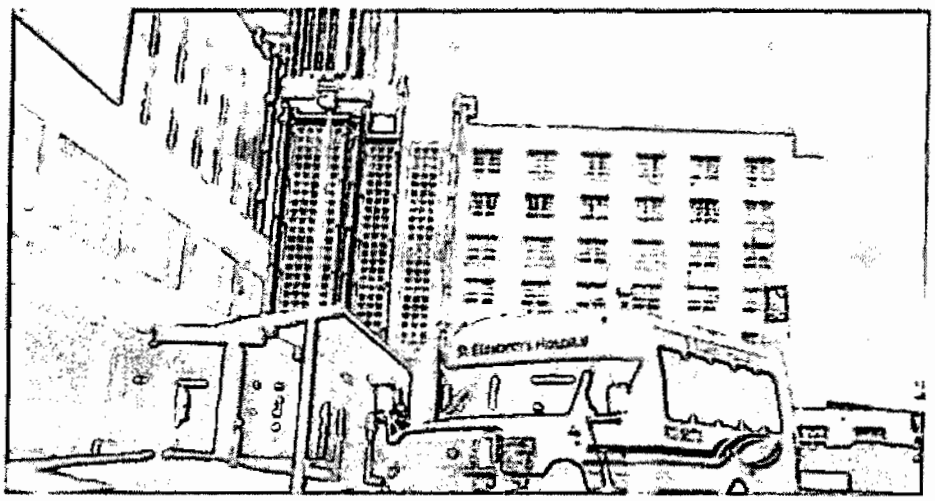

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(618) 444-8190 (cell)

# ST. ELIZABETH'S ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR REPLACEMENT HOSPITAL; RE-ENVISIONED BELLEVILLE CAMPUS

*Technologically Advanced Regional Hospital and Renovated Belleville Campus Will Transform Health Care in Metro East Region*

**Belleville, IL** – Joined by community supporters, building trades leaders and elected officials from throughout the Metro East region, leaders of St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) on Wednesday announced plans to build a new, state-of-the-art hospital along Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road in St. Clair County. St. Elizabeth's and HSHS also outlined plans to deliver health care services at the existing St. Elizabeth's campus in Belleville.

"After years of planning, I am happy to announce that the St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors has approved building a regional hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land located seven miles from our current hospital campus. This approval was made with the concurrence of Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, the sponsoring religious community of St. Elizabeth's Hospital and HSHS," said Maryann Reese, President and CEO of St. Elizabeth's. "This project will provide area residents with access to a state-of-the art medical facility, boost the local economy, and enhance the quality of life for Southwestern Illinois. St. Elizabeth's also will re-envision our existing campus with input from Belleville residents."

The location of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital will be more centrally located for the entire Metro East region that St. Elizabeth's serves, and be more accessible to underserved patients than the hospital's current campus. In addition, Reese said St. Elizabeth's will continue to provide a range of outpatient services and maintain various support functions at its Belleville campus.

The new St. Elizabeth's will continue to be a teaching hospital and will be designed for the future of health care delivery. The facility will include 144 private patient rooms, an emergency department, state-of-the art operating rooms, an advanced intensive care unit, and inpatient rehabilitation. St. Elizabeth's plans to offer a wide array of inpatient and outpatient services at the new facility, including cancer care, modern birthing suites, telehealth consultations, featuring accredited stroke care, and award-winning heart care.

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# St. Elizabeth's proceeding with O'Fallon hospital; will 're-envision' Belleville campus

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratJune 25, 2014 Updated 9 minutes ago

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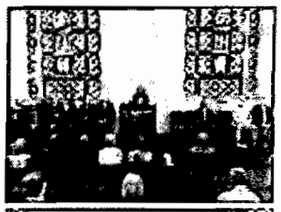
Maryann L. Reese, president and CEO of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, speaks at Wednesday's press conference. TIM VIZER — tvizer@bnd.com

- 
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- File: Read initial part of St. Elizabeth's announcement

O'FALLON — Officials from St. Elizabeth's Hospital and its owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, announced Wednesday morning they would pursue plans to build a new hospital in O'Fallon.

The officials also said they would continue to provide healthcare services at the hospital's existing St. Elizabeth's campus in Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's president and CEO Maryann Reese said: "After years of planning, I am happy to announce that the St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors has approved building a regional hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land located 7 miles from our current hospital campus."

She added: "This project will provide area residents with access to a state-of-the-art medical facility, boost the local economy, and enhance the quality of life for Southwestern Illinois. St. Elizabeth's also will re-envision our existing campus with input from Belleville residents."

A festive crowd of about 100 attended the announcement at the hospital's Belleville campus. Dignitaries included Catholic Diocese of Belleville Bishop Edward Braxton, O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham and state Sen. Bill Haine. Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert was not on hand. Eckert said Monday that he was not invited, but on the stage at the announcement ceremony was an empty seat with a placard bearing his name.

In November 2011, HSHS purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million. The hospital announced plans at that time to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

However, there had been no progress since then, and the hospital has declined to say whether it plans to keep its Belleville hospital open.

The hospital officials said the new location will be more centrally located for the metro-east region served by the St. Elizabeth's, and closer to Scott Air Force Base. They said the new location will be "more accessible to underserved patients than the hospital's current campus."

Bill Lyke, chairman of the St. Elizabeth's board of directors, said the current Belleville building is "obsolete and out of date." The board's vote to proceed with the O'Fallon

Reese added that the hospital's Belleville campus is landlocked on 17 acres, and it would take twice as much time and money to retrofit the Belleville facility for modern medical needs. "It just doesn't make sense," she said.

But Reese said St. Elizabeth's will continue to provide a range of outpatients services and maintain various support functions at its Belleville campus. Those services will include a same-day ambulatory clinic featuring radiology, lab services, physician offices and physical therapy.

Reese said she invites neighbors to try to transform the Belleville site's 17 acres to best serve Belleville.

"We stand by ready to work with Belleville officials," she said.

The new St. Elizabeth's will continue to be a teaching hospital and will provide 144 private patient rooms, an emergency department, operating rooms, an intensive care unit and inpatient rehabilitation. Inpatient and outpatient services offered at the new location will include cancer care, birthing suites, telehealth consultations, stroke care and heart care.

"In addition to providing the most advanced health care for the metro-east region, our new hospital will be better able to serve those who need us most," Reese said. "Our 140-year-long commitment to care for all residents in the metro-east region is as strong as ever, and the location for St. Elizabeth's will provide quicker and more convenient access for many residents currently living in underserved neighborhoods."

Before any new medical facility can be constructed, a permit -- called a certificate of need -- must be granted from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

Officials at the Health Facilities and Services Review Board said Tuesday afternoon that St. Elizabeth's has not applied for a certificate of need.

On hand for the announcement Wednesday was a representative of labor unions. Dale Stewart, of Southwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, said the project "could result in hundreds of jobs."

St. Elizabeth's administrators said in 2012 they had no intention of leaving Belleville.

In April, the city of Belleville hired a Chicago attorney to help keep the hospital from leaving town.

At that time, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said that hospital leaders had not been clear about the future of St. Elizabeth's in Belleville. Eckert said city leaders want to maintain hospital services in Belleville, and he wanted the hospital to know the city wants to help them redevelop the current site in downtown Belleville.

Memorial Hospital, the other hospital located in Belleville, in recent years has continued to expand its Belleville campus and in January began construction on a 94-bed, all-private room hospital on Cross Street in Shiloh.

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## Join The Conversation

Belleville News-Democrat is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from

## St. Elizabeth's Hospital
## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Q: What is St. Elizabeth's planning to do?**
   A: There are three pivotal things St. Elizabeth's is planning that will shape the future of health care for the Metro East region for generations to come.
   a. We are planning to build a replacement hospital along Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road in St. Clair County.
   b. We are renewing our commitment to Belleville by re-envisioning the Belleville campus to meet the needs of the community.
   c. We are planning to build an ambulatory care center with physician's office building on the new campus to help attract more physicians and specialists, allow easy access for those physicians using hospital services and offer an ambulatory care center for certain hospital based services.

2. **Q: What does a "replacement hospital" mean?**
   A: It means that we will be replacing the current St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Many of the services patients use regularly in Belleville will remain in Belleville, such as the same-day ambulatory clinic and laboratory and radiology services. Some services will move to the new location, such as emergency care, labor and delivery, and award-winning heart care.

3. **Q: Why do you have to move?**
   A: A retrofit of our old buildings at our current location – on our small, landlocked campus – would be cost-prohibitive. The existing 60-year-old structure is outdated, which is making it more and more difficult to meet 21st century health care needs. And, it is extremely costly to maintain. Additionally, St. Elizabeth's is not easily accessible by main highways or roads, there's no room to expand on our 17-acre site, and patients prefer private rooms. The new, state-of-the-art replacement hospital will help improve access to high-quality health care to residents of the entire Metro East region.

4. **Q: Why did you choose the site off I-64 and Green Mount Road?**
   A: St. Elizabeth's Hospital's leaders knew as they looked at possible locations that they wanted a site that would be more accessible to a greater number of patients. Our location along I-64 is actually more accessible to more people who are underserved in the Metro East region. In fact, the drives time to our new location will decrease for two-thirds of residents from low-income neighborhoods in the region.

5. **What do you mean by a regional hospital?**
   A: Health care is changing dramatically. Our patients deserve a medical campus that is designed to meet their needs and that features the newest technology. Our regional referral hospital will:
   - Attract new physicians and specialists,
   - Continue to be a teaching hospital,
   - Enhance opportunities to collaborate with other health care organizations along the 1-64 corridor,
   - Feature telehealth, specifically telestroke consultations,
   - Provide modern birthing suites and emergency pediatric care, and
   - Offer hospitalists, who specialize in the care of hospital patients, and intensivists, who focus solely on ICU patients.

6. **Q: How big will the new hospital be?**
   A: The replacement hospital will be on 114 acres of land, compared to the 17 acres that St. Elizabeth's has in Belleville. The replacement hospital will have 144 private patient beds, which is fewer than St. Elizabeth's has now. Fewer beds are needed because more patients are receiving outpatient care and private rooms help decrease the spread of infections.

7. **Q: What will remain at the Belleville campus?**
   A: Our plans for the Belleville campus of St. Elizabeth's are to re-envision it to become the St. Elizabeth's Health Center-Belleville. It will offer:
   - A same-day ambulatory clinic,
   - Physical, occupational and Back to Work therapy,
   - Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation clinic (SIHF)
   - Radiology and laboratory services, and
   - Primary care physicians' and health care specialists' offices.

   Many jobs also will stay in Belleville. They include:
   - Southern Illinois Division central business offices,
   - Marketing and communications,
   - Staff education,
   - Information technology, and
   - Purchasing and print shop.

8. **Q: Will this move change how St. Elizabeth's works with other agencies and partners?**
   A: St. Elizabeth's will continue to work with our current partners and local agencies. Our plans will help foster collaborations with other health care providers in the region. Our new location also will move St. Elizabeth's closer to the community hospitals that refer us patients, such as HSHS affiliate hospitals St. Joseph's in Highland and St. Joseph's in Breese, as well as Scott Air Force Base, Greenville Regional Hospital and Washington County Hospital.

9. **Q: How have the hospital's employees responded?**
   A: The response from our employees has been positive. They are eager for our community to get the new hospital. And, many who work on our Belleville campus now know firsthand why it is vitally important for St. Elizabeth's to offer services to its patients in a modern facility.

10. **Q: What will the project cost?**
    A: The cost for the project will be approximately $300 million.

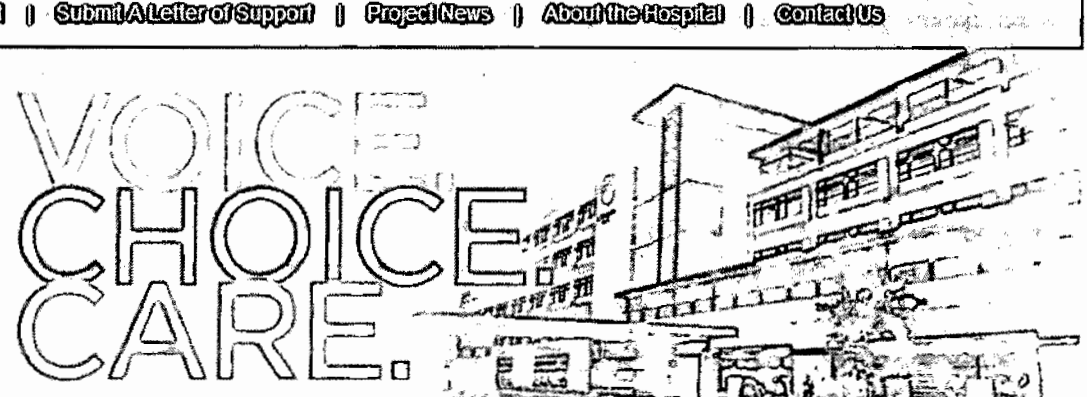
11. **Q: What will be the economic impact of this project to the region?**
    A: This project could result in hundreds of jobs. We'll be looking further into the economic impact. However, for every $1 spent on this project, approximately $3 goes into the economy, which means this project could have about a $1 billion effect on the Metro East economy.

12. **Q: What happens next?**
    A: we will submit an application for a Certificate of Need (CON) to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board this summer. The Review Board must approve plans for new hospitals and grant a CON.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital

AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM








# SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT

You've come to the right place to show your support of St. Elizabeth's plans to build a replacement hospital along I-64 in O'Fallon, Illinois. We ask that you answer the questions below and then fill in your contact information, sign the letter and click submit. Your letter of support will be shared with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board that will vote to approve our project.

Once the CON project is filed, if you have comments of opposition, you may submit them through the Review Board website at http://www.hfsrb.illinois.gov.

Please review your support letter carefully before submitting. Letters that are submitted will be posted on the Illinois Health Facilities and Review Board website, and will include your IP address. Once the email address you enter is used to send a support letter, the address cannot be used to send further letters. These steps are taken to avoid one individual from writing multiple letters by using a different signature or different addresses.

We appreciate your understanding of our desire to make this process as transparent as possible. We look forward to bringing you a new St. Elizabeth's to meet the changing health care needs of the Metro East. Thank you for your support.

About the Project
**Submit a Letter of Support**
Sample Letter
What is a CON?
Project News
About the Hospital

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FAQs

June 25, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: In Support of Project #14-_____ – St. Elizabeth's Hospital's Replacement Hospital in O'Fallon

Dear Ms. Avery:

*Choose your opening sentence.*

- I am writing in support of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.
- I support St. Elizabeth's plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.
- As a resident of the metro east region, I am writing in support of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois.
- In regard to St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital, I would like to share my support.
- I was pleased to learn of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a region-leading, replacement hospital in O'Fallon. I am writing in support of this project.

*How long have you lived in the Metro East and what is your role in the community? For example, where do you work or volunteer?*

*What is your connection to St. Elizabeth's Hospital? For example, have you or members your family been a patient and have certain hospital services been particularly beneficial to you or your family?*

*How will the O'Fallon replacement hospital benefit you and your community? For example, better location/access, enhanced technology, or another reason.*

*How long have you lived in the Metro East and what is your role in the community? For example, where do you work or volunteer?*

*What is your connection to St. Elizabeth's Hospital? For example, have you or members your family been a patient and have certain hospital services been particularly beneficial to you or your family?*

*How will the O'Fallon replacement hospital benefit you and your community? For example, better location/access, enhanced technology, or another reason.*

*State another reason why you support our project.*

*In closing, select a sentence to ask the Review Board to approve the project.*

- I firmly support approval of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois.
- I hope you'll vote to approve the St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital project in O'Fallon, Illinois.
- Thank you and I urge you to approve St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon to enhance health care for all residents of the Metro East region.
- I strongly encourage you to approve St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois.
- I firmly support approval of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Salutation Select... First Name Last Name

Address

City, State Zip

Phone

Email

Signature works best in the latest versions of Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari and Chrome.

Please finish your signature.

Preview Letter »

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**MEDIA STATEMENT FROM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**
June 25, 2014

*Comments may be attributed to Anne Thomure, director hospital and community relations*

Today's announcement by HSHS and St. Elizabeth's Hospital certainly comes as no surprise. We are concerned about the significant impact of this plan on access to healthcare services for Belleville residents, especially those who are medically underserved. We perceive this to be part of St. Elizabeth's systematic strategy to abandon downtown Belleville. Last fall, St. Elizabeth's was granted permission to discontinue its psychiatric services in Belleville.

Memorial, a locally owned and operated community hospital, is committed to serving the needs of Metro East residents with improved access to Memorial's MAGNET recognized healthcare services for residents at both the Belleville and Shiloh campuses. As the region's largest healthcare provider, Memorial is the only MAGNET recognized hospital in the Metro-East placing it among the top 5% of hospitals in the country for nursing excellence.

Memorial's continued investment in Belleville is evident with the construction of the Orthopedic and Neurosciences Center, a $24 million project as well as an extensive $6 million renovation to Memorial Care Center.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) will make the ultimate decision on St. Elizabeth's application to build another hospital less than two miles from our full-service acute care hospital in Shiloh. The geographic proximity of their proposed location to Memorial Hospital East would be a duplication of services.

Memorial Hospital East, a 94-all private suite hospital currently is under construction in Shiloh. Anticipated to admit its first patient in early 2016, plans for Memorial East were unanimously approved by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board in 2011 – making it one of only two new hospital projects approved by the State in more than 20 years.

It would be premature to make further comment on St. Elizabeth's plan until the application is filed and we have had an opportunity to review.

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# Eckert on St. Elizabeth's: 'We're just not going to wave good-bye to them'

By WILL BUSS

News-DemocratJune 25, 2014 Updated 47 minutes ago

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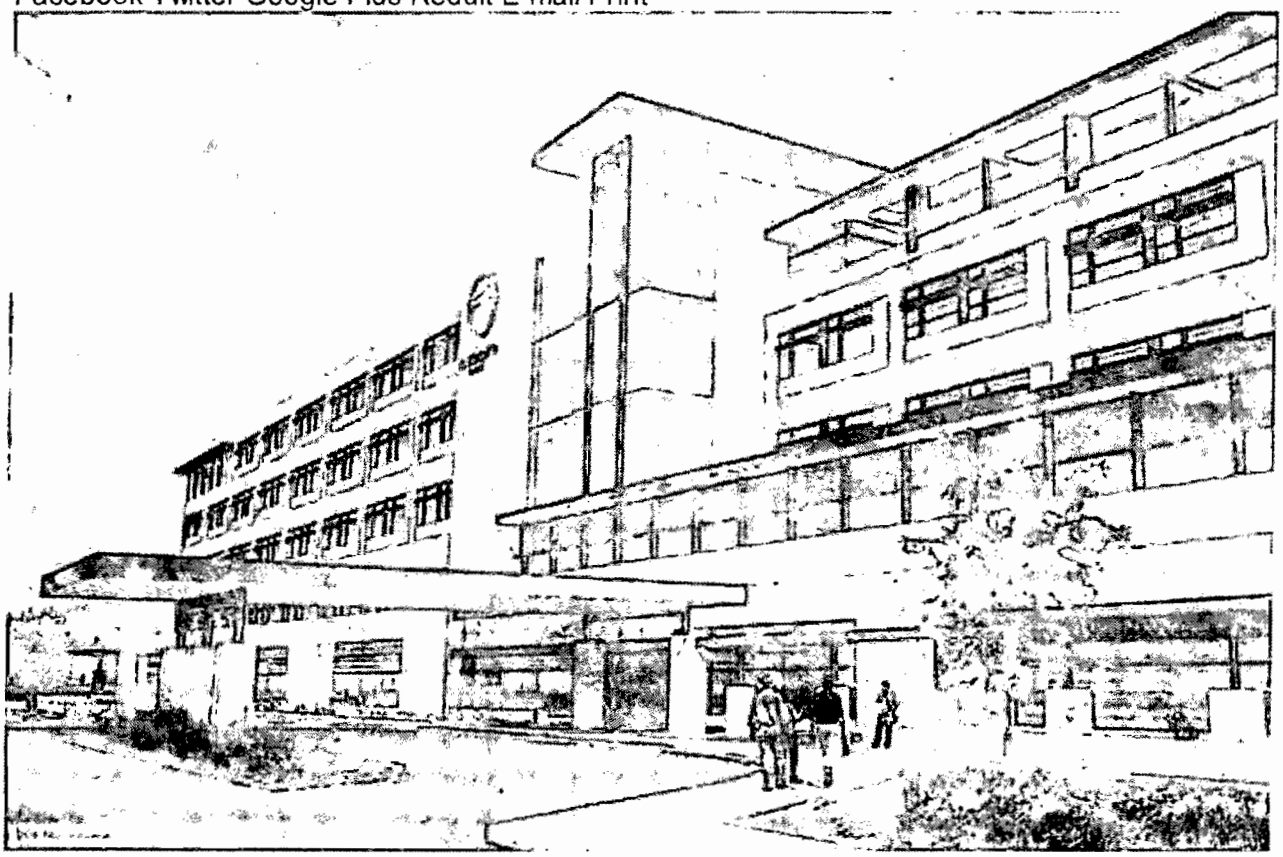
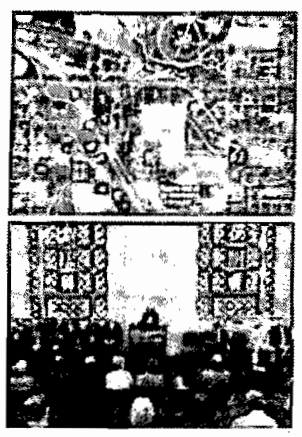


An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site. PROVIDED/BND



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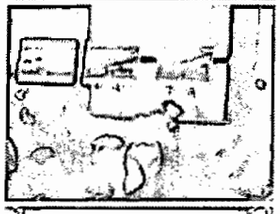
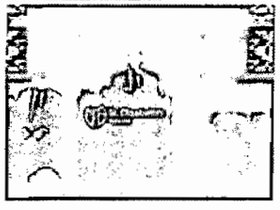
- 
- 

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From restaurants to City Hall, the announcement Wednesday that St. Elizabeth's Hospital would be relocating to O'Fallon was met with disappointment in downtown Belleville.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said it's a letdown, but he also said the city is not giving up on working with the hospital.

"We're just not going to wave good-bye to them," Eckert said. "They've been here for 140 years."

The hospital's parent, Hospital Sisters Health System in Springfield, plans to build a new hospital in O'Fallon, but continue to provide some healthcare services in Belleville. Eventually, though, the Belleville hospital building itself will be vacated.

Eckert said he has known about the hospital's plans to build a new hospital for years. He said he initially approached administrators about building a new hospital in town in 2005, after he was elected to his first term.

"We were very open," Eckert said. "They have been through six administrators since I have been mayor, in nine years. I have been to Springfield on more than one occasion, and we continue to be willing to work with them. But I'm very disappointed that they made this announcement today, because they've gone from not going to keep anything here to going to keep something here. They've been all over the place. It's just disappointing."

O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said the new hospital will spur further economic growth, which will benefit the entire metro-east region.

"They didn't pick us (O'Fallon) over Belleville; they picked the location," Graham said. "This is considered a victory for the metro-east."

He also said that if Belleville were located near the interstate, he thinks St. Elizabeth's would've remained within the city limits.

But Eckert said, "They're looking to go where there are high payers, higher wealth. That's what they're running from. And my question to the sisters and the Order is, 'Is this what this is all about?' I always thought that, if you look at their mission statement, it was about serving the needs of people who needed medical care, no matter what their capabilities were."

"It's just a disappointment," he said. "I think we knew this day was coming. It's a sad day."

Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce executive director John Lengerman also said he was disappointed. He said the hospital has been a good Chamber member, and he understands what their needs are, but he still hopes the hospital can work something out with the city.

"I know the city has actively been trying to pursue ways to help modernize the downtown campus, and we also proposed another site to keep the hospital in town," Lengerman said. "It seems to me that they had their sights set on that area and bought the property prior to us knowing what was going on, to be quite frank."

He added, "From the Chamber's 550 members, their leaving is a tremendous economic impact on us. All of those folks with stores, restaurants, gas stations and things of that nature in downtown, that will be a major disappointment and a major economic shortfall for those folks, if the certificate of need is approved and they move."

On Wednesday, hospital president and chief executive officer Maryann Reese said building a new hospital would be more cost-effective than further renovating the downtown Belleville building.

Reese said HSHS is preparing an application for a certificate of need. Under Illinois law, nursing homes and hospitals must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board before they can build a new medical building. Reese said she expects to apply for the certificate later this summer and anticipates the board to review it by the fall.

Downtown Belleville business owner Geri Boyer, who owns Kaskaskia Engineering Group at 208 E. Main St. on the first floor and operates a bed-and-breakfast and the Writers' Lofts residences upstairs, said she's concerned about the hospital's move. Boyer said the hospital's new location, located 7 miles away and off Interstate 64, would not serve the poor as well and fulfill the mission of the Catholic-owned hospital.

"I'm not only concerned as a business owner, but also as a Catholic who truly believes that we are all here to serve each other," Boyer said. "This is a terrible reflection on the mission of a Catholic hospital."

Corea Buck, general manager at Fischer's Restaurant in Belleville, said, "We hate to see anything move out of Belleville."

Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois executive director Ellen Kroehne said the new hospital would only further enhance the local healthcare sector, which she said is one of the largest economic engines in Southwestern Illinois.

"Improvements in these facilities strengthens the region's ability to develop good, quality healthcare that is good for the region," Kroehne said. "The improvement will help strengthen the region's ability to develop good, quality healthcare."

O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce president Jessica Lotz said the Chamber is excited about the hospital's proposed move and the "tremendous opportunities" it provides.

"A modern hospital significantly increases the likelihood that our community obtains healthcare on this side of the river," Lotz said. "We don't under-estimate the impact that having a state-of-the-art, modern hospital will have on our ability to recruit and retain top medical talent. So it's a win."

Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.

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# St. Elizabeth's Hospital opts for O'Fallon move; will 're-envision' Belleville campus

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratJune 25, 2014 Updated 53 minutes ago

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St. Elizabeth's to build new hospital in O'FallonA press conference was held Wednesday morning to announce that St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville will proceed with a replacement hospital to be built on Interstate 64 at Green Mount Road and Regency Park Drive in O'Fallon. Primary speaker during the event was President & CEO Maryann Reese. The press conference was held in the Centennial Room and was attended by over 100 people, including media, hospital administrators, the board of directors, politicians, other guests and dignitaries, and hospital staffers. View Full Gallery
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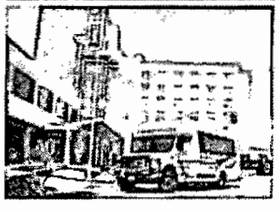
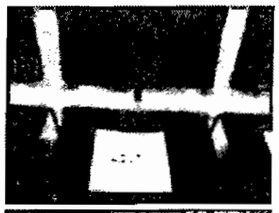
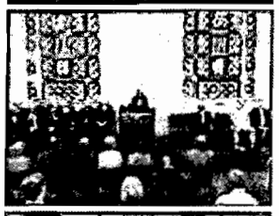
- 

- 
- 
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O'FALLON — St. Elizabeth's Hospital plans to build a new hospital in O'Fallon and eventually vacate the building housing the downtown Belleville hospital.

However, officials from St. Elizabeth's and its owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, plan to continue providing some healthcare services at the hospital's existing Belleville campus.

St. Elizabeth's president and CEO Maryann Reese said: "After years of planning, I am happy to announce that the St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors has approved building a regional hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land located seven miles from our current hospital campus."

She added: "This project will provide area residents with access to a state-of-the-art medical facility, boost the local economy, and enhance the quality of life for Southwestern Illinois. St. Elizabeth's also will re-envision our existing campus with input from Belleville residents."

In an interview after the announcement, Reese clarified that buildings surrounding the hospital, housing physicians offices and other healthcare services, will continue to be used. However, she said current plans

would lead to the current hospital building eventually closing.

About 100 people attended the announcement Wednesday morning at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. Hospital and HSHS staff were joined by community leaders. Dignitaries included O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham, state Sen. Bill Haine, and The Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Belleville.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert did not attend the announcement; on the stage at the ceremony was an empty seat with a placard bearing his name. He said he was invited Tuesday evening to the announcement, but he had already committed to attend the East-West Gateway Council of Governments meeting Wednesday morning in St. Louis.

In November 2011, HSHS purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million. The hospital announced plans at that time to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road. However, there had been no progress since then, and the hospital had declined to say whether it planned to keep its Belleville hospital open.

The hospital officials said the new replacement hospital will be more centrally located for the metro-east region served by the St. Elizabeth's, and closer to Scott Air Force Base. They said the new location will be "more accessible to underserved patients than the hospital's current campus."

Bill Lyke, chairman of the St. Elizabeth's board of directors, said the current Belleville building is "obsolete and out of date." The board's vote to proceed with the O'Fallon hospital was unanimous.

Reese added that the downtown Belleville campus is landlocked on 17 acres, and it would take twice as much time and money to retrofit the Belleville hospital facility for modern medical needs. "It just doesn't make sense," she said.

But Reese said St. Elizabeth's will continue to provide a range of outpatients services and maintain various support functions at its Belleville campus. Those services will include a same-day ambulatory clinic featuring radiology, lab services, physician offices and physical therapy.

Reese said she invites neighbors to try to transform the Belleville site's 17 acres to best serve Belleville.

"We stand by ready to work with Belleville officials," she said.

Dr. Len Glover, an emergency room physician at St. Elizabeth's, said the new hospital will allow for greater patient care: "Simply put, a hospital built in the 1950s does not have the capacity to support 21st century technology."

The new St. Elizabeth's will continue to be a teaching hospital and will provide 144 private patient rooms, an emergency department, operating rooms, an intensive care unit and inpatient rehabilitation. Inpatient and outpatient services offered at the new location will include cancer care, birthing suites, telehealth consultations, stroke care and heart care.

"In addition to providing the most advanced health care for the metro-east region, our new hospital will be better able to serve those who need us most," Reese said. "Our 140-year-long commitment to care for all residents in the metro-east region is as strong as ever, and the location for St. Elizabeth's will provide quicker and more convenient access for many residents currently living in underserved neighborhoods."

Before any new medical facility can be constructed, a permit -- called a certificate of need -- must be granted from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

St. Elizabeth's plans to file for the certificate of need later this summer and expects the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve it in the fall, Reese said.

Dale Stewart, of Southwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, said Wednesday that the project "could result in hundreds of jobs."

Sister Jomar Trstensky, of the Order of St. Francis, said St. Elizabeth's has honored the religious order's mission of serving the injured, sick and poor, regardless of race, color or creed, for more than 139 years.

"We have learned that the location of service does not define the ministry," Trstensky said.

St. Elizabeth's administrators said in 2012 they had no intention of leaving Belleville.

In April, the city of Belleville hired a Chicago attorney to help keep the hospital from leaving town.

On Wednesday, Eckert released a statement that said, "I am certainly disappointed that, despite repeated requests, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been unwilling to meet with the City of Belleville to explore a modernized hospital in Belleville."

Memorial Hospital, the other hospital located in Belleville, in recent years has continued to expand its Belleville campus and in January began construction on a 94-bed, all-private room hospital on Cross Street in Shiloh.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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STL ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# HOSPITAL

## St. Elizabeth's to move new hospital to O'Fallon, Ill.; Belleville mayor not happy

12 HOURS AGO • BY TARA KULASH TKULASH@POST-DISPATCH.COM 314-340-8114

**BELLEVILLE** • St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville will build a $300 million hospital in O'Fallon — to the dismay of Belleville's mayor.

Leaders of St. Elizabeth's, owned by Hospital Sisters Health System, announced Wednesday the plan for a new hospital with 144 private patient rooms on a 114-acre site at Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road. They will apply this summer to the Illinois Health Facilities Review Board, which must approve the plan for it to proceed.

They hope to begin construction by year's end. The Belleville campus, they said, will remain a medical facility with outpatient services.

In December, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said he and other city officials would adamantly oppose any plans to move the hospital. He called St. Elizabeth's a vital part of downtown Belleville's economy.

"I am certainly disappointed that, despite repeated requests, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been unwilling to meet with the City of Belleville to explore a modernized hospital in Belleville," Eckert said in a statement.

At a news conference at St. Elizabeth's, Bill Lyke, chairman of the hospital board of directors, called the current building "outdated."

He said doctors are trying to perform 21st-century medicine in a facility that was built in the mid-20th century. The Belleville campus, built in 1954, cannot keep up with technological advances, he said.

"Our community and everyone who lives here deserves access to modern health care that is delivered in the most efficient manner," Lyke said. "Unfortunately, the bottom line is that this building is obsolete and inefficient."

In his statement, Eckert noted that Belleville does not oppose a modernization of the hospital, but it "does oppose it being done in a way that abandons the downtown Belleville area, deprives Belleville's residents of the essential access to health care they have come to depend upon, and unnecessarily disrupts the commerce that has built up around this

hospital."

Maryann Reese, president and CEO of St. Elizabeth's, said the new hospital will be centrally located and is only seven miles from the Belleville campus.

Plus, she said, renovating the hospital would cost twice as much and take twice as long as building a new one.

Dale Stewart, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, said at the news conference the new hospital would provide hundreds of jobs for the area.

But, Eckert said in his statement, "I am confident that the benefits lauded by St. Elizabeth's (jobs, construction, continuity) can all be achieved in Belleville without the fundamental disruption to our downtown area and the Belleville community."

The hospital's move may not be a complete disruption to the area.

The Belleville campus will provide outpatient services, medical offices and support functions.

Reese said St. Elizabeth would seek "input from Belleville residents" to change its use of the current hospital. Its outpatient services would include a day clinic, physical and occupational therapy, radiology and offices for primary-care doctors.

The new purpose of the old campus will be similar to a St. Elizabeth's project that opened in 2006. The organization built a $7 million, 30,780-square-foot medical office in Columbia, Ill. This outpatient clinic also provided radiology and physical therapy, but St. Elizabeth's shut down the facility in 2011.

That same year, executives at St. Elizabeth's said they were making plans for a new hospital in the O'Fallon area. They weren't alone.

Darwin Miles, president of Miles Properties in O'Fallon, told the Post-Dispatch in December that he expected the Shiloh-O'Fallon area to become the Illinois "medical mile" right off Interstate 64.

Belleville Memorial Hospital is expected to open Memorial Hospital-East in 2016 in Shiloh. And St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare owns 111 acres close to the new St. Elizabeth site in O'Fallon.

June Fowler, spokeswoman for BJC, said BJC bought the property a few years ago "as a strategic opportunity for a future use, but we have not identified a use and don't have any plans for the property at this point."

She said St. Elizabeth's plan to build nearby will not influence BJC in its future decisions with the property.

Belleville's mayor said in his statement that he worries this move could be more related to "questions of payer-mix and service area than of maintaining access to care for those in need."

In a phone interview with the Post-Dispatch on Wednesday, he elaborated.

A few years ago, he said, St. Elizabeth's administration told him "that they needed to get out to an area with a higher payer mix, people with higher income."

At the news conference, Reese said the new location will increase accessibility to underserved people and strengthen the overall safety net in the Metro East area, "because as we know, underserved people live throughout all parts of our region."

Hospital Sisters Health System owns 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin, including facilities in Highland, Decatur, Litchfield and Springfield, Ill.

*Tim O'Neil of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.*

**Memorial: St. E's move could hurt 'underserved' residents | Top Stories...**
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Memorial Hospital, with its main campus in Belleville and constructing another hospital in Shiloh, reacted to news that St. Elizabeth's

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Beth MC Anderson, Tracy Renetz and Shirley Herman Gansert like this.

**Susan Cange** so what does it really mean? i am guessing that "underserved" residents could mean a lot of poor ppl could pay the price. there are ppl that probably had to take a bus or a cab or something like getting a ride to the hospital in belleville. sounds like it couldnt be a good thing for everyone
about an hour ago · Like

**Brian Seim** Well Memorial, time to step up for the underserved.
about an hour ago · Like · 11

**Wanda Lucas** So sad but I guess they'll be going to Memorial which I like it better
about an hour ago · Like

**Beth Tow-Gagen** How are they hurting "underserved" ?? Memorial serves the same, you can't not issue services to someone ...
about an hour ago · Like

**Philski Phil George** I hope it's on the bus route like St Elizabeth lots people ride bus to use it.
about an hour ago · Like

**Monica Sanders Pemberton** There are plans for more metro buses to serve the ofallon area once the hospital is built.
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**Mike Hayes** Politics of Belleville, decline of neighborhood, Mayor Eckert and his poor leadership, underfunded pensions, city 200 million in debt....and the list goes on
46 minutes ago · Like

**Genia Way** St. E's does a lot of charitable cases. Still lots of uninsured people. Beyond the imagination.
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Megan M. Moulton
*Social Media/Outreach Coordinator, Community Relations*
Memorial Hospital
4500 Memorial Drive
Belleville, IL 62226
(618) 257-5765

# St. Elizabeth's to move new hospital to O'Fallon, Ill.; Belleville mayor not happy

Paul Blecha

Driving seven extra miles around here can be the difference between living and dying. Not that the CEO of St. Elizabeth's gives a crap about us regular human beings.

Reply · Like · 1 · 23 hours ago

David McCrary · Top Commenter · Millikin University

Alot of factors at play here. #1 is the antiquated facility in downtown Belleville. If the proposed usage does pan out, the city or the county may be able to utilize it. For a town its size, Belleville was fortunate to have two full service hospitals. If you want to see a facility suited for the future, go visit St Clare in Fenton. It replaced the former St Josephs in Kirkwood. Quit whinning Mr Mayor. It's a done deal. Work with reality and make the best with what's left.

Reply · Like · 1 · June 25 at 10:35pm

Jack Kerbar · University of Missouri–St. Louis

Because it is no longer about mission....it is about money. Shame on the hospital sisters for abandoning their calling.

Reply · Like · 4 · June 25 at 7:51pm

D.a. Hamilton · Top Commenter · Dead weight at Necromancy

they need to get bigger and there is no room where they are. See, according to a good friend of mine who runs medical billing department for one of the largest hospital chains here in St. Louis, Medicare/ Medicaid, the more rooms a hospital has, the more medicare and medicaid will pay per bed. If you look at the huge hospital complexes here in St. Louis, they would never fill even half the beds they have unless there was a massive horrific event. So if the gov system oks more funds per room, then the hospitals can justify charging insured and uninsured patients a lot more per room. Its a scheme all devised to increase profit margins, not increase better health care for the masses.

Reply · Like · June 25 at 8:13pm

Mike Kiernan · Washington University in St. Louis

When they say it's not about the money, it's about the money!

Reply · Like · 1 · 22 hours ago

Dennis P. Quinn · Top Commenter · Roosevelt

Maybe the Mayor should file a complain with God.

Reply · Like · 3 · June 25 at 3:04pm

D.a. Hamilton · Top Commenter · Dead weight at Necromancy

or pray, that always seem to do the trick. Just prey to God and you will get what you want..

Reply · Like · 1 · June 25 at 8:13pm

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# CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

**MARK W. ECKERT,** Mayor
101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-2105
Phone: 618-233-6810


June 25 2014

Due to the St. Elizabeth's media announcement this morning.

I am certainly disappointed that, despite repeated requests, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been unwilling to meet with the City of Belleville to explore a modernized hospital in Belleville. The City of Belleville does not oppose a modernization of St. Elizabeth's Hospital; however, the City does oppose it being done in a way that abandons the downtown Belleville area, deprives Belleville's residents of the essential access to healthcare they have come to depend upon, and unnecessarily disrupts the commerce that has built up around this hospital over the last 100+ years. I am further concerned that what is motivating this proposed move could be more related to questions of payer-mix and service area than of maintaining access to care for those in need. Nevertheless, I am confident that the benefits lauded by St. Elizabeth's (jobs, construction, continuity) can all be achieved in Belleville without the fundamental disruption to our downtown area and the Belleville community. The City of Belleville remains prepared to discuss how to pursue a new St. Elizabeth's in Belleville and, if necessary, the City of Belleville remains prepared to voice our opposition to abandoning Belleville's downtown area.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert
Mayor

Post 6-26-14 A1

# O'Fallon, Ill., to get new hospital

## St. Elizabeth's in Belleville will become an outpatient facility.

**BY TARA KULASH**
tkulash@post-dispatch.com
314-340-8114

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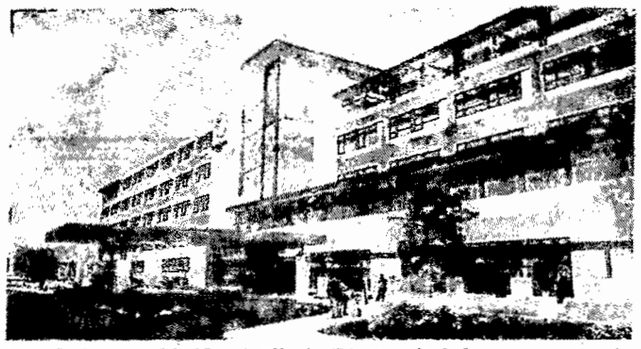
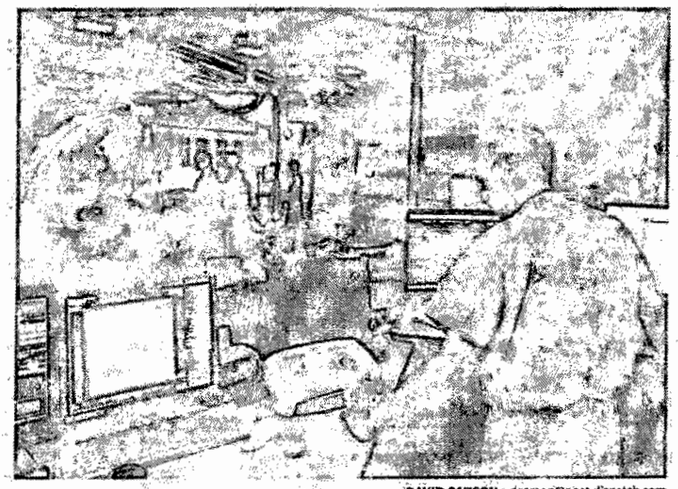
**See HOSPITAL • Page A5**



**A rendering provided by St. Elizabeth's Hospital shows a proposed 144-bed facility in O'Fallon, Ill.**

FROM A1



DAVID CARSON • dcarson@post-dispatch.com

**Manny Pena, a radiologic technologist, monitors an angioplasty Wednesday in a procedural suite at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. A hospital official said St. Elizabeth's is inefficient and obsolete.**

# HOSPITAL • FROM A1

## Construction could begin on the new facility before the end of the year

Board, which must approve the plan for it to proceed.

They hope to begin construction by year's end. The Belleville campus, they said, will remain a medical facility with outpatient services.

In December, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said he and other city officials would adamantly oppose any plans to move the hospital. He called St. Elizabeth's a vital part of downtown Belleville's economy.

"I am certainly disappointed that, despite repeated requests, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been unwilling to meet with the City of Belleville to explore a modernized hospital in Belleville," Eckert said in a statement.

At a news conference at St. Elizabeth's, Bill Lyke, chairman of the hospital board of directors, called the current building "outdated."

He said doctors are trying to perform 21st-century medicine in a facility that was built in the mid-20th century. The Belleville campus, built in 1954, cannot keep up with technological advances, he said.

"Our community and everyone who lives here deserves access to modern health care that is delivered in the most efficient manner," Lyke said. "Unfortunately, the bottom line is that this building is obsolete and inefficient."

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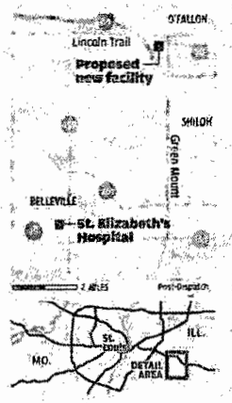


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That same year, executives at St. Elizabeth's said they were making plans for a new hospital in the O'Fallon area. They weren't alone.

Darwin Miles, president of Miles Properties in O'Fallon, told the Post-Dispatch in December that he expected the Shiloh-O'Fallon area to become the Illinois "medical mile" right off Interstate 64.

Belleville Memorial Hospital is expected to open Memorial Hospital-East in 2016 in Shiloh. And St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare owns 111 acres close to the new St. Elizabeth site in O'Fallon.

June Fowler, spokeswoman for BJC, said BJC bought the property a few years ago "as a strategic opportunity for a future use, but we have not identified a use and don't have any plans for the property at this point."

She said St. Elizabeth's plan to build nearby will not influence BJC in its future decisions with the property.

Belleville's mayor said in his statement that he worries this move could be more related to "questions of payer-mix and service area than of maintaining access to care for those in need."

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Hospital Sisters Health System owns 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin, including facilities in Highland, Decatur, Litchfield and Springfield, Ill.

Tim O'Neil of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.

# Stay or go?

**Should the state let St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville relocate to O'Fallon? Send us a letter explaining why or why not so we can publish it.**

**Letters should be 250 words or less. Please include your name, address and phone number.**

**E-mail to: *letters@bnd.com***

BND 6-26-14 A4

**From the St. Louis Business Journal**
**:http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/blog/health-care/2014/06/memorial-hospital-criticizes-st-elizabeth-s-move.html**

Jun 26, 2014, 2:35pm CDT Updated: Jun 26, 2014, 2:44pm CDT

# Memorial Hospital criticizes St. Elizabeth's move to O'Fallon

Samantha Liss
Reporter- St. Louis Business Journal
Email | Twitter

St. Elizabeth Hospital administrators on Wednesday said they would move forward with plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, seven miles from the hospital's downtown Belleville campus.

But officials from Memorial Hospital, one of St. Elizabeth's competitors, chastised St. Elizabeth's expansion to O'Fallon, which adds to the growing criticism administrators are receiving from community officials, including Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert.

"We perceive this to be part of St. Elizabeth's systematic strategy to abandon downtown Belleville," Memorial Hospital spokeswoman Anne Thomure said.

St. Elizabeth President and CEO Maryann Reese said the downtown campus will have to be "re-envisioned" but not abandoned. Reese did say the hospital plans to submit a Certificate of Need to Illinois state health regulators later this summer to discontinue inpatient services at its Belleville campus with plans to submit a separate CON to essentially move all those inpatient beds to O'Fallon.

Memorial Hospital, which also has a hospital in Belleville, is currently building a 94-bed satellite hospital in Shiloh, Illinois, just one mile from St. Elizabeth's proposed project.

"The geographic proximity of their proposed location to Memorial Hospital East would be a duplication of services," Thomure said in a statement.

But Reese disagrees.

"There's is a satellite hospital not a replacement facility, so they will not have all of the services of a full-service hospital and that's a huge differentiator," Reese said.

For months, Eckert said he has been trying to meet with hospital administrators to come up

with a way to maintain a majority of St. Elizabeth's operations in Belleville. He fears the move to O'Fallon might disrupt the business that feeds off the foot traffic at the downtown hospital.

But he said he hasn't been able to get St. Elizabeth's to come to the table.

Reese disputes that. She said they have had regular "quarterly meetings" since she joined St. Elizabeth's about three years ago.

"I'm not sure why he would be saying (otherwise)," Reese said.

Read more about steps the city is taking to keep St. Elizabeth's in downtown Belleville in this week's Business Journal.

Health care, business of sports

News Democrat

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# Memorial: St. E's move could hurt 'underserved' residents

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratJune 26, 2014 Updated 45 minutes ago

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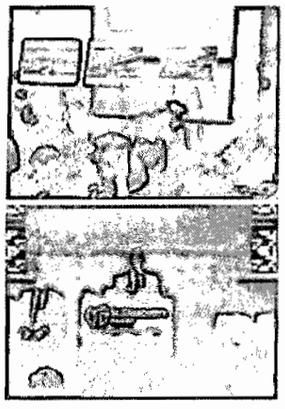
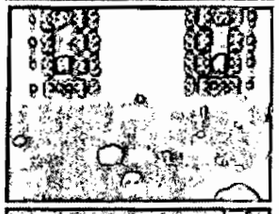
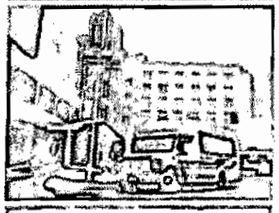
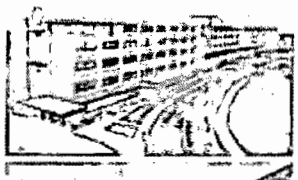
A shuttle near the front of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. DERIK HOLTMANN — Derik Holtmann/BND







St.Elizabeth's
Hospital

- 
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Memorial Hospital, with its main campus in Belleville and constructing another hospital in Shiloh, reacted to news that St. Elizabeth's Hospital plans to close its Belleville building after building a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

"We perceive this to be part of St. Elizabeth's systematic strategy to abandon downtown Belleville," said Anne Thomure, spokeswoman for Memorial Hospital. "Last fall, St. Elizabeth's was granted permission to discontinue its psychiatric services in Belleville."

She added, "We are concerned about the significant impact of this plan on access to healthcare services for Belleville residents, especially those who are medically underserved."

Maryann Reese, St. Elizabeth's president and chief executive officer, said in response: "This project is about caring for the whole region, and the replacement hospital is only seven miles away from here. St. Elizabeth's is not leaving Belleville and there will be healthcare services provided at our St. Elizabeth's Health Center-Belleville."

On Wednesday, St. Elizabeth's announced plans to build a replacement hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land in O'Fallon. The $300 million, 144-bed hospital will be located north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

Reese said St. Elizabeth's move won't hurt anyone's access to healthcare.

"We're actually expanding our mission to more people. St. Elizabeth's is committed to serving residents of the metro-east region."

St. Elizabeth's conducted a study on drive times and found that "the drive times to our new location will decrease for two-thirds of residents from low-income neighborhoods in the region," Reese said.

The proposed replacement hospital for St. Elizabeth's is located less than two miles from Memorial Hospital-

East, a 94-bed hospital that is under construction in Shiloh.

That geographic proximity of the two hospitals, Thomure said, "would be a duplication of services."

Reese responded: "St. Elizabeth's is a full-service replacement hospital, and the full-service replacement hospital will offer more than Memorial's satellite facility. St. Elizabeth's looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Memorial."

Memorial has continued to expand its Belleville campus, with recent construction of the $24 million Orthopedic and Neurosciences Center and a $6 million renovation to Memorial Care Center, Thomure said.

Before St. Elizabeth's can begin construction of the replacement hospital, it must receive Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approval, which is called a certificate of need.

St. Elizabeth's officials plan to file a request for the certificate of need by the end of the summer and expect approval by the board in the fall, Reese said Wednesday.

Thomure said: "It would be premature to make further comment on St. Elizabeth's plan until the application is filed and we have had an opportunity to review."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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## Join The Conversation

Belleville News-Democrat is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

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## HOSPITAL SPAT

Post 6-27-14 B1

Belleville Memorial Hospital criticizes St. Elizabeth's proposed move to O'Fallon, Ill. **Story, B6**



6-27-14



# Memorial Hospital protests St. Elizabeth's planned move

**BY TARA KULASH** • tkulash@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8114

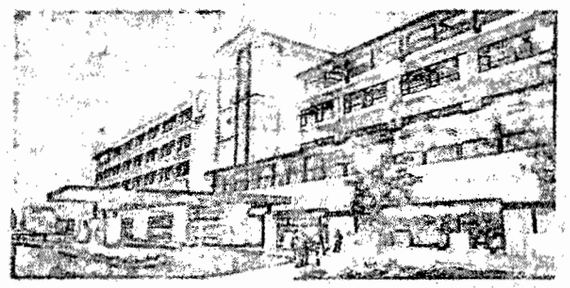
A day after St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville announced plans to move to O'Fallon, Ill., another Metro East hospital is publicly disapproving.

Echoing the Belleville mayor's dissent on Wednesday, Belleville Memorial Hospital emailed a statement to the media on Thursday, accusing St. Elizabeth's of having a "systematic strategy to abandon downtown Belleville," which could hurt the town's medically underserved residents.

Memorial also said St. Elizabeth's new hospital would be a "duplication" of the services that the rival will offer at its Memorial Hospital East in Shiloh, which is under construction. That new facility, which should open in early 2016, is situated less than two miles away from St. Elizabeth's proposed hospital site.

St. Elizabeth's officials had announced Wednesday that they planned to open a new hospital seven miles away from its current site. The hospital has been a presence there since 1875.

On Thursday, Maryann Reese, president and CEO of St. Elizabeth's, rejected Memorial's characterization of the move. The CEO told the Post-Dispatch that the drive time to the new location, at Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road, would decrease for two-thirds of residents in low-income neighborhoods in the region.



ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL

**St. Elizabeth's Hospital is planning to build a 144-bed facility in O'Fallon, Ill. The site is less than two miles from Belleville Memorial Hospital's new center in Shiloh.**

Reese pointed out that the Belleville campus would remain a medical facility that provided outpatient services.

The CEO also said the project would provide care for the whole region, not just Belleville.

"St. Elizabeth's full-service hospital will offer more than Memorial's satellite facility, and I want to add that St. Elizabeth's looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Memorial," Reese said.

# Opinions

OUR VIEW

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Memorial Hospital, with its main campus in Belleville and constructing another hospital in Shiloh, reacted to news that St. Elizabeth's...

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Steve Henderson, Pete Chadwick, Sheryl Jones and 8 others like this.

**Susan Cange** so what does it really mean? i am guessing that "underserved" residents could mean a lot of poor ppl could pay the price. there are ppl that probably had to take a bus or a cab or something like getting a ride to the hospital in belleville. sounds like it couldnt be a good thing for everyone.
17 hours ago · Like

**Brian Seim** Well Memorial, time to step up for the underserved.
17 hours ago · Like · 18

**Wanda Lucas** So sad but I guess they'll be going to Memorial which I like it better
17 hours ago · Like · 1

**Beth Tow-Gagen** How are they hurting "underserved" ?? Memorial serves the same, you can't not issue services to someone....
16 hours ago · Like

**Philski Phil George** I hope it's on the bus route like St Elizabeth lots people ride bus to use it.
16 hours ago · Like

**Monica Sanders Pemberton** There are plans for more metro buses to serve the ofallon area once the hospital is built.

**Mike Hayes** Politics of Belleville, decline of neighborhood, Mayor Eckert and his poor leadership, underfunded pensions, city 200 million in debt....and the list goes on.

16 hours ago · Like · 3

**Genia Way** St. E's does a lot of charitable cases. Still lots of uninsured people. Beyond the imagination.

15 hours ago · Edited · Like · 4

**Bonnie Allison** Oh poor memorial hospital. They better hire a big team of lawyers so they can sue the underserved when they can't pay their bills.

15 hours ago · Like · 6

**Bonnie Allison** And, gasp, where will they send their mentally ill underserved? On a bus to ofallon.

15 hours ago · Like · 3

**Rebekah J. Shaffer Williams** Sounds like Memorial is upset that some of the downtown homeless will be gracing their campus instead of St E's.

14 hours ago · Like · 5

**Barb McGhee** I'm not sure what "underserved" means. St Elizabeth's serves a lot of people, not just the charity cases. Memorial Hospital has it's share of the uninsured too and will need to revamp and enlarge its ER to accommodate the surge that will happen. It's really busy now already. For me in west Belleville, it's a long stressful drive through gobs of traffic in order to get to Shiloh and O'Fallon. I, along with a lot of others will just have to join the masses at Memorial in Belleville.

14 hours ago · Like

**Lynn Veto** Who abandoned the mentally ill clients first....not St Elizabeths

13 hours ago · Like · 5

**Joan Reeves** They suck anyways. Adios.

13 hours ago · Like

**Beth Carril** When my dad was there he was "underserved". I have my own meaning of that word when it comes to St. E's!!!!!

10 hours ago · Like

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# Memorial: St. E's move could hurt 'underserved' residents

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratJune 26, 2014 Updated 15 hours ago

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Memorial Hospital says St. Elizabeth's Hospital wants to "abandon downtown Belleville" by moving to O'Fallon, and it could limit access to healthcare for people who are "medically underserved."

Memorial, which has its main campus in Belleville and is constructing another hospital in Shiloh, reacted to news that St. Elizabeth's plans to close its Belleville building after building a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

"We perceive this to be part of St. Elizabeth's systematic strategy to abandon downtown Belleville," said Anne Thomure, spokeswoman for Memorial Hospital. "Last fall, St. Elizabeth's was granted permission to discontinue its psychiatric services in Belleville."

"We are concerned about the significant impact of this plan on access to healthcare services for Belleville residents, especially those who are medically underserved."

Maryann Reese, St. Elizabeth's president and chief executive officer, said in response: "This project is about caring for the whole region, and the replacement hospital is only seven miles away from here. St. Elizabeth's is not leaving Belleville and there will be healthcare services provided at our St. Elizabeth's Health Center-Belleville."

On Wednesday, St. Elizabeth's announced plans to build a replacement hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land in O'Fallon. The $300 million, 144-bed hospital will be located north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

Reese said St. Elizabeth's move won't hurt anyone's access to healthcare.

"We're actually expanding our mission to more people. St. Elizabeth's is committed to serving residents of the metro-east region."

St. Elizabeth's conducted a study on drive times and found that "the drive times to our new location will

decrease for two-thirds of residents from low-income neighborhoods in the region," Reese said.

The proposed replacement hospital for St. Elizabeth's is located less than two miles from Memorial Hospital-East, a 94-bed hospital that is under construction in Shiloh.

That geographic proximity of the two hospitals, Thomure said, "would be a duplication of services."

Reese responded: "St. Elizabeth's is a full-service replacement hospital, and the full-service replacement hospital will offer more than Memorial's satellite facility. St. Elizabeth's looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Memorial."

Memorial has continued to expand its Belleville campus, with recent construction of the $24 million Orthopedic and Neurosciences Center and a $6 million renovation to Memorial Care Center, Thomure said.

Before St. Elizabeth's can begin construction of the replacement hospital, it must receive Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approval, which is called a certificate of need.

St. Elizabeth's officials plan to file a request for the certificate of need by the end of the summer and expect approval by the board in the fall, Reese said Wednesday.

Thomure said: "It would be premature to make further comment on St. Elizabeth's plan until the application is filed and we have had an opportunity to review."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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## Join The Conversation

Belleville News-Democrat is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

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## HEALTH CARE

Reporter
Samantha Liss

SLISS@BIZJOURNALS.COM 314-421-8335 @STLBIZSLISS

# Tempers flare over hospital expansion in Metro East

Not everyone is celebrating St. Elizabeth's $300 million expansion in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Belleville city officials are preparing to voice their opposition to the project as soon as hospital officials seek approval for the new facility from Illinois state health regulators, according to Mark Silberman, the attorney hired by the city to work on the issue.

For years, the 338-bed St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville has planned to expand into O'Fallon. In 2011, St. Elizabeth's owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, purchased more than 100 acres for $18 million in O'Fallon, and on Wednesday St. Elizabeth officials finally announced they would add a new 144-private-room hospital on that land near Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road.

*Mark Silberman*

Belleville city officials, concerned that St. Elizabeth's would abandon the Belleville campus entirely, voted unanimously in April to hire Silberman, a partner with law firm Duane Morriss, to help stop St. Elizabeth from fleeing.

"We are not just going to wave goodbye 'hem," said Belleville Mayor Mark Eck- 'We're going to oppose the Certificate .ieed request."

St. Elizabeth hospital officials won't say if they plan to make O'Fallon the main hospital, although they refer to it as a "replacement hospital." And a statement this week from hospital officials said the Belleville facility will "provide a range of outpatient services and maintain various support functions."

Silberman said hospital executives have not agreed to sit down with city officials to explain the intent of the O'Fallon project or the future for the Belleville campus. "Our preference would be to have those conversations, but absent the ability to do that, Belleville will evaluate raising its concerns through the appropriate processes available," Silberman said.

When asked if he would pursue legal action against St. Elizabeth's, Silberman said, "I have not even begun to evaluate that or discuss that with the client."

St. Elizabeth's move to O'Fallon will place it just miles away from Memorial Hospital's new $124 million, 94-bed hospital in Shiloh, Illinois, that is now under construction. Memorial also operates a 316-bed hospital in Belleville. When Memorial Hospital was seeking approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB) in 2011 to build the Shiloh facility, St. Elizabeth's filed a letter with the state opposing the expansion, but Belleville city officials testified in favor of the project.

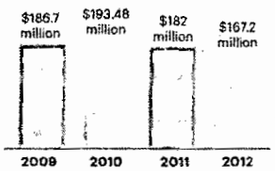
Eckert said Memorial Hospital officials promised the city they would keep Belleville as its flagship campus.

Memorial Hospital officials could not be reached for comment.

St. Elizabeth's, led by President and CEO Maryann Reese, reported revenue of $167.2 million for 2012.

**HOSPITAL REVENUE**

**ST. ELIZABETH**




SOURCE: ST. LOUIS BUSINESS JOURNAL RESEARCH

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**Sharron A. Lindsey**
Belleville

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Belleville 6/29/14

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Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

# Memorial: St. E's move could hurt

## Says hospital wants to 'abandon downtown,' could affect those 'medically underserved'

BY MARIA HASENSTAB
*News-Democrat*

"Memorial Hospital says St. Elizabeth's Hospital wants to 'abandon downtown' Belleville by moving to O'Fallon, and it could limit access to health care for people who are 'medically underserved.'"

Memorial, which has its main campus in Belleville and is constructing another hospital in Shiloh, reacted to news that St. Elizabeth's plans to close its Belleville building after building a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

"We perceive this to be part of St. Elizabeth's systematic strategy to abandon downtown Belleville," said Anne Thomure, spokeswoman for Memorial Hospital. "Last fall, St. Elizabeth's was granted permission to discontinue its psychiatric services in Belleville."

"We are concerned about the significant impact of this plan on access to health care services for Belleville residents, especially those who are medically underserved."

Maryann Reese, St. Elizabeth's president and chief executive officer, said in response: "This project is about caring for the whole region, and the replacement hospital is only seven miles

6/27/14

*Please see* **HOSPITAL, A2**

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- Read a PDF of Memorial's statement
- Watch videos from the announcement
- See a gallery of photos
- See previous stories

BND.COM

A SELECTION FROM THIS PAST WEEK'S COMMENTS. READ MORE ONLINE AT BND.COM.

*St. Elizabeth's announced plans to move to a replacement hospital in O'Fallon while keeping some services in downtown Belleville. Readers reacted:*

Why does O'Fallon need two hospitals when all along it had none and Belleville will just have outpatient offices? And people who already drive far from the smaller towns will have to drive even farther to get their medical needs taken care of. Also will St. E's motto change now that they are leaving the sick, the needy and the poor behind?

**Amy J. Iverson**

Why has Belleville always needed two hospitals when most surrounding communities have none? Belleville will still have a full-care facility (Memorial Hospital). St. E's mission remains the same. Since when do only "the sick, the needy and the poor" live in Belleville? Why is this the only area that doesn't understand that interstate access to a hospital is the ideal situation for anyone needing emergency care? Virtually every hospital in St. Louis is less than five minutes from an interstate. In our area, it could take 15 minutes or more to get from the interstate to the ER. Is this good for O'Fallon? Yes. Is this great for the entire metro-east community? Absolutely.

**John Drolet**

The older building in Belleville would make a great center for the homeless like the one that Larry Rice runs in St. Louis. What a wonderful way to repurpose the mission and building of St. Elizabeth's.

**Jeannette Radtorff**

I guess I will make Belleville Memorial my hospital. St. E's could have found another site in Belleville since Memorial is already building in Shiloh. We're not talking car dealerships.

**Bill Koehler**

It's just the next death nail to Belleville.

**Joseph Paul**

And I thought traffic at Greenmount and Frank Scott was bad already.

**Clay Awsumb**

Not so fast, Sherlock! Let the fight continue at state level. There is absolutely no reason to OK this move on the basis of need and thus permit a certificate of need to be issued. On the contrary, Memorial is well into its building and the O'Fallon area does not need two competing facilities. On the other hand, East St. Louis has no hospital and where do you expect the indigent and gunshot victims to go? They will overwhelm Memorial Hospital quickly.

**Joe Turner**

Belleville is a dying town. Everybody knows it. Mayor Mark Eckert is just doing a CYA for his next election. So he can say: "I did everything I could do, don't blame me." The people who run St. E's are smarter than the idiots who run Belleville, case closed.

**Keitha Arthur**

What do you think will happen to O'Fallon when both hospitals are there? Plus I've heard that BJC owns property out that way. That is probably why Memorial and St. E's want to go there. Belleville is the county seat, and I don't think it is a dying town. If Lindenwood can invest in Belleville, then I think others will want to also.

**Mary F. Gagen**

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**Joseph M. Reichert**
Belleville

BND 6-24-14

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# What's the next step for St. Elizabeth's Hospital?

By WILL BUSS

News-DemocratJune 28, 2014 Updated 12 hours ago

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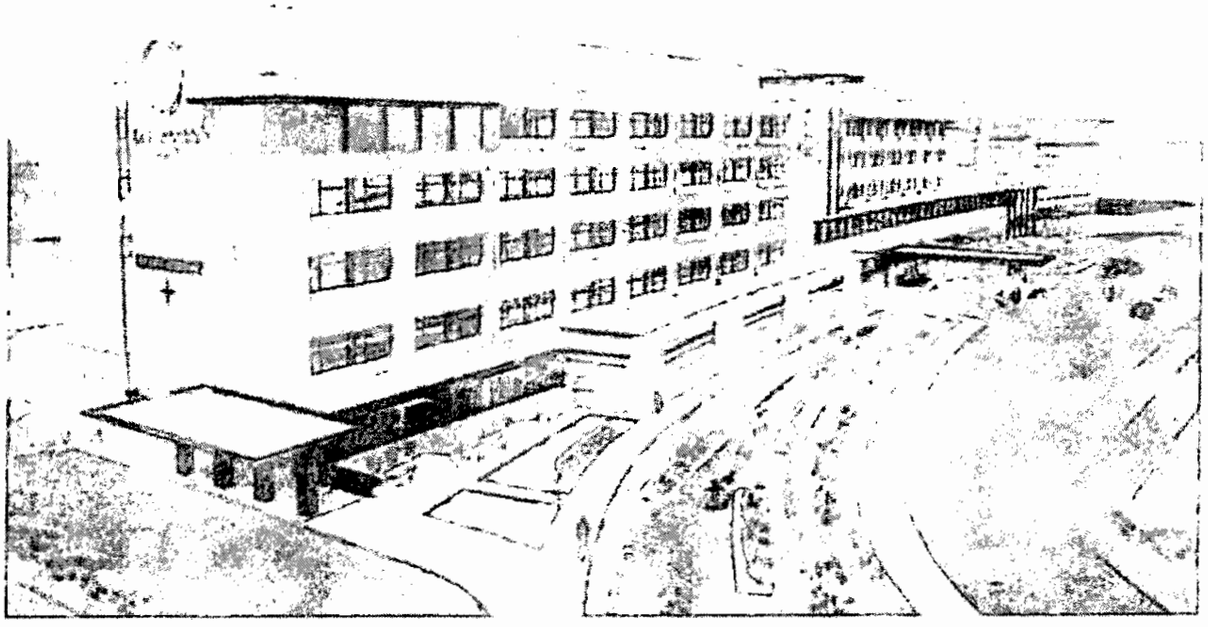
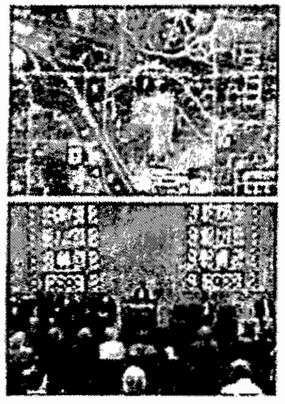
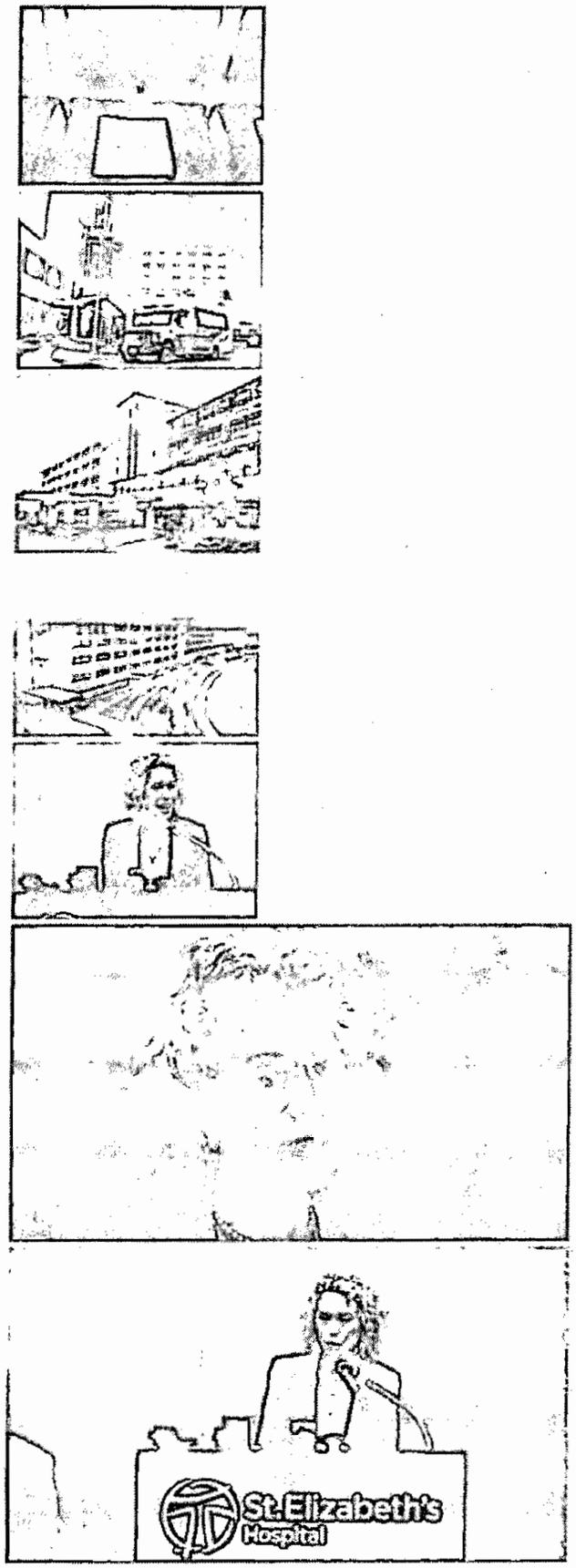
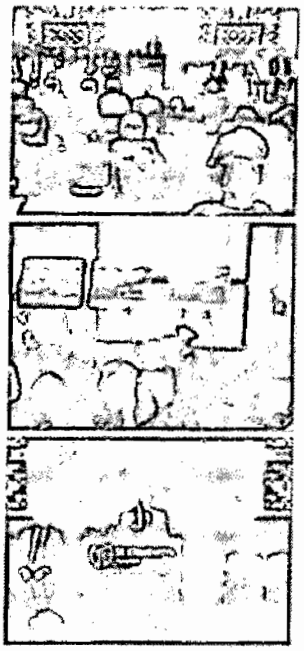


An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site. PROVIDED/BND




St.Elizabeth's
Hospital



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- File: READ St. Elizabeth's announcement

Before St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Belleville can build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road in O'Fallon and close its downtown Belleville hospital, the hospital must secure a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Under Illinois law, nursing homes, hospitals and other medical centers must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board before they can build, expand or close a medical building.

The following are some answers to questions about the certificate of need process:

What is the purpose of the certificate of need?

According to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, the certificate of need is "designed to restrain rising health care costs by preventing unnecessary construction or modification of health care facilities." It was established by the Health Facilities Planning Act. The board also states that the certificate of need "promotes cost containment, better management and improved planning by health care providers."

Who is on the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board?

The board is comprised of nine independent members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services and the directors of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and Department of Public Health are non-voting members.

How do hospitals obtain a certificate of need?

At least five of the nine members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board must approve the request in order to receive the certificate of need. According to the board, the applicant "must justify that a proposed project is needed and financially and economically feasible." The applicant "will have to show need and reasons for opening or closing," said board administrator Courtney Avery. "That is up to hospital to provide that and make the case that this is the best possible use of that space and there is a

need in the area."

How long does it take to receive a certificate of need?

St. Elizabeth's Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Maryann Reese said the hospital plans to file for the certificate of need later this summer and expects the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve it in the fall. In April 2011, Memorial Hospital in Belleville announced it was seeking a certificate of need to build a satellite hospital in Shiloh and received its permit at the board's meeting held two months later.

How are the board meetings conducted?

Applicants are invited to speak before the board and present their arguments for their request. Board members can then ask questions of the applicant to help determine the board's decision. In June 2011, when Memorial Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Mark Turner formally presented a request to build a satellite hospital in Shiloh during a board meeting in Joliet, board member Dr. James Burden questioned Turner and fellow presenters from Memorial Hospital over the low percentage of beds in use throughout metro-east hospitals. Burden pointed to the recent closing of Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital in East St. Louis and also questioned the Belleville hospital's commitment to the metro-east and likened their cause to riverboat gamblers. Turner responded by reminding Burden and fellow board members that Memorial Hospital was already investing in its Belleville property by building a new orthopedic and neurosciences center, which has since opened, and had been spending $15 million a year in capital improvements. Today, Memorial Hospital-East in under construction in Shiloh.

In the June 2011 board meeting, both Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert and Shiloh Mayor Jim Vernier spoke on behalf of Memorial Hospital in support of the proposed satellite hospital. Prior to the board meeting, administrators from St. Elizabeth's Hospital issued a letter objecting to Memorial Hospital's proposal and stating that Memorial Hospital's application fails to meet state criteria for expanding. At that time, officials from St. Elizabeth's Hospital said that this opposition was not an anti-competitive reaction.

Can the public attend and comment?

Yes. The board has designated a maximum of 30 minutes for public participation on the day of each board meeting. Anyone who wants to comment must pre-register at least seven days prior to the scheduled board meeting. Pre-registration forms are available on the board's website: www.hfsrb.illinois.gov. Each speaker is allotted a maximum of two minutes.

Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 618-239-2526.

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## Join The Conversation

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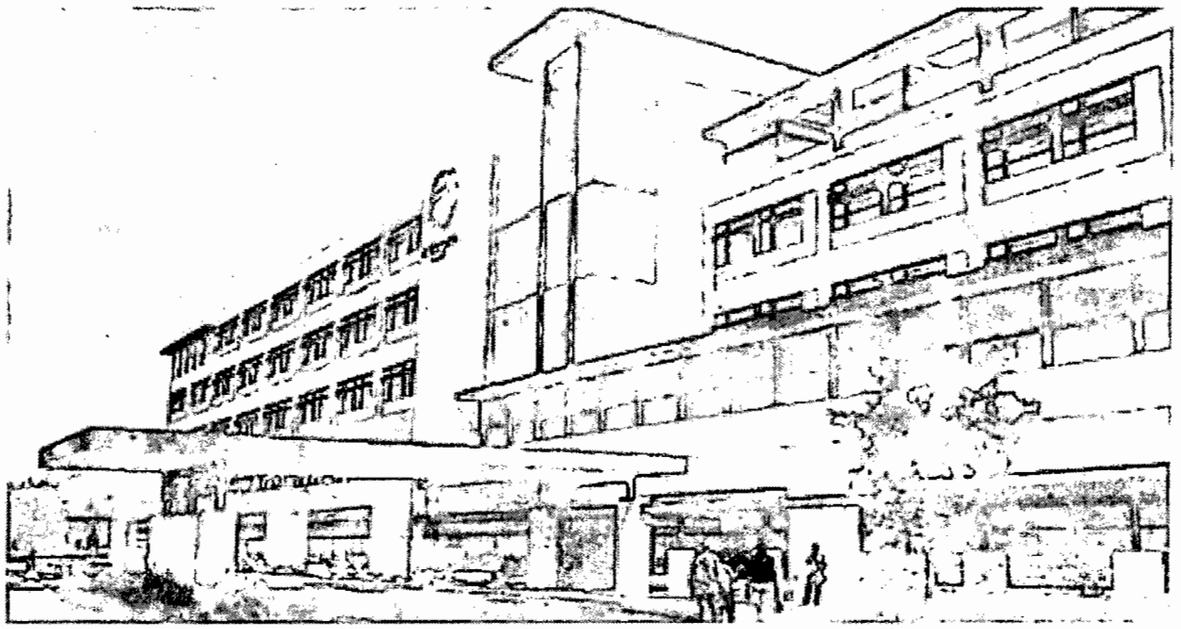
Commenting FAQs | Terms of Service

Today's Circulars

**Belleville News-Democrat** shared a link.
Yesterday

What's up next for St. E's? http://ow.ly/yzeSn



**What's the next step for St. Elizabeth's Hospital? | Top Stories | News...**
www.bnd.com

Before St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Belleville can build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road...

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2 Shares

Michael Wright, Amy Ballance, Heather Simmons and 14 others like this.

**Patrick S. Phillips** Don't build it.
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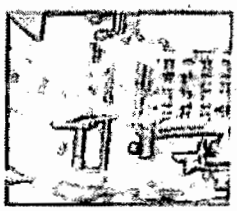


## St. E's flees to O'Fallon

St. Elizabeth's Hospital has decided that it is going to re-envision the use of its Belleville location and move to a new facility in O'Fallon; they have declared the hospital obsolete. This translated most likely means it has no practical use as a health facility. It's amazing to me that other facilities in St. Louis, although older, can continue to modernize and expand on their grounds without abandoning their roots. I don't believe St. E's is landlocked as there is considerable acreage across the creek that could be acquired. I hope that the hospital will be demolished so that the site can some day serve a useful purpose rather than languish for years as an eyesore as did the old Christian Welfare Hospital in East St. Louis and as St. Mary's in East St. Louis is doing now. There is a name for what St. Elizabeth's is doing, it's called "white flight."

## Reasons to leave

It was a sad day for Belleville to hear St. Elizabeth's Hospital plans to move. But no surprise, the writing has been on the wall for years. You cannot walk outside the hospital without gagging from the stench of the sewer lines. The streets around the hospital are in terrible condition. Throw in the raucous noise from the racetrack every Friday night, and it's no wonder that St. Elizabeth's or any business doesn't want to stick around under these unfavorable conditions. The closing of St. Elizabeth's Hospital will be the demise of Belleville, as all businesses will feel the ripple effect of less money in the local economy. There is a consolation prize; Belleville will be known as the new East St. Louis.

## Politics at play

I want to thank the fine Democratic organization in Belleville for running off St. Elizabeth's Hospital. These are the same people who destroyed East St. Louis and left it in a shambles then blamed it on the black folks. Then these same people moved to Belleville. And now look at Belleville, most of the car franchises and many businesses have left Belleville. Look at the way the housing situation has been handled. The politicians won't be happy until Belleville has been destroyed and the rest of St. Clair County. Can you tell me anything good that these people have done? Not voting is to blame. Get with it, voters. Kick them out of office if you live here. Get over the stupid loyalty to Democrats.

## Let there be more art

Belleville need not worry about St. Elizabeth's Hospital leaving and moving to O'Fallon. After all, all they need to do is take some of the $1 billion that Lindenwood University said it contributed to the city and buy St. Elizabeth's Hospital and turn it into a permanent art fair on the square. That way Belleville can be a shining beacon for the entire metro-east not just one weekend a year, but the entire year.

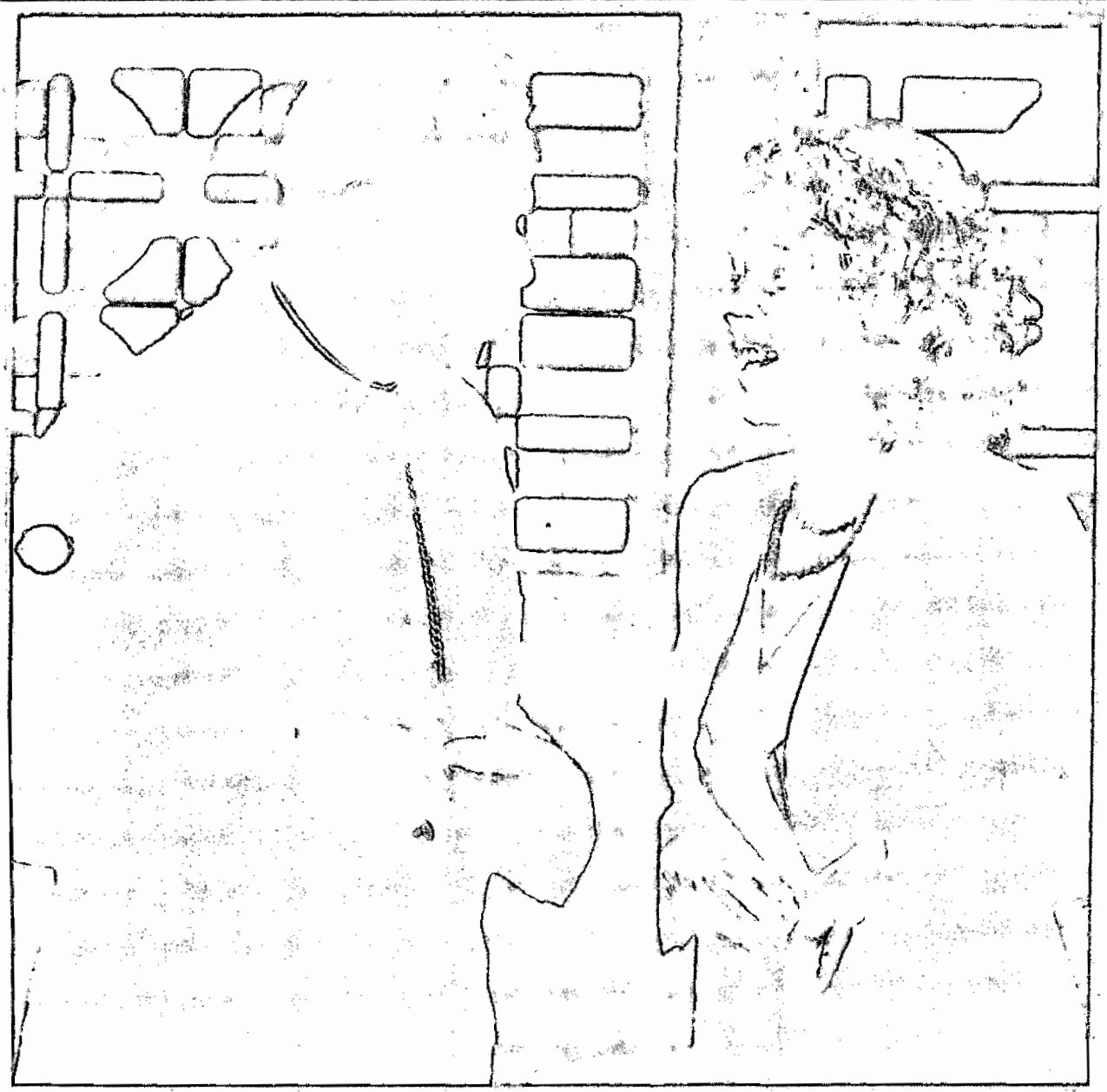
## Hypocritical hospital

Rarely do I agree with Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert but his assessment of St. Elizabeth's Hospital moving to O'Fallon to follow the money instead of fulfilling its mission statement to "serve all" was right on target. Hypocrisy is always bad, but Christian hypocrisy is the worst.

BND 6-30-14 A4

## Memorial's still here

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert is so concerned about St. Elizabeth's Hospital leaving as if there would be no medical care in Belleville whatsoever. Did he forget that Memorial Hospital is here? Oh yes, he did forget because that is the west end of Belleville; he seems to forget about that part of town. Maybe he should have been more concerned when all the doctors left.



TIM VIZER/News-Democrat

**The Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Belleville, speaks with Maryann Reese, CEO and president of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, following a press conference Wednesday announcing the hospital is proceeding with plans for a new facility in O'Fallon.**

*Diocese of Belleville*
*Church Bulletin submission*
*SEB plans for future – July, 2014*

## ST. ELIZABETH'S ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW HOSPITAL IN O'FALLON AND CHANGES TO ITS BELLEVILLE CAMPUS

On June 25, leaders from St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Hospital Sisters Health System shared their plans to build a new, state-of-the-art hospital along Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road in St. Clair County and continue to deliver health care services at the existing St. Elizabeth's campus in Belleville.

The location of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital along I-64 in O'Fallon will be more centrally located for residents in Southwestern Illinois. Plans for the new facility include 144 private patient rooms, a modernized emergency department, state-of-the art operating rooms, an advanced intensive care unit and inpatient rehabilitation.

"In addition to providing the most advanced health care for the Metro East region, our new hospital will be better able to serve those who need us most," said Maryann Reese, President and CEO, St. Elizabeth's Hospital. "Our 140-year-long commitment to care for all residents in the Metro East region is as strong as ever, and our new location will provide quicker and more convenient access for many residents currently living in underserved neighborhoods."

The St. Elizabeth's Health Center – Belleville will offer residents a same-day ambulatory clinic that will feature radiology and laboratory services, physical, occupational and Back to Work therapy, and primary and specialty care physicians' offices.

"All of these plans underscore the commitment of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis to our mission of charity care and to serving those who are most in need in our community," said Sister Jomary Trstensky, Provincial Superior of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, the religious sponsoring organization of St. Elizabeth's and HSHS. "We consider our community to be the entire Metro East region, so these plans will help us move closer to where the most patients are in need."

St. Elizabeth's will seek approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to begin construction. To learn more and to sign a letter of support for the project, please visit www.supportsteliz.org.

A section of the Belleville News-Democrat

# O'FALLON PROGRESS

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Thursday, July 3, 2014

THIS WEEK

**DEDICATION**

Ramah Crowell earns recognition for her dedication to helping children.

# O'Fallon opens arms to St. E's

## *Officials tout new jobs, easy access*

**By Robyn L. Kirsch**
PROGRESS STAFF WRITER

The City of O'Fallon will soon become the epicenter for regional health care as St. Elizabeth's Hospital will relocate to be closer to what has been unofficially dubbed the "Medical Mile" along Interstate 64.

O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham recalls his invititation to the project announcement conference held in Belleville last week.

"I think this project will be tremendous for our city...St. Elizabeth's has a 146-year history in Belleville, and they now have well over 100 acres with (O'Fallon) so they will be here for a very long time," Graham said. "I think they did a great job at explaining what they were going to do, how they're going to do it, and how they will continue to support Belleville, so I don't think people will know what O'Fallon will be (or could become) in 10 years."

Graham isn't the only one touting the increase in new jobs for the region. St. Elizabeth's officials project the peak of construction could bring as many as up to 300 trade workers on the site.

"The spin off of the jobs will (inevitably) be bigger than the hospital in the next 10 years," Graham posed.

Local commercial developer Darwin Miles said the recent announcement is a positive move for O'Fallon and the metro-east in general.

"By having synergy of different medical facilities along the interstate—similar to what is common in many thriving metropolitan areas, just across the river—will bring better jobs and better quality of health care," Miles said. "In the short term this may be not be (ideal) for downtown Belleville, but hopefully it's a positive thing too."

President and CEO of St. Elizabeth's Maryann Reese said this is a strategic plan that has been in the works for years.

"St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors has approved building a regional hospital and medical office

SEE HOSPITAL ON PAGE A3

# Hospital: *Facility expected to include 144 private patient rooms*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

building on 114 acres of land located seven miles from our current campus. This approval was made with the concurrence of Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, the sponsoring religious community of St. Elizabeth's Hospital and HSHS," Reese said. "This project will provide area residents with access to a state-of the art medical facility, boost the local economy and enhance the quality of life for Southwestern Illinois. (We) will also re-envision our existing campus with input from Belleville residents."

Reese explained the new campus will continue to act as a teaching hospital and although the new facility will be the primary campus, the location in Belleville will continue to feature various functions to maintain delivering health care services. A main focal point of Reese's announcement hinged on St. Elizabeth's attempt to be more accessible to underserved patients in the area and attract more premier physicians.

The facility is expected to include 144 private patient rooms, an emergency department, operating rooms, an advanced intensive care unit and inpatient rehabilitation providing an array of outpatient and inpatient services including cancer care, modern birthing suites, telehealth consultants, accredited stroke care and award-winning heart care, according to Reese.

Bill Lyke, chairman of the St. Elizabeth's board of directors, said the current Belleville building is "obsolete and out of date." The board's vote to proceed with the O'Fallon hospital was unanimous.

Reese added the downtown Belleville campus is landlocked on 17 acres, and it would take twice as much time and money to retrofit the Belleville hospital facility for modern medical needs.

Miles said he concurs with St. Elizabeth's proposition that being located closer to the interstate and Scott Air Force Base will be more ideal for physicians and patients alike.

"To physicians time is very critical and being along the interstate in O'Fallon, versus where it is now in Belleville—which could take up to 20 to 30 minutes getting into downtown Belleville from the highway," Miles said. "A lot of physicians coming from Missouri, like Dr. Michael Schifano, who's building a new facility in Shiloh, are becoming more attracted to these interstate locations."

Miles said, just as anytime new construction hits an area, this project, along with the current Memorial East Hospital being built in Shiloh off Cross Street—just on O'Fallon's doorstep—will offer a plethora of opportunities for developers and businesses.

"At the same time, I'm more excited about the long term opportunity for Southwestern Illinois, not just my own properties," Miles said. "Just looking at the number of physicians that are now looking at this area is promising."

According to Ted Shekell, O'Fallon planning and zoning community development director, the property is located near Interstate 64 exit 16, off Green Mount Road, behind the Hilton Garden Inn.

"To get from the interstate to downtown Belleville takes me about 20 to 30 minutes and the current Belleville location is only a mere seven miles away. That just goes to show the challenges people face," Shekell said. "So this new facility is literally going to expand their service area footprint."

Shekell said O'Fallon has been a big proponent of the project and looks forward to aiding the hospital in moving forward with development plans after obtaining a certificate of need from the State of Illinois.

"We are just thrilled to welcome the new hospital. It's going to be a great addition to the community and the whole area. It's going to be in O'Fallon but it's going to serve a much larger region than just our town," Shekell said. "...I know they've been a great neighbor in Belleville and we expect them to have that same kind of heritage here in O'Fallon."

According to Reese, St. Elizabeth's will submit its application this summer to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for a Certificate of Need, which is anticipated that the Review Board will review the application later this year.

"I just hope the process in obtaining the Certificate of Need moves smoothly. The colloquialism in Southwestern Illinois tends to hold our (roles) back, and I hope that everyone just gets behind this and forgets about how to fight things and lets move forward to the future together," Miles added.

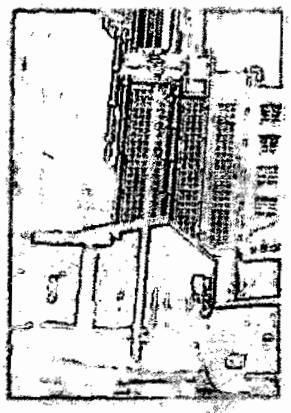
In November 2011, HSHS purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million. The hospital announced plans at that time to build a $300 million hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road. However, no progress had happened since then, and the hospital had declined to say whether it planned to keep its Belleville hospital open.

*BND Reporter Maria Hasenstab contributed to this report.*

# LETTERS

BND 7-6-14 A4

## Let's be part of the solution



THE DECISION by St. Elizabeth's to relocate from Belleville to O'Fallon is a huge disappointment. However, many of the comments posted on BND are far more troublesome and something I've seen before. I'm talking about comments like "Belleville is the next East St. Louis" and "this is the final nail in the coffin." The first comment is clearly racist, and both indicate a total lack of civic responsibility.

If you see problems in the community, you have a choice: You can be part of the problem or part of the solution.

If you do, or think about doing, any of the following, you're part of the problem: writing negative, mean-spirited comments on the BND's various platforms, spreading negative opinions, bashing city leaders or threatening to move because you think the city has "gone downhill." These behaviors serve no purpose; no problems are solved and they feed the misperception that Belleville isn't a good place to live or play. Simply put, you are dragging everyone down.

Each of us has a civic responsibility beyond paying taxes, voting and obeying laws. This means focusing on the community's common good by actively participating in an informed, committed and constructive manner.

If you care about your community, call your aldermen. Ask how you can help, bring ideas to neighborhood meetings, show respect as well as dissent, seek volunteer opportunities and most importantly, bring a positive, can-do attitude to whatever you're involved in.

There are a lot of great things happening in Belleville — let's focus on that and fix the rest.

**Toni Togias**
Belleville

# Patients can access records online

## Memorial Hospital, St. Elizabeth's allow a person's health histories to be seen

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

Imagine being able to access all your health information as easily as checking your email — just by typing in a user name and password.

The ability to check test results, review medication lists and recall dates of vaccinations online is becoming a reality as hospitals, doctors and other medical care providers begin to adhere to a federal mandate requiring public and private health care providers to adopt electronic health records in order to maintain existing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

Memorial Hospital in Belleville recently started a new patient portal called MyMemorial, which will allow patients online access to personal health histories. In April, St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville announced its patients would benefit from a similar program, Chart My Health.

Mary Lou Schmulbach, director of clinical informaticts at Memorial, explained: "Currently if patients want access to medical records, they have to come to hospital and sign a release."

She mentioned things that patients often are eager to find out, like the results of lab tests and X-rays.

"Instead they can log in to the MyMemorial portal and have access to that information," she said.

While past medical visit dates will be included in the files, any medical testing results prior to March 1, 2014, will not be available online, she said.

Schmulbach said some people who are not web savvy, still may benefit from the portal. For example, an older person may choose to share his or her password with adult children, who could log in and check on test results.

"A child who lives out of state, you can give them information so they have access to that," she said.

In addition, the online records will be accessible to patients, regardless of their location.

"If you have a problem and you're out of town, it'll be available on your iPad or your phone," she said. "You can get to it."

Anyone not interested in having an online account may choose not to sign up.

*Please see* PATIENTS, B4

## PATIENTS

*Continued from Page B1*

The federal mandate stems from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and requires public and private health care providers to adopt "meaningful use" of electronic health records in order to maintain existing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements and receive other financial incentives.

To be considered "meaningful use" as defined by HealthIT.gov, doctors and hospitals must provide electronic health records that benefit patients by:

- Giving quicker access to health information;
- Helping to protect medical privacy;
- Giving a summary of each visit;
- Helping to prevent drug errors; and
- Making health information available to share with other doctors, according to patient preferences, in order to coordinate care.

The online systems from St. Elizabeth's and Memorial are not compatible, so it is likely patients may have more than one account to access electronic health records from separate health care providers.

Debbie Sexton, director of Health Information Services and privacy officer at St. Elizabeth's, explained: "The Chart My Health software is a product from the company AllScripts, which is also accessible by any other physician office or hospital using the same product. They don't have to be in the Hospital Sisters Health System family."

Sexton said the system transmits a continuity of care document to the portal containing health information, such as allergies and medications.

"This collection of patient health information will continually grow as they, the patient, adds other information to make it more robust," Sexton said.

To enroll in MyMemorial, Memorial Hospital patients should call "Medical Records" at 618-257-5300 or visit www.memhosp.com.

To enroll in ChartMyHealth, call 855-325-4747 or email chart.myhealth@hshs.org. In addition, St. Elizabeth's patients can visit Health Information Services (Medical Records) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. All participants must have an email address and provide one form of photo identification.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at [redacted] mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

## Where the doctors go

Your recent Sunday letters incorrectly list that patients will need to find new doctors if St. Elizabeth's Hospital moves to O'Fallon. One of the purposes of the new St. E's will be to attract new physicians to the hospital. Currently the majority of the primary care physicians do not go to St. Elizabeth's Belleville hospital. Most primary docs choose to use hospitalists. A few years ago about 100 Memorial Medical Group providers in primary and specialty care quit going to St. Elizabeth's for political reasons. All of the HSHS primary care docs with outpatient offices no longer go to St. E's despite being listed as on staff at St E's. Most docs already do not go to St. E's.

BND 7-7-17 A4

## No room to talk

Recently the BND mentioned that Memorial Hospital was concerned about St. Elizabeth's leaving Belleville. Memorial Hospital has an ER group from California, a hospitalist group that is owned by a California company, a pathology group from St. Louis and a radiology group that is Springfield-based. Do you think the profits from the contracted groups are staying in Belleville? Maybe Memorial is afraid of the competition since St. Elizabeth's has full services that are staffed mostly with local medical providers.

News Democrat

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# O'Fallon opens arms to St. E's

By Robyn L. Kirsch

Progress Staff WriterJuly 7, 2014 Updated 21 hours ago

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BND

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"St. Elizabeth's Board of Directors has approved building a regional hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land located seven miles from our current campus. This approval was made with the concurrence of Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, the sponsoring religious community of St. Elizabeth's Hospital

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## Want to keep St. Elizabeth's?

I WORKED St. Elizabeth's nursing service (nights). How many letter writers have been a patient there? I choose other hospitals for all surgeries/routine treatments as my family physician will not practice there, really, and he used to.

If the powers that be want to keep the hospital:

Close it for asbestos removal, rewire, update heating and cooling, replace inefficient windows (all of them), provide closer employee parking, 24-hour police protection and fumigate for bugs. Require city employees to use the facility for all inpatient and outpatient surgeries, labs, x-rays and routine hospital stays from colds to birthing babies. Ask all concerned downtown businesses to do the same.

It is not the economic impact to a blighted area but the patients Memorial Hospital doesn't accept. There is a code; nurses talk. Our indigent complain of chest pain and have a cool or warm place to stay and a meal depending on the weather. "Divert to St. E's" is heard over the radio as patients (transported right past Memorial) come from East St. Louis — self-pays most likely — and Memorial does want to get paid. At night ambulance companies drop homeless at St E's ER out of the blue. Why, because they need a meal?

Mayor, give it a rest. Imagine the difference if, when you came into office, you and all city employees were required to use this facility. What? Oh, that's what I thought; not going to happen. Instead, hire a Chicago lawyer. Are lawyers in Belleville too busy?

**Chuck "Doc" Fugate**
Belleville

BND 7-8-14 A4

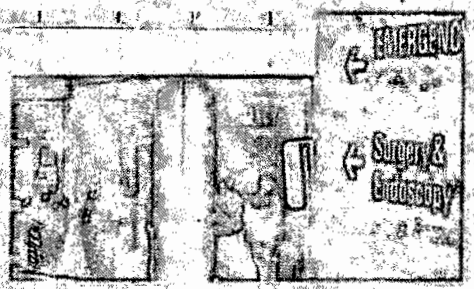
## Pot calls kettle black

Your recent article stated that Memorial Hospital is upset that St. Elizabeth's is discontinuing inpatient psychiatric care, yet Memorial discontinued the money-losing inpatient psychiatric care over a decade ago. Currently Memorial has no admitting psychiatrists. Memorial Hospital is building a limited services satellite hospital in Shiloh to capture some of the higher per capita income. Is Memorial afraid of some competition for the insured patients from the new St. Elizabeth's full service O'Fallon hospital? 7/7/11

# LETTERS

BND 7-13-17 A3

## Can the hospitals cooperate?



IT'S SAD TO SEE the conflict redeveloping between St. Elizabeth's and Memorial hospitals. It went on for years before apparently ending less than a decade ago.

The renewed conflict has been in the process for months and preceded the announced move of St. E's to Shiloh.

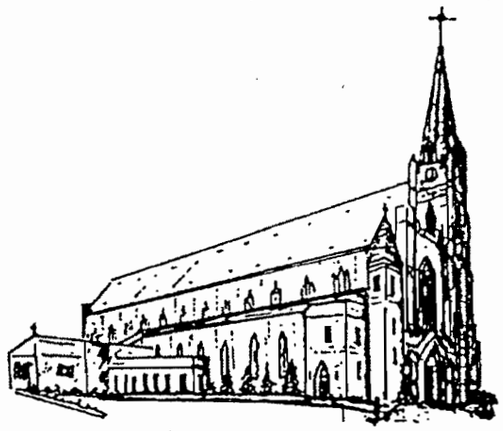
Some of the doctors I have are primarily associated with St. Elizabeth's and others with Memorial. It hasn't been a problem yet but I fear that it may in the future.

As a significant start to ending the conflict and serve the Belleville city center community, I suggest that St. E's and Memorial agree to establish a joint emergency room and urgent care center at or near the present location of St. Elizabeth's. Both hospitals would equally fund the facility.

This should satisfy the highly publicized concerns of Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert and also clear the way for the move of St. Elizabeth's to a new location in Shiloh.

**David Griffith**
Belleville

*SAINT PETER'S CATHEDRAL*
**200 West Harrison Street**
**Belleville, Illinois 62220-2090**
**618-234-1166**



July 15, 2014

As a professional clergyman who has resided in this area for fifty-plus years, I must write in opposition to the proposed move of St. Elizabeth Hospital.

The hospital leadership keeps reminding us that their proposed move is **"only seven miles away."**

I ask you to consider:

- **"Only seven miles"** is quite a distance for the poor who have no means of transportation.
- **"Only seven miles"** is an important consideration for the sick and injured who are in immediate need of critical, even life-saving care.
- **"Only seven miles"** is, in most cases, a burden for those support staff – especially those who are in or near "minimum wage" jobs now at the hospital.
- **"Only seven miles"** may mean little to the Administrators of the hospital, but can mean the difference between "care" and "no care" to many.
- **"Only seven miles"** would oddly place St. Elizabeth's very near other hospitals already in place.
- **"Only seven miles"** disturbs the peace of minds of the Seniors who will be residing at our "Cottages at Cathedral Square" development – folks who have expressed their desire to be *near* church, doctors *and the hospital.*

Finally, **"only seven miles"** distance seems at odds with a genuinely "Franciscan" mission; it is contrary to Francis to ask those in need "to travel" to him; rather, Franciscans are – and have been for centuries – right among the people ... *not* in a well-to-do place, asking the people instead to come to them.

I urge the Hospital and the City of Belleville to enter into sincere discussions regarding the many ways in which civic generosity can result in a new St. Elizabeth Hospital here in the city of Belleville.

Reverend Monsignor John T. Myler
Cathedral Rector and
Catholic Vicar for Metro East Illinois

Hospital Sisters
HEALTH SYSTEM

**HSHS Division**
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

***Effingham, IL***
*St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital*

***Belleville, IL***
*St. Elizabeth's Hospital*

***Breese, IL***
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

***Highland, IL***
*St. Joseph's Hospital*

July 15, 2014

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mark Eckert
Mayor of Belleville
101 S. Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Dear Mayor Eckert,

We are writing in follow up to your June 18, 2014 correspondence. After considering your comments we feel that throughout the entire process to date, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has engaged, and will continue to engage, in meaningful discussion with the City of Belleville. We have personally met often over the past three and a half years, and hope to continue the meetings and meaningful dialogue.

In December of 2010, we met with the City of Belleville to discuss problems associated with our current hospital building and site where you and representatives from the City presented materials to us at that time. Since that presentation, we have had numerous meetings with you and we have asked for your input on what you and Belleville officials would like to see remain on our downtown Belleville campus. While our conclusions regarding the relocation of the hospital may not have been the desired outcome of yourself or the City of Belleville officials, we believe that our efforts in conducting a meaningful evaluation of the comments you offered were done in good faith and with a desire to identify appropriate ways to continue the health care services that we have provided to the Belleville community for 139 years. We thought it would be useful to provide a brief response to your letter in anticipation of our upcoming meeting on August 21.

Your letter acknowledges the mission of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis who have been faithfully carrying out that mission in southern and central Illinois for over 139 years. In furtherance of that mission, the Hospital Sisters hope to make available to Belleville and the surrounding region a newly revitalized and modern hospital, the result of many years of planning and consideration of numerous alternatives. Although you state that the City will "do everything in our power" to oppose St. Elizabeth's project, we would hope that you would see how the project will benefit the City of Belleville. In this context, we would like to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to do what is best for all the residents we serve.

224 West Garfield St.
Belleville, IL
62220
P: 618-641-5879
F: 618-222-4748
www.hshs.org

*Affiliates of Hospital Sisters Health System*

With respect to our continued presence in Belleville, you have repeatedly stated that we are "abandoning" downtown Belleville. That is not the case. We will remain in downtown Belleville, with a significant presence. At our recent press conference we detailed those ambulatory care services and physician offices that will remain at our current location. We also discussed the administrative services that will remain. Our continued presence in Belleville is a certainty and we will continue to serve all who present for services as we have done for 139 years with a special emphasis on those who are most vulnerable. The relocation of some services will not diminish the commitment of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.

Your letter refers to options to our project that you have only recently "begun to explore." As we indicated earlier in this letter, St. Elizabeth's has thoroughly considered potential options through a multi-year planning process. We determined the proposed project to be not only the best alternative, but the only alternative that is consistent with our mission and best serves all St. Elizabeth's patients, including those who reside in Belleville. You have acknowledged that St. Elizabeth's is in need of modernization and your letter recognizes that the current location presents serious access problems.

We do believe that we should start discussions pertaining to augmenting the health care resources that will remain in Belleville and continue in the downtown area. We find this would be the best focus for St. Elizabeth's and the City. We are definitely interested in working with you to explore the ambulatory care services we will continue to offer in Belleville and to explore alternatives for use of those buildings or land that are proposed to be vacated. We also welcome working with you to evaluate traffic patterns, potential road closures or public works projects that might better improve access to the ambulatory care and administrative services that will remain in Belleville and alternate uses that might be planned.

We sincerely hope our August 21 meeting with you and Mr. Hoerner will be conducted in a spirit of cooperation. Please let us know if anyone else will join you. That would be helpful in case we should need to invite another colleague to facilitate our discussion. We appreciate your consideration and we both look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Maryann Reese

Maryann Reese
President and CEO
St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Larry P. Schumacher

Larry P. Schumacher
Interim President and CEO
HSHS Division, Southern Illinois

# Regional access
## to patient centered care.

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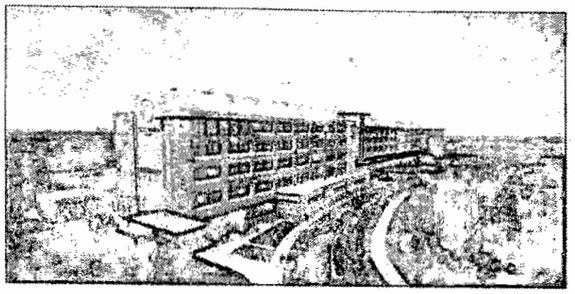

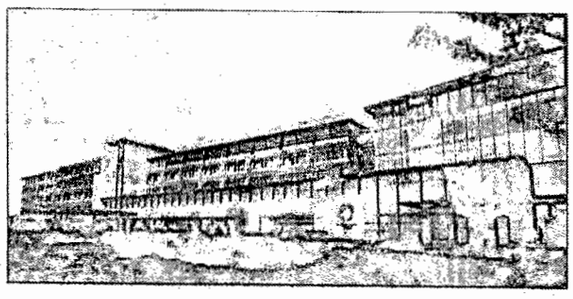

St. Elizabeth's Hospital announces plans for replacement hospital project.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital
AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

**We invite the public to learn more about the project and show your support at**

# supportsteliz.org

## Wait to comment on St. E's

I READ THE front-page story June 27 about Memorial's comments about St. Elizabeth's. To me, the last paragraph made the most sense. Why comment when you don't know what is in the report?

Then I read the opinion column, which ponders the question of an eyesore if they abandon the buildings. What guarantees do any of the towns get when big box stores and developers get tax breaks and infrastructure incentives?

With all the discussion about VA or mental facilities being in need of expansion, perhaps this would be a viable use of the property. And if we don't get the current owners stirred up too much, it could be bought for a bargain.

BND 7-22-14 A4

**Terry Lysakowski**
O'Fallon

News Democrat

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# City council backs St. E's

By Garen Vartanian

July 23, 2014

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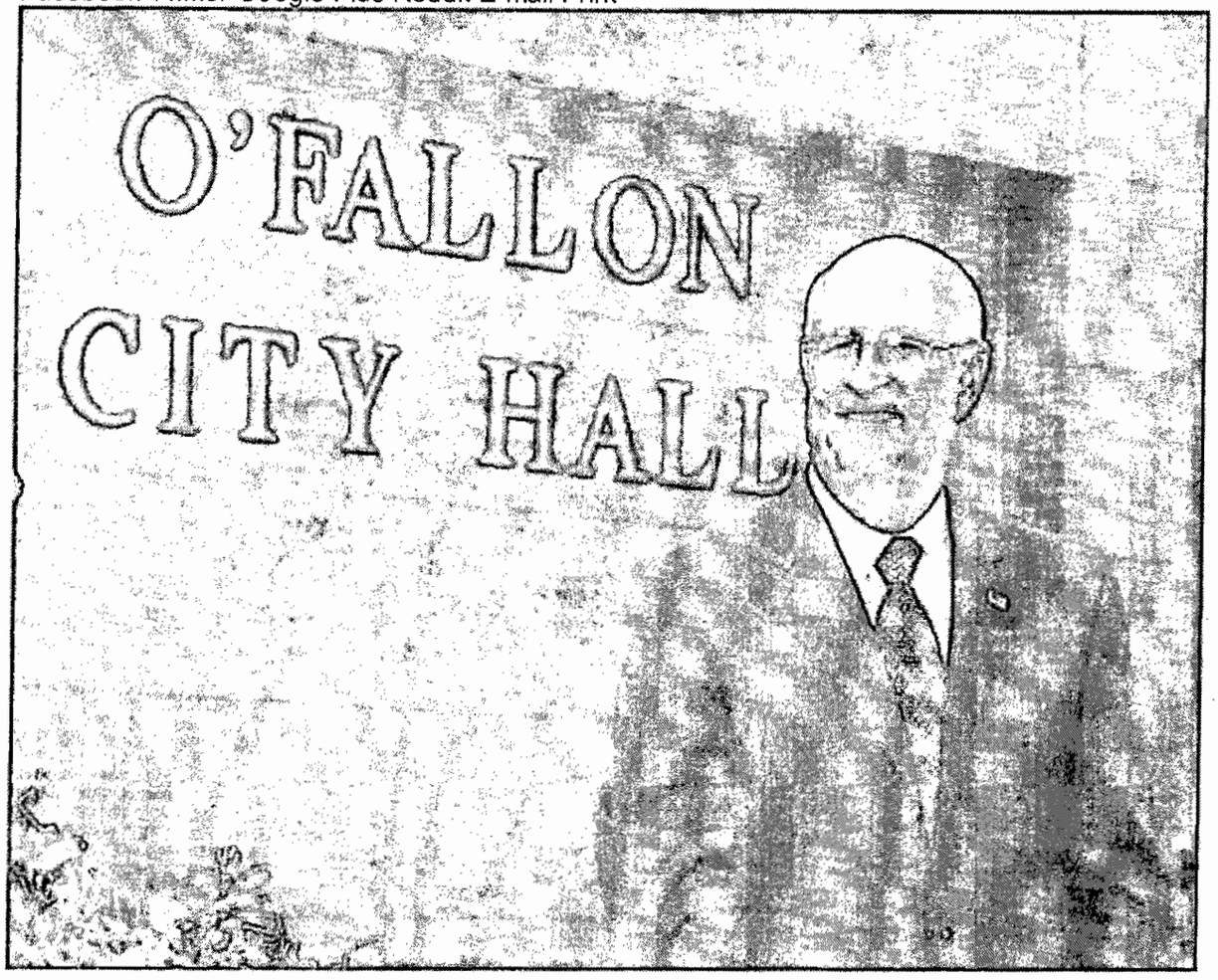


City of O'Fallon Mayor stands in front of city hall

FILE PHOTO — For the Progress Buy Photo

Plans continue moving ahead for St. Elizabeth's Hospital relocating to O'Fallon.

The O'Fallon City Council unanimously passed a resolution at Monday's meeting supporting Hospital Sisters Health System on the proposed St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Mayor Gary Graham expressed excitement over this latest step.

"We celebrate tonight by passing this," Graham said at the meeting. "We don't see this as an O'Fallon

victory. It's a great thing for the metro-east. It's not just the hospital, but the synergy of the hospital. We couldn't be happier tonight."

In addition, at Monday's meeting, Graham and the City Council issued a Proclamation declaring July 21, 2014, Arthur R. Villhard Sr. Day in O'Fallon. Villhard served as Storekeeper 3rd Class in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Bennington from December 1950 through December 1954, earning a Good Conduct Medal and a Korean Service Medal during his career. He also is a 60-year member of the American Legion 137 in O'Fallon and 20-year member of the VFW Post 805 in O'Fallon.

Villard also recently was recognized with a prestigious Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Honor Flights take military veterans to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials of the respective war(s) they fought in—at no cost for the veterans.

"You are an inspiration and a role model," Graham said. "The 21st is your day and we thank you for your service."

Also on Monday, Graham, council members and meeting attendees heard from Miss O'Fallon 2013 Brittany Gray, whose rein expires Aug. 1. She spoke of her many appearances during the year and discussed the various events she participated in, such as riding in parades, handing out toys and judging a pork steak contest, among others.

"Words cannot describe how grateful I am to have had this experience," she said. "I gained knowledge of how this wonderful town works. I am so grateful to have had this experience and to live here."

"We look forward to following your career and wish you all the happiness," Graham said.

**In other council business:**

• A request to conduct a raffle from the Wheels of Freedom MC, Inc. for a wheelbarrow of alcohol from July 22, 2014, to Oct. 25, 2014, was approved unanimously;

• It was announced this month's Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors meeting will be Thursday, July 31, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Snows;

• An ordinance amending Ordinance 623, Zoning, development known as Demond Signs to be at 91 & 93 Betty Lane was approved unanimously;

• An ordinance adopting the Personnel Code of 2014 was approved unanimously;

• An ordinance amending Ordinance 623, Zoning, development known as Enjoy Church, was approved unanimously;

• An ordinance approving the final plat of the Parcs at Arbor Greet—Phase B was approved unanimously;

• An ordinance amending Chapter 77, Traffic Schedules, Witte Farms Stop Sign was approved unanimously;

• An ordinance amending Ordinance 2073, to add territory to St. Clair County MidAmerica Enterprise Zone, was approved unanimously;

• A Special Event request from St. Clare Church to hold its Oktoberfest celebration Friday, Sept. 26, and Saturday, Sept. 27, at St. Clare Catholic School, with conditions, was approved unanimously;

• A Special Event request from Global Brew to hold an event "Founders All Day Fest" on Friday, Aug. 15, at their location was approved unanimously;

• A permit request from St. Elizabeth's Hospital for a Certificate of Need support sign was approved unanimously. Public Works, Public Safety, Finance/Administration and Parks/Environment all were approved as well. The council met briefly in executive session and the meeting was adjourned. The next

City Council meeting is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4.

**In addition, at the Public Safety Committee meeting Monday, July 14, the following agenda items were discussed:**

· Item 1: Solicitors Permits/Panhandling—An ordinance is being finalized by City Attorney Dale Funk. A requested was made by the Aldermen that a picture of the Solicitor's Badge and possibly an actual badge be supplied to them for approval. Action: None; Motion: None; Disposition: Closed;

• Item 2: Truck Weight Ordinance—Officers have been working with Planning and Zoning on the ordinances. City Administrator Walter Denton is reviewing the final ordinance. Action: None; Motion: None; Disposition: Open;

• Item 3: Leads on Line—Captain Mick Hunter and Community Development Director Ted Shekell met with City Attorney Dale Funk. They want to write into the ordinance that household business will be exempt. Action: Captain Hunter revised the ordinance and gave to Funk for final revisions. Motion: None; Disposition: Open. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be at 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11.

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## Join The Conversation

Belleville News-Democrat is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

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BND 7-28-14 A4

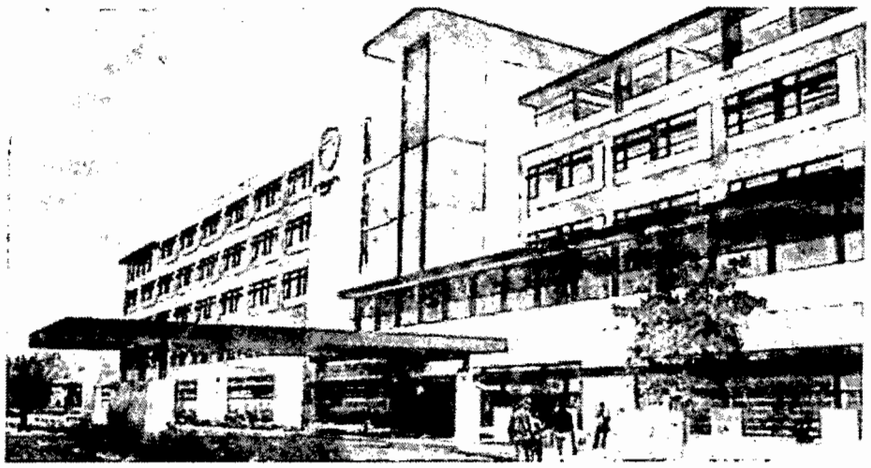
# SOUND-OFF

## Free parking, please

I am writing regarding the parking meters around St. Peter's Cathedral and St. Elizabeth's Hospital on Second Street in Belleville. Family members do not always know how long they will be visiting their loved ones who are patients in the hospital. Also Mass may go longer at the Cathedral than expected. When I go to Memorial Hospital I do not see any meters around its buildings. It seems to me that something is out of balance, or should I say unfair? Who can correct this problem?

**Belleville News-Democrat** shared a link
17 hours ago

Do you support St. E's plans in O'Fallon? http://ow.ly/AcYbt



**St. Elizabeth's looks for digital letters of support for O'Fallon...**
www.bnd.com

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is looking for public, written support in favor of its new hospital proposed for...

Like Comment Share 1 Share

Rosalind Gause, Kalonie Farley Caulk, Tammy Jones and 7 others like this.

**Helen Cook** No the people of Belleville have relied on St. E's being there for them for a long time and it would cause a lot of inconvenience if they moved!
17 hours ago Like 3

**Michelle Amarok Snyder** Yes!
14 hours ago Like

Write a comment...

**Belleville News-Democrat** shared a link
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Website boosts St. Elizabeth's Hospital's bid for O'Fallon facility ...

**St. Elizabeth's looks for digital letters of support for O'Fallon campus | Top Stories | News...**
www.bnd.com

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is looking for public, written support in favor of its new hospital proposed to be built in O'Fallon

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Stacey Foley Owens, Heather Terry, Kim Harper- Tillotson and 5 others like this.

**Kathy Gomric** I think its a crying shame that STE is leaving Belleville to relocate.
15 hours ago · Like

**Megan Hill** I hate that hospital. I wish they would fold all together. Deplorable care.
13 hours ago · Like

**Michael Reed Markham** i hate this hospital i walked into the ER at 2 am asked to see a doctor. NO test were done he talked to me for 3 minutes and told me there was nothing he could do and sent me home . i get a bill in the mail for two grand . so i call and talked to them they said they would review the bill and call me back.... one week later i get a letter they sent me to a collection agency . this hospital is a Joke i am glad they are leaving..
8 hours ago · Edited · Like

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# St. Elizabeth's looks for digital letters of support for O'Fallon hospital

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratAugust 11, 2014 Updated 2 hours ago

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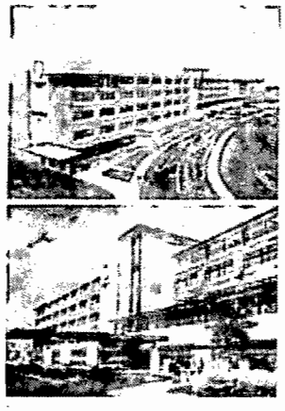
An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site. PROVIDED/BND



- Related Stories:
- St. Elizabeth's Hospital opts for O'Fallon move; will 're-envision' Belleville campus
- Eckert on St. Elizabeth's: 'We're just not going to wave good-bye to them'

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is looking for public, written support in favor of its new hospital proposed for O'Fallon.

The website http://www.supportsteliz.org includes the latest developments on the plans for the new hospital, past media coverage and a place to submit a letter of support as well as a website to go to disagree with the project.

St. Elizabeth's leaders announced in June that they would pursue plans to build a regional hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land in O'Fallon.

Melissa Sterling, spokeswoman for St. Elizabeth's parent company Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health Systems, said the website exists to answer basic questions about the project. "It's an extra resource to get the whys answered," she said.

The website is part of a larger marketing campaign to draw support from across the community, Sterling said.

The next step to build the $300 million, 144-bed hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, is for St. Elizabeth's to apply for a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. Under Illinois law, nursing homes and hospitals must apply for and receive a certificate of need before they can build a new medical building.

Sterling said the group is "really close" to submitting the certificate of need to the state board.

At the time of the announcement, St. Elizabeth's president and CEO Maryann Reese said she expected to apply for the certificate later this summer and have the board review it by the fall.

Those who visit supportsteliz.org can click the link "Submit a letter of support" and a form letter will be brought up addressed to Courtney Avery, administrator at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. In five steps, including answering a series of questions, choosing opening and closing sentence options and "signing" the letter with your mouse, you'll be able to submit the letter.

The letters will be included as support for the project after the certificate of need is filed.

Letters will be posted on the Illinois Health Facilities and Review Board website and will include a user's IP address. An email address can only be used once to submit a letter of support.

Sterling said St. Elizabeth's is looking for "regional partners, residences and patients to respond" with letters of support.

The website also lists a place for those who are not happy about the proposed hospital relocation to raise their digital voices: "Once the CON project is filed, if you have comments of opposition, you may submit them through the Review Board website at http://www.hfsrb.illinois.gov."

After St. Elizabeth's hospital relocates to O'Fallon, some medical buildings will remain but the Belleville hospital likely will be vacated. That caused some people in Belleville to express concern.

In April, the Belleville City Council approved the hiring of an attorney specializing in health law in an effort to keep St. Elizabeth's Hospital in town.

In addition, officials at Memorial Hospital in Belleville said that St. Elizabeth's was abandoning the "medically underserved" people of Belleville. Also, they said the replacement hospital would duplicate services of Memorial Hospital-East, a 94-bed hospital that is under construction in Shiloh.

But St. Elizabeth's said the new hospital would be just seven miles from the Belleville campus. The

downtown Belleville campus is landlocked on 17 acres, and it would take twice as much time and money to retrofit the Belleville hospital facility for modern medical needs.

"We have great things to say," Sterling said of the replacement hospital. "There's going to be great service here in Belleville and great service on I-64."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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# St. Elizabeth's asks for digital letters

## Online effort is garnering support for new hospital proposed for O'Fallon

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

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BND.COM
**See previous stories**

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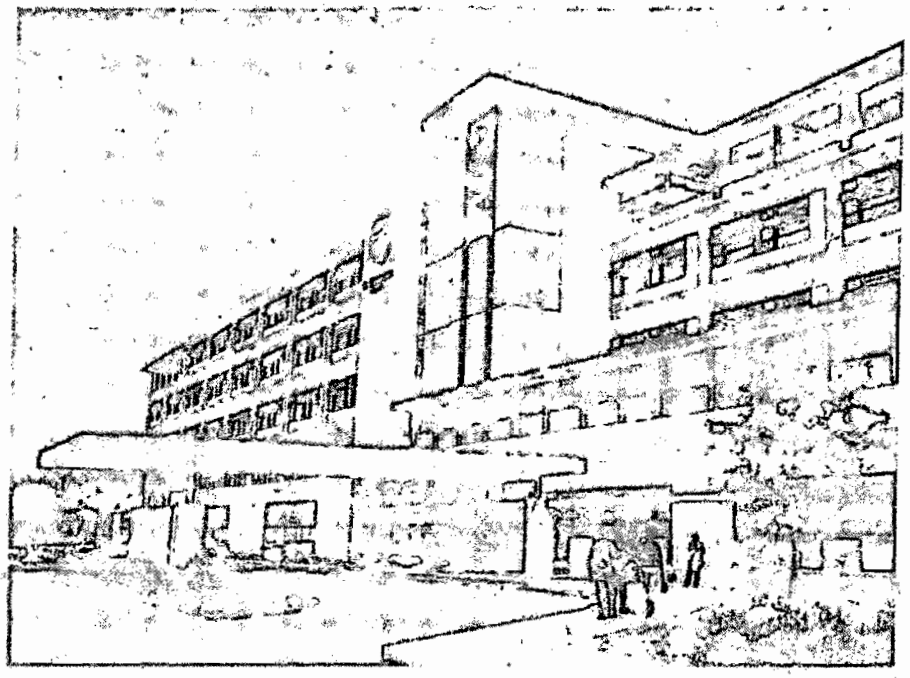

News-Democrat file photo

**An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site. The hospital is starting an online effort to enlist support for the project.**

BNO 8-12-14 A3

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Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

## St. E's belongs to the region

BELLEVILLE MAYOR Mark Eckert talks as if Belleville has the exclusive rights to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. It has been supported by Belleville these past 140 years, he states. But St. Elizabeth's is a regional hospital and always has been.

A quick check of the patient listings will discover individuals from O'Fallon, Shiloh, East St. Louis, Smithton, New Athens, Swansea and so on. The patients are not exclusively Belleville residents, nor will they be in the new hospital in O'Fallon. Once again it would be a regional hospital, but this time it would be regionally located.

In case Eckert hasn't noticed, Belleville is no longer the center of the metro-east. The population is moving east away from Belleville.

Another thing I find interesting is Memorial's opposition. Yes, it's competition and yes, St. E's opposed their Shiloh campus, so turnabout is fair play, but the Shiloh Memorial will not be a full-service hospital. It offer certain services only. The proposed St. E's would be full-service.

Part of the St. Elizabeth campus downtown is more than 70 years old. In fact I'm 74 and I was born in one of the buildings still in use. If any of you have ever been in a modern hospital facility (outside of Belleville, that is), you would know that the current St. E's is no longer viable as a modern hospital and needs to be replaced. O'Fallon is an excellent choice.

07/14/14

**Dave Arnold**
O'Fallon

# For St. E's, it's O'Fallon or bust

## Hospital says it doesn't make financial sense to reinvest in current site

BY MARIA HASENSTAB 8/23/14
*News-Democrat*

St. Elizabeth's Hospital will not consider reinvesting in its Belleville hospital building if plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon are denied by a state regulatory board.

That was the outcome of a Thursday morning meeting between Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert and St. Elizabeth's CEO Maryann Reese.

**BND.COM**

**Read more about St. Elizabeth's possible move to O'Fallon.**

Read previous stories online.

Eckert said that St. Elizabeth's has been in a working partnership with the city for the majority of Belleville's 200 years. "Now they want to bail on Belleville."

Hospital officials say it doesn't make financial sense to try to update the Belleville building.

St. Elizabeth's leaders announced in June that they would pursue plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed regional hospital and medical office building on 114 acres of land north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road in O'Fallon.

The hospital is soon expected to file a petition for a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, the state agency that must approve any new medical facility.

A letter from Eckert to Reese dated July 24 asked a question in preparation to Thursday's meeting: "There is one question that you could answer which would assist us in preparing: If St. Elizabeth's is not able to obtain the regulatory approval necessary to close and relocate its hospital, would you then be willing to discuss the modernization and/or replacement of your hospital in downtown Belleville?"

*Please see* ST. E'S, A2

# ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

Mark Silberman, an attorney hired by Belleville to help keep the hospital in town, also was at the meeting. "The consensus they've reached is that continuing in Belleville is not survivable," he said, quoting hospital leaders.

Reese said Thursday afternoon, "We respectfully disagree with the mayor that he'd like us to keep a hospital in Belleville and we plan to build a regional medical center seven miles from here."

Leaders from Belleville and St. Elizabeth's both have said they want to have an open dialogue. Belleville leaders said they want to talk about potentially reinvesting in the hospital building, which has been in the heart of downtown for 140 years. St. Elizabeth's leaders said they want to talk with city leaders about how to reimagine its Belleville campus, which will continue to house medical, business and other services in buildings surrounding the hospital.

"We have some money that we would like to invest in this (Belleville) campus," Reese said. "We've been trying to get the mayor to engage with us."

Eckert said that he is sad and disappointed that St. Elizabeth's Hospital wants to leave Belleville.

"We would do our best to try to partner in any rebuilding here in Belleville," he said.

Eckert said that he had attempted several times to meet with St. Elizabeth's leadership. "We value them," Eckert said. "We don't want to lose them."

In two other letters sent to Reese, both dated in June, Eckert said hospital leaders have been "unwilling" to meet and explore modernizing St. Elizabeth's current hospital.

In a June 18 letter, Eckert mentioned "potential tax breaks, land acquisition and street closures and other incentives to try to sway the hospital from pursuing building a replacement facility outside of Belleville."

Now Eckert is rallying the Belleville Chamber of Commerce and encouraging a "grassroots letter-writing campaign" to fight the hospital's application of need.

John "Lengerman, the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, said, "St. Elizabeth's has been a wonderful member of the chamber for a long time. We hope that relationship continues."

He declined to comment further until the certificate of need has been filed. "We need to hear both sides."

Of the city's efforts to fight the certificate of need, Reese said, "We understand that the mayor is just doing his job."

But she restated that it didn't make sense to attempt to update the Belleville hospital building for modern day medicine. "It would take twice as long and twice as much money," she said.

Eckert also said that financial reasons have motivated St. Elizabeth's plans to move.

Larry Schumacher, chief operating officer of the hospitals' parent company Hospital Sisters Health System, said, "It's true we have been losing money at St. Elizabeth's for a number of years. There's a lot of reasons for that."

But he said the proposed O'Fallon medical center would allow St. Elizabeth's to serve a larger patient population and prevent patients from traveling to St. Louis for medical services.

Reese said the payer mix of patients would be no different from today in Belleville. The same percentage of Medicare, Medicaid and charity care patients would be treated at the new facility.

"We're not moving for financial reasons," Reese said. "We're moving because we want to be a regional medical center. We want to be accessible to our regional hospitals in Highland and Breese."

Belleville leaders did not oppose Memorial Hospital's certificate of need for its satellite hospital now under construction in Shiloh, because that hospital continued to invest $15 million to $18 million per year in its Belleville facility, Eckert said.

"Belleville doesn't oppose progress," Silberman said. "What they do oppose is the notion of abandoning downtown Belleville."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

# It's official: St. Elizabeth's submits documents

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BND.COM

**See previous stories Timeline of events, Page A2**

BELLEVILLE — St. Elizabeth's Hospital has submitted to the state its Certificate of Need, a 500-plus page document requesting approval to build a new hospital in O'Fallon.

Plans call for a $300 million, 144-bed hospital to be built on 114 acres of land north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, seven miles from the current downtown Belleville location.

Melissa Sterling, a spokeswoman for St. Elizabeth's parent company, Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health Systems, said the request was submitted Monday to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board in Springfield.

"We're very excited and very proud of our application," Sterling said. "We are so thrilled to get it out there."

Sterling said the hospital wants to leave downtown Belleville because it would take twice as much time and money to retrofit the 138-year-old hospital for modern medical needs.

Under Illinois law, nursing homes, hospitals and other medical centers must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the nine-member health services review board before they can build, expand or close a medical building.

The board has 10 days to deem the application complete and two to three months to review the document before it can be placed on the board's agenda. At least five of the board's nine members must approve the proposal.

*Please see* HOSPITAL, A2

8/26/14

## HOSPITAL

*Continued from Page A1*

Sterling said the hospital plans to host a public hearing to share details of the proposed development. A date has not yet been set.

After learning about the filing on Monday, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said he and attorneys representing the city will continue to make a case for why the hospital should stay in Belleville and plan to be ready by the hearing date.

Eckert said he will ask for a hearing in Belleville.

"We'll continue to try to seek the interest of people who share the same concern of the hospital leaving Belleville," Eckert said. "We're very concerned about what's going to happen here. We don't want an abandoned hospital."

Eckert has encouraged residents, businesses, and others in the community to join a letter-writing campaign to fight the hospital's application of need. The city will soon provide more information on this effort to anyone interested.

"Our downtown businesses and residents — all 44,478 of them — are going to feel this abandonment," Eckert said. "We hope they stand together in saying the city has been a good partner with St. Elizabeth's for 140 years and think it's very important for the hospital and HSHS to continue to build in Belleville."

O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said he could not be more excited about the potential development. He said the city has been working with the hospital for the past two years on the proposed project.

"It's been a long time coming," Graham said. "As a city we're excited."

Said Graham, "We feel bad for Belleville. It's not about O'Fallon, it's about the site where they're building. If Belleville had an interstate, then they would have gotten it there."

HSHS purchased its 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million in November 2011.

In April 2011, Memorial Hospital in Belleville announced that it had purchased land in Shiloh and had submitted a Certificate of Need before the state health services review board to build an $118 million, 94-bed satellite hospital.

Two months later, the board met in Joliet, where both Eckert and Shiloh Mayor Jim Vernier spoke on behalf of Memorial Hospital in support of the proposed satellite hospital. Prior to the board meeting, administrators from St. Elizabeth's Hospital issued a letter objecting to Memorial Hospital's proposal and stating that Memorial Hospital's application fails to meet state criteria for expanding. At that time, officials from St. Elizabeth's Hospital said that this opposition was not an anti-competitive reaction.

The board unanimously approved Memorial Hospital's request. Construction of the satellite hospital, to be known as Memorial Hospital East, is underway and expected to be completed by 2016.

In a statement released Monday afternoon by Memorial Hospital in Belleville, Hospital/Community Relations Director Anne Thomure said, "We will be reviewing this matter closely to assess the impact it would have on the communities we serve. The state of Illinois and the Health Facilities Planning Board will ultimately make that decision, based on the merits of the project in accordance with rules of the state. We are fully confident that they will conduct a thorough and thoughtful review of this project, and we, along with many other stakeholders, look forward to being a part of that process."

Reporters Maria Hasenstab and Jacqueline Lee contributed information for this story.

## Hospital timeline

Here's a brief timeline for St. Elizabeth's and Memorial hospitals in the city of Belleville:

**1875:** St. Elizabeth's Hospital opens in Belleville.

**1958:** Memorial Hospital opens in Belleville.

**April 2011:** Memorial Hospital President Mark Turner announces plans to expand with a new hospital, Memorial Hospital East, in Shiloh.

**June 2011:** St. Elizabeth's announced that it intended to buy more than 100 acres in O'Fallon. Mark Reifsteck, president of the Southern Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System, said that there is a possibility that a replacement for St. Elizabeth's 139-year-old downtown Belleville hospital could be built there.

**June 2011:** The state of Illinois approves plans for Memorial Hospital East, despite St. Elizabeth's opposition claiming Memorial's application failed to meet state criteria for expanding.

**November 2011:** St. Elizabeth's Hospital purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon.

**January 2012:** $4 million upgrades begin at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville.

**January 2014:** Memorial Hospital East construction begins.

**Aug. 25, 2014:** St. Elizabeth's announces it has submitted its Certificate of Need.

**Early 2016:** Memorial Hospital East scheduled to open.

# HEALTH CARE

Reporter
Angela Mueller

AMUELLER@BIZJOURNALS.COM 314-421-8320 @STLBIZAMUELLER

## St. Elizabeth's lays out replacement hospital plan in O'Fallon, Illinois

In its newly filed application with the state of Illinois, St. Elizabeth's Hospital outlines its plans for a $253.5 million replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, accompanied by a $52 million ambulatory care center and physician office building.

The replacement hospital would be built on 114 acres along Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road in O'Fallon, seven miles from St. Elizabeth's current campus in Belleville.

"Our proposed replacement hospital will be more centrally located for the entire Metro East region that St. Elizabeth's serves, and will be more readily accessible to underserved patients than the hospital's current campus," Maryann Reese, president and CEO of the hospital, said in a statement.

The project has faced opposition from the start. Officials with the city of Belleville, including Mayor Mark Eckert, are against the project, fearing St. Elizabeth's will abandon its current campus in downtown Belleville once the new hospital is built. Representatives from Belleville – including Eckert and Mark Silberman, a Chicago-based attorney who the city hired to assist in its opposition to the project – met with hospital executives last week, and Silberman said the position St. Elizabeth's took was that pursuing their mission in Belleville "was not survivable."

*Maryann Reese*

"When St. Elizabeth's claims that it would cost too much to recommit to Belleville, the word I would use is disappointing," Silberman said. "Our biggest concern is, as it has always been, that this would have a devastating impact on the downtown Belleville community."

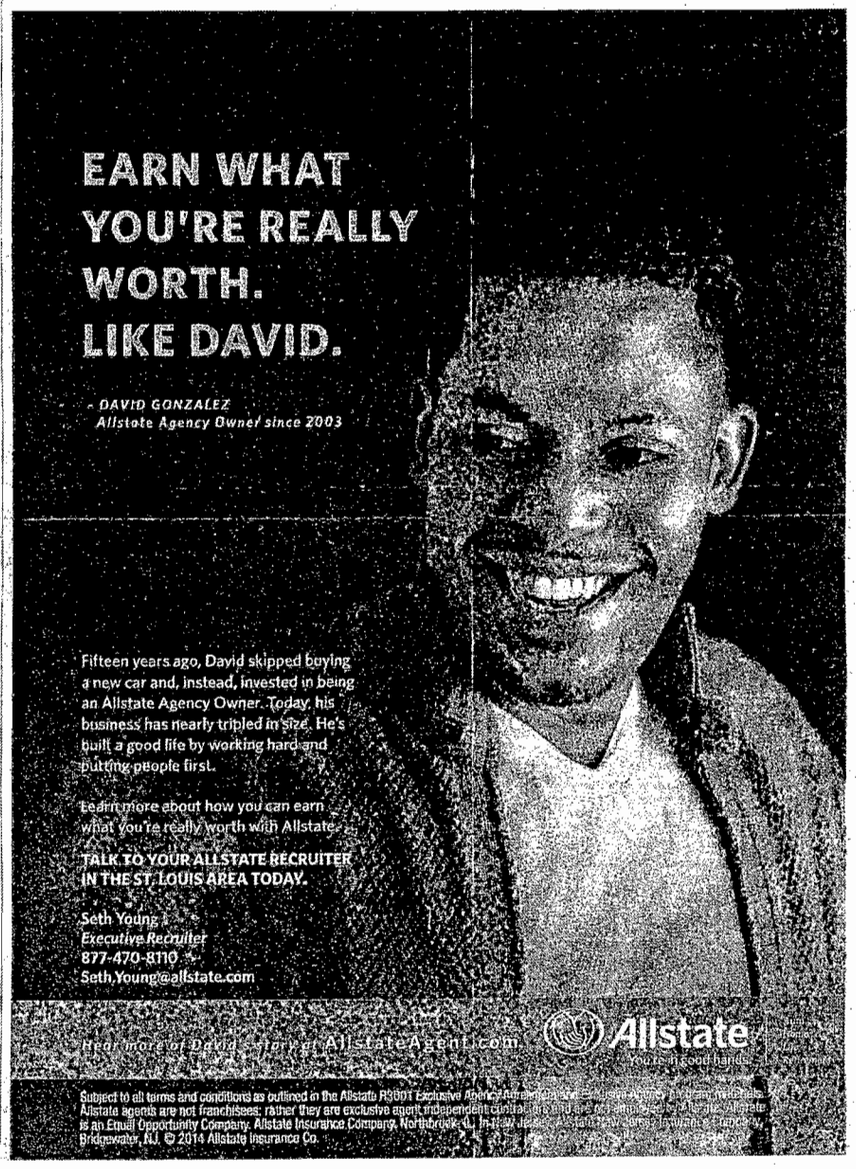
Silberman said the city was requesting that a public hearing be scheduled to allow members of the community to offer their comments on the project. An attorney representing St. Elizabeth's also has filed a request for a public meeting.

St. Elizabeth officials estimate the cost of modernizing its current hospital, which is more than 60 years old, would be $352.9 million, according to the CON filing, and would require the current building to "be gutted" and the core of the building to be restructured. In addition, the application notes the "constant need for costly maintenance" due to the age of the building.

St. Elizabeth's plans to modernize "certain buildings" on its current Belleville campus to provide services such as a clinic, lab, radiology, mammography and outpatient therapies, according to the filing. Other services that will remain in Belleville include the business office for HSHS' southern Illinois division, IT offices and coders, billing, purchasing and marketing and communications. The hospital also will continue to lease space on the campus to independent primary care physicians.

According to the Certificate of Need (CON) application, which was filed Monday with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB) and was made public on Wednesday, the proposed new 351,130-square-foot hospital would include 144 beds, 159 less than the number for which hospital's current location is certified. The new hospital would reduce the number of medical surgical beds from 202 to 100, ICU beds from 24 to 8, obstetrics beds from 30 to 12 and rehabilitation beds from 33 to 16. Pediatric service would be discontinued.

The HFSRB is expected to consider the application within the next 120 days. The project must receive support from at least five of the board's nine members to be approved.



# St. E's gets plenty of support for its move to O'Fallon

## However, two rival hospitals are against it

BY MARIA HASENSTAB
*News-Democrat*

More than 30 letters of support and two in opposition were included in St. Elizabeth's Hospital application to a state agency to build a state-of-the-art hospital in O'Fallon to replace the aging Belleville facility.

Neighboring Illinois hospitals, community leaders and others, including the head of the Diocese of Belleville, wrote letters that were included in the 493 page certificate of need filed Monday with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Two letters included in the document that did not support the replacement hospital were from leaders of competitors Memorial Hospital in Belleville and Anderson Hospital in Maryville.

8/28/14

*Please see* ST. E'S, A2

# Haida: 'Baby J charges can't k

## Kelly says his office will appeal the judge's ruling

BY GEORGE PAWLACZYK
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — A St. Clair County judge declined to reinstate first-degree murder charges against a 63-year-old man accused of killing a 1-year-old boy more than four decades ago.

Judge Robert Haida threw out the

# World War II vet gets his diploma

in Indiana, was present for the motions hearing. His attorney, James Gomric, of Belleville, told Haida he saw nothing in the state's amended argument to warrant a reversal of the that the state never produced evidence of why the original murder charge was not adjudicated in court.

Family members of Joseph Abernathy declined to comment.

two groups are public interest law firms and part of Northwestern University Law School's Bluhm Legal Clinic in Chicago. Jim Ellis, a Belleville attorney, also is

parking lot in Belleville, where they expected to meet someone who had advertised an iPhone for sale on Craigslist, the lawsuit said.

Yates, who has diminished cognitive ability, was repeat-

press release that includ Yates' mugshot was sent to to the media. But when t charges were dropped, press release was sent o and there was no media co erage," his attorney said.

# ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

The Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton wrote, "For nearly 140 years, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hospital Sisters Health System, and the Sisters of St. Francis have been committed to embodying the healing love of Jesus Christ for all people through their high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. I am confident the proposed new facility will make it possible for St. Elizabeth Hospital to deepen its mission of caring for the sick in the metro-east region for generations to come."

St. Elizabeth's is across the street from the Cathedral of St. Peter in downtown Belleville.

Maryann Reese, chief executive officer and president of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, said she was pleased by all the community support.

"The outpouring of support makes us feel really good," she said. "We've taken a lot of time and energy on this project. We're delighted that there are those that agree with us. We're looking forward to the future and they're looking forward with us."

Keith A. Page, the chief executive officer and president of Anderson Hospital, wrote that he does not agree with St. Elizabeth's plans to build near the new Memorial Hospital-East under construction in Shiloh.

"Anderson Hospital does not support the relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from its Belleville campus to O'Fallon," Page wrote. "Anderson Hospital draws few patients from the O'Fallon area but objectively it does not seem rational to build two new hospitals so close together. As inpatient services continue to transition to outpatient services, it appears that a more cost-effective approach would include retaining in-patient services at St. Elizabeth's Belleville location while expanding outpatient services in the desirable O'Fallon market."

The proposed replacement hospital for St. Elizabeth's is less than two miles from Memorial Hospital-East, a 94-bed hospital being built on Cross Street in Shiloh.

Memorial Hospital President and CEO Mark Turner also wrote an objection letter.

"St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Memorial Belleville have shared responsibility for providing essential services to residents of Belleville, including many who are financially disadvantaged," Turner wrote. "Many of St. Elizabeth's current patients will not travel to O'Fallon for their care, and Memorial Belleville does not have the physical capacity to absorb this significant patient influx."

Under Illinois law, nursing homes, hospitals and other medical centers must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the nine-member board before they can build, expand or close a medical building.

As part of the process, the hospital CEO must notify via letter all hospitals within a 45-mile radius of the certificate of need application. That correspondence is included in the application.

Two of the hospitals returned letters in support of the move: St. Joseph's in Highland and St. Joseph's in Breese. Those hospitals are owned by HSHS, St. Elizabeth's parent company.

The certificate of need application stated that the current hospital "is located in the middle of the city of Belleville, which was a convenient location over 100 years ago when the original hospital was established, but not now given traffic and growth."

Other letters of support came from city leaders in Collinsville, Highland, Lebanon and Sparta. In addition, educators from O'Fallon and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville penned letters of support, as did members of multiple construction and real estate groups. O'Fallon residents, clergy, and patients, doctors and staff members from St. Elizabeth's also submitted letters in support.

St. Elizabeth's announced in June that it will build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital on 114 acres of land north of I-64 and west of Green Mount Road, about seven miles from the hospital's current location.

St. Elizabeth's has been located in downtown Belleville for nearly 140 years. The current hospital building was constructed in the 1950s.

"The main hospital facility is over 60 years old and functionally obsolete," according to the certificate of need.

Some of the specific reasons listed why the Belleville hospital building is out of date include:

- semi-private rooms, while contemporary standards call for private rooms;
- lack of adequate handwashing stations;
- lack of bathing facilities in each patient room; and
- some patient rooms have no doors, which compromise HIPPA compliance.

Reese has said that it would take twice as long and cost twice as much to retrofit the Belleville hospital to correspond with modern-day medicine.

## What's next?

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board deemed St. Elizabeth's certificate of need complete Tuesday, o day after receiving it.

Next, there will be a pu lic hearing in the metro-ea for community members voice support and concer about the relocation pla Reese said she is not su when or where the publ hearing will be.

Then, the board will vo to approve or reject the ce tificate of need applicatio That hearing must be wit in 60 to 120 days of the ce tificate of need being filed

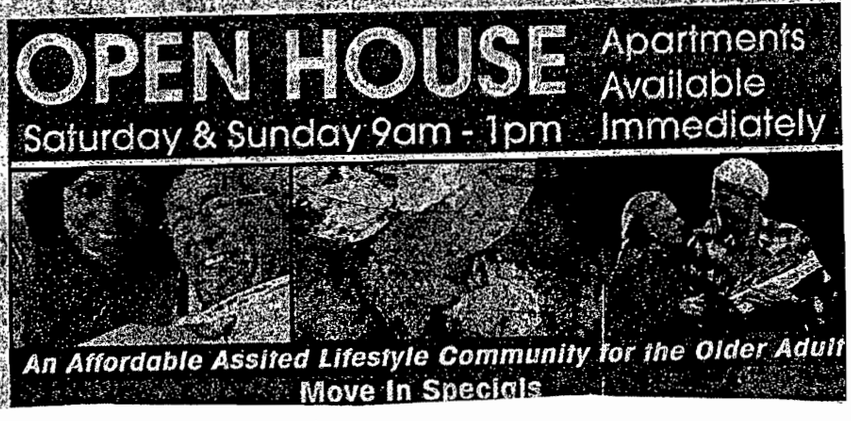
"It could be Novembe December, January ... w just really don't know Reese said.

The certificate of nee listed the anticipated da for the replacement hospit to be certified for occupanc by Dec. 31, 2017, "whic will be the date of the di continuation of the curre hospital," she said.

But Reese cautioned th that date is an estimate.

"Once we put a shovel the ground, it'll take 2.5 to years to build the new ho pital to finish it," Reese sai "Dec. 31, 2017, is an est mated date. It just depend on when we start."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.



# Public hearing scheduled for St. E's project

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

A hearing will give community members the chance to publicly voice their thoughts on the proposed replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon.

The public hearing is scheduled for 4 p.m. Oct. 2 in the auditorium at Lindenwood University-Belleville at 2600 W. Main St., according to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Sign-in for the meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Commenters may be limited on the length of time they can speak, depending on how many people show to the public hearing.

St. Elizabeth's announced in June that it will build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, about seven miles from its present location on Third Street in Belleville.

The current St. Elizabeth's Hospital facility was built in the 1950s, but St. Elizabeth's has had a hospital in downtown Belleville for nearly 140 years.

Under Illinois law, nursing homes, hospitals and other medical centers must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the nine-member board before they can build, expand or close a medical building.

The state board's consideration of St. Elizabeth's certificate of need for the project is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 12 in Rochelle.

The deadline to comment publicly at the November meeting is Oct. 23. Comments should be sent to Mike Constantino, at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, Second Floor, 525 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62761.

The state board will post its findings in a state board staff report, which will be posted online Oct. 29 at www.hfsrb.illinois.gov/sars.htm. The public may submit written responses in support of or in opposition to the findings of the state board through 9 a.m. Nov. 3.

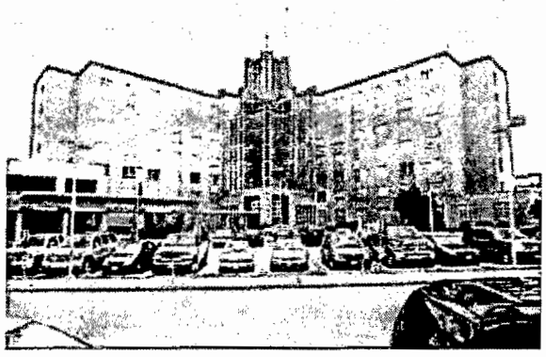
A public hearing for St. Elizabeth's proposed Ambulatory Care Center in O'Fallon is scheduled immediately after the first public hearing in Belleville. It is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at Lindenwood. A sign-in will begin at 6 p.m.

Attorney Clare Connor Ranalli wrote a letter on behalf of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to request the public hearing. She asked that the hearings be scheduled together "as they both relate to the same subject matter, which is the replacement of St. Elizabeth's Hospital on a new site."

Also, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert requested a public hearing, in a letter written by Mark Silberman, an attorney hired by the city. 8/29/14

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# Public invited to weigh in on St. Elizabeth's move



AUGUST 29, 2014 2:00 PM • BY SAMANTHA LISS
SLISS@POST-DISPATCH.COM 314-340-8017

Belleville residents will be able to voice their opinions about St. Elizabeth's move from downtown Belleville to O'Fallon, Ill., during a public meeting on Oct. 2.

The public hearing will be held at 4 p.m. at Lindenwood University's auditorium at 2600 West Main Street in Belleville.

The public hearing comes after written requests were made from both hospital and city officials.

St. Elizabeth's officials submitted an application this week to state health regulators to build a new $253 million, 144-bed hospital in O'Fallon. Hospital officials are proposing to discontinue the 303-bed hospital in downtown Belleville and replace it with the one about seven miles away in O'Fallon. State health regulators are tentatively scheduled to review the application Nov. 12.

Clare Connor Ranalli, a lawyer for St. Elizabeth's, requested the public hearing in a written letter dated Aug. 25 to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Mark Silberman, a lawyer that was hired by the city of Belleville, also requested a public hearing in a written letter dated Aug. 26.

St. Elizabeth's is also seeking approval to build a $34 million medical office building adjacent to the new hospital in O'Fallon, and a second hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. regarding that proposal immediately following the first.

Hospital administrators have said it would be too costly to update the downtown hospital and plan to use it for outpatient services.

St. Elizabeth's is part of Hospital Sisters Health System, a 13-hospital, nonprofit health system based in Illinois.

# Public hearing scheduled for St. E's project

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*News-Democrat*

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Also, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert requested a public hearing, in a letter written by Mark Silberman, an attorney hired by the city. 8/29/14

**Can't trust judgment**

In reference to the St. Elizabeth's move, I question the soundness of any financial decision made by St. E's. Several years ago St. Elizabeth's agreed to lease a new health care facility on Illinois 3 outside of Columbia. It was open for one year, vacated due to lack of activity and now is abandoned. I don't understand the situation.

**Mayor, stop St. E's**

Why doesn't Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert fine St. Elizabeth's Hospital for leaving our community? I'm sure they are breaking some contract with the city. Belleville supported the hospital for years and we get kicked to the curb? How are we going to get to the new hospital? What about the senior citizens who don't have a car to get there? 9/11/14

**Hospitals can be close**

The CEO of Anderson Hospital, Keith Page, opposes St. Elizabeth's Hospital's move to O'Fallon because he doesn't think it's a good idea to have two hospitals built so close together. Really? He might want to step across the river where Missouri Baptist Hospital is located next door to St. John Mercy. They seem to be doing quite well serving the sick and needy. 9/11/14

# Opinions

OUR VIEW

## Navigating a long road

AS EXPECTED, St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville has presented its case to the state about why it should be allowed to relocate to O'Fallon.

No surprise that officials in O'Fallon and at hospitals affiliated with St. E's are among those who think it's a great idea, while competing hospitals and Belleville officials are adamantly opposed.

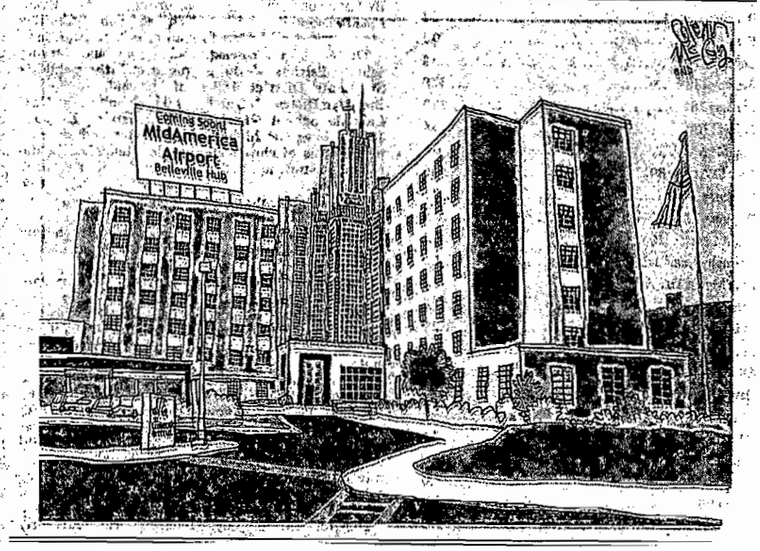
What may be a surprise, however, is what happens between now and Nov. 12, when the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is scheduled to consider the request. A public hearing is set for 4 p.m. Oct. 2 at Lindenwood University in Belleville, and the state also will accept written comments from the public.

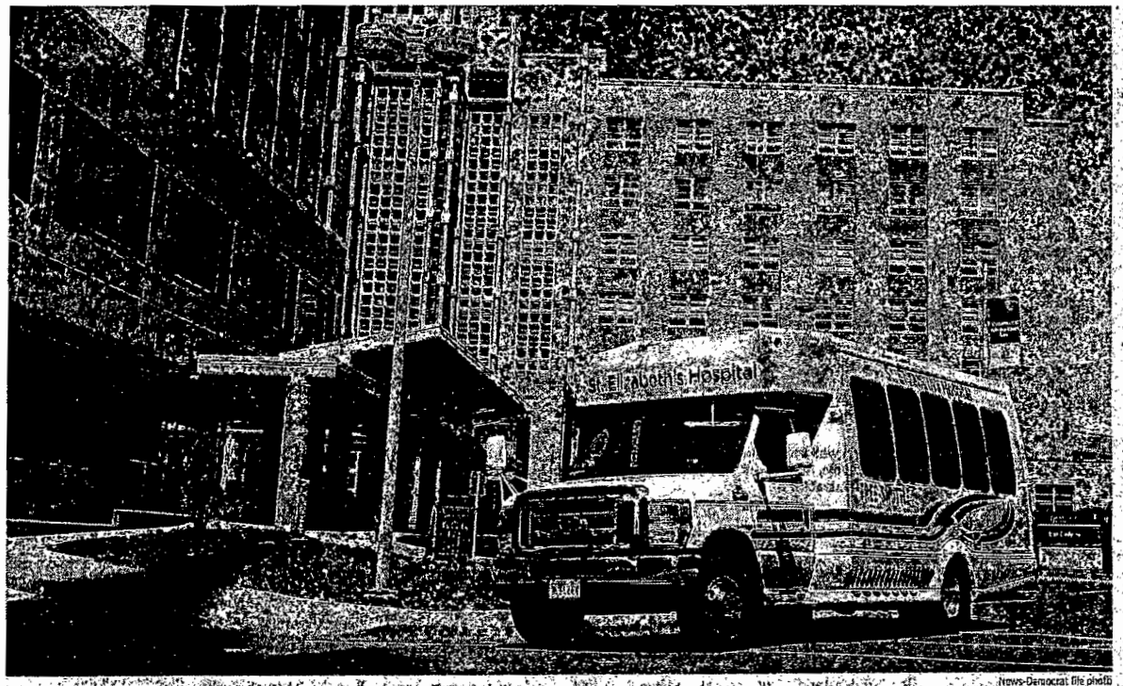
A lot of people think that this is a done deal, but the board will not decide until the full arguments, pro and con, and public comments are heard.

It would behoove the hospital and the city of Belleville to work on a compromise rather than wait for the state to pick the winners and losers.

While Belleville would prefer to keep the hospital in downtown, the wrong approach may guarantee an empty building with no Hospital Sisters Health System presence. And even if St. Elizabeth's gets the state's approval to move, the soonest the new hospital would open is late 2017. That's a long time to continue to operate in a city and be at odds.

Where ever the hospital is located, it will still want the good will and support of the people of Belleville.






(News-Democrat file photo)

# Moving St. E's is best for the region's health

MARYANN REESE

St. Elizabeth's Hospital's decision to build a replacement hospital seven miles from our current location along Interstate 64 was made after careful consideration and with the region's best interest in mind.

In the mid-2000s, St. Elizabeth's recognized that our 60-year-old patient tower was not designed to continue to deliver 21st century inpatient care. Our options were to renovate our existing hospital or build a replacement hospital. After much deliberation, we determined the cost and time it would take to renovate our existing hospital was an unwise use of resources at a time of increasing cost pressures on hospitals. In addition, our current campus is not located near a major thoroughfare and is difficult to reach. Our patients often complain about having to navigate multiple stop signs and confusing one-way streets on their way to the hospital.

In late 2010, we looked at two properties as potential locations for a replacement hospital. One parcel, which was presented by the mayor of Belleville, would have located our replacement hospital on unincorporated land adjacent to Southwestern Illinois College. Another option was property along I-64. We purchased this property in 2011 and just recently decided to replace the hospital on this property.

To critics who say we are abandoning Belleville, we want to explain the following facts about how health care is delivered today. Increasingly, the focus is on outpatient care. People will visit a walk-in clinic or physician's office and then get follow-up tests at an outpatient center. These types of ambulatory care services will remain on our downtown Belleville campus.

When patients require an inpatient hospital stay, they typically are either very sick or have suffered a serious injury. When someone suffers a heart attack, stroke or serious accident, a hospital that is easily accessible via a major interstate could mean the difference between life and death. Our planned state-of-the-art hospital is designed with these patients in mind.

Our vision is to build a regional hospital that will continue to serve the residents of Belleville and provide greater access to all metro-east residents. This year, 15,000 Illinoisans from our service area will drive across the river to seek inpatient care at a St. Louis hospital. By offering high-quality, easily accessible care at our new hospital, we will keep good-paying health care jobs in Illinois and help improve the quality of life for our residents.

The new hospital's location will also make it easier for those living in low-income communities to get to our new hospital and adjacent physician offices. An analysis of drive times from underserved neighborhoods in the metro-east to our new location found that two-thirds of low-income residents will have shorter drive times than they currently have driving to our existing campus. The new hospital will also be served by mass transit.

To residents who worry about the effect on Belleville businesses, it's important to remember that our nurses and clinicians currently use the hospital cafeteria almost exclusively for their meal breaks. Many of our colleagues who will remain on our Belleville campus will be more likely to visit a restaurant on Main Street during their lunch break, since the cafeteria will be relocated.

It's also worth noting that our colleagues live in communities across the metro-east. Their commutes to the new hospital will increase by an average of only two minutes. That would hardly cause people to move from their current homes, as has been suggested. As a result, we don't anticipate Belleville's property tax base being negatively impacted by our project.

If our plans are approved by the state, we will work closely with city officials to ensure our campus complements the robust dining, shopping and cultural amenities that make Main Street so vibrant. Options could include ballfields, an outdoor amphitheater, a community garden and/or a venue for a farmers' market. We invite the community to help us plan the transformation of our campus so that it continues to provide medical services to the community while enhancing the quality of life in downtown Belleville.

At St. Elizabeth's, we take our mission to provide high-quality Franciscan health care very seriously. Our plans for a replacement hospital along I-64 and Green Mount Road and ambulatory care services on a re-envisioned Belleville campus will allow our mission to survive and thrive for decades to come.

We encourage feedback on our plans and welcome readers to visit *www.supportsteliz.org* to learn more about our project.

Maryann Reese is president and CEO of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

9/7/14

# Hospital plan abandons supportive Belleville

MARK ECKERT

Belleville does not oppose progress, so long as progress does not come at the expense of Belleville. No one wants to deny HSHS a modern St. Elizabeth's Hospital — we just want to see it pursued in the community that has supported St. Elizabeth's for the last 140 years and grown to depend on St. Elizabeth's for its health care and for the economic viability of the community.

The "con" submitted by St. Elizabeth's may reflect what HSHS believes is in the best interest of its multibillion dollar, not-for-profit health care system, but it entirely disregards the impact upon indigent patients and the devastating impact it will have on the city of Belleville. But you don't have to take my word for it, just ask St. Elizabeth's.

St. Elizabeth's relied upon a report it prepared with the Illinois Hospital Association to entice O'Fallon/Shiloh into spending multiple millions of dollars redistricting, rezoning and remediating — undermining — all in the hopes of getting a new hospital. St. Elizabeth's Hospital claims to be an "economic anchor for our community. "For 140 years that was true, but today St. Elizabeth's stands ready to abandon downtown Belleville for the lure of a better patient mix and to create its own "regional medical center" along with its other hospitals. If approved, St. Elizabeth's may prove to be the anchor dragging Belleville down.

We've heard from members of the public who worry this is a "done deal." This is not true. The mission of the state Health Facilities and Services Review Board is not to protect or facilitate the interests of health care systems. Its mission is to "establish an orderly and comprehensive health care delivery system which will guarantee the availability of quality health care to the general public." This requires ensuring meaningful access to health care for indigent and underserved populations. Belleville's opposition is rooted in the adverse impact this project will have on access to, and the destructive impact it will have on our community.

Public transportation (Metro link, buses, etc.) evolved to ensure that indigent communities had access to health care in Belleville. No such system exists to get patients to O'Fallon. Twice, Belleville's Fire Department has saved St. Elizabeth's — a feat that would have been more challenging for O'Fallon/Shiloh's volunteer department.

St. Elizabeth's report describes St. Elizabeth's Hospital as being "critical to the economic viability of our community as a major source of employment and purchaser of goods and services." We agree.

Their report details creating 2,000 jobs and an economic impact of $313 million for the community. Belleville has worked incredibly hard to rebuild over the last decade. Belleville can ill afford to lose the "1,300 health care employees," the "additional 700 jobs" created for the local economy by the spending of St. Elizabeth's Hospital employees, or the "$16,516,000 (generated) for the local economy per year" from St. Elizabeth's capital spending. If you question the destructive impact of losing a prominent employer, just ask Decatur.

Ask Waterloo if the commitment to an urgent care center should offer comfort? Will doctors really continue to office in Belleville with new medical office space next to a new hospital in O'Fallon/Shiloh? St. Elizabeth's complains that it would cost more to rebuild in Belleville — but isn't that what its $3 billion in unrestricted assets are for? Hasn't St. Elizabeth's benefited from Belleville?

Belleville has been and remains willing to explore options that would allow for a new St. Elizabeth's in Belleville. However, St. Elizabeth's is not interested.

St. Elizabeth's "it's only seven miles" argument goes both ways. St. Elizabeth's has concluded that its mission is "not survivable" in Belleville, but will somehow thrive in O'Fallon. What part of the union labor couldn't take place in Belleville? What benefits St. Elizabeth's seek could not be achieved in Belleville? Do we really need two new hospitals within 7 miles of the O'Fallon/Shiloh exit?

Belleville asked if St. Elizabeth's would commit to discussing a new St. Elizabeth's in Belleville if it did not obtain regulatory approval. It would not. Sources have reported St. Elizabeth's would plan to "just close." It seems curious that a group that, by its own mission, is "particularly committed to serving the sick, the aged, the poor and the terminally ill" would abandon an underserved community for a more affluent community, expecting the poor to travel to them for health care.

Let your voices be heard — and not through a form letter generated by a website. Come to the Oct. 2 public hearing.

Belleville does not oppose progress. We do oppose abandonment.

Mark W. Eckert is mayor of Belleville.

## Access won't improve

If St. Elizabeth's Hospital believes its proposed location in O'Fallon will be easier to access than the current Belleville location, hospital leaders are living in a dream world. Both Frank Scott Parkway and Green Mount Road are poorly designed roads with constant traffic backups. St. Clair County should have addressed this sooner.

## A done hospital deal?

On Sept. 7, the CEO of St. Elizabeth's Hospital had a convincing column about relocating the hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon. In Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert's rebuttal, he states his view but also states that many people think the hospital move is a done deal. His thoughts are echoed by the BND's article about O'Fallon wanting to sell its water and sewer operations. The O'Fallon mayor stated that the city may need that money for infrastructure because they have a hospital coming. Does he know something we don't know? Deals get made behind closed doors. Good-bye, Belleville; hello, O'Fallon.

## No reason to give up

I agree with some of the comments in the paper about St. Elizabeth's Hospital. I feel that St. Elizabeth's management is giving up on Belleville. All the buildings could be fixed to make the hospital still feasible for years to come. Why don't they look at making St. E's into a VA hospital? It's sad that St. Elizabeth's is giving up; it's a waste of a building to let this go to nothing.

## Move is no big deal

What's the big deal about St. Elizabeth's Hospital moving to O'Fallon? It's a 20-minute ride. You have an old hospital that needs millions of dollars spent to rehab, or you can have a first-class facility like you will have in O'Fallon. Quit crying.

Goodbye, St. E's; we are heartsick. My mother relies on St. Elizabeth's. The building should not be torn down. Rehab the building and make it usable for the low-income residents of our community.

## Late to complain

Why didn't Belleville get up in arms when Christian Welfare Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis were closed? Apparently they have more concern about St. Elizabeth's Hospital closing and having Belleville residents have to travel six miles than they were when the two hospitals in East St. Louis closed and the residents of East St. Louis had to travel to St. Elizabeth's or Memorial. The worm has turned. 9/15/14

## St. E's belongs to the region

BELLEVILLE MAYOR Mark Eckert talks as if Belleville has the exclusive rights to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. It has been supported by Belleville these past 140 years, he states. But St. Elizabeth's is a regional hospital and always has been.

A quick check of the patient listings will discover individuals from O'Fallon, Shiloh, East St. Louis, Smithton, New Athens, Swansea and so on. The patients are not exclusively Belleville residents, nor will they be in the new hospital in O'Fallon. Once again it would be a regional hospital, but this time it would be regionally located.

In case Eckert hasn't noticed, Belleville is no longer the center of the metro-east. The population is moving east away from Belleville.

Another thing I find interesting is Memorial's opposition. Yes, it's competition and yes, St. E's opposed their Shiloh campus, so turnabout is fair play, but the Shiloh Memorial will not be a full-service hospital. It offer certain services only. The proposed St. E's would be full service.

Part of the St. Elizabeth campus downtown is more than 70 years old. In fact I'm 74 and I was born in one of the buildings still in use. If any of you have ever been in a modern hospital facility (outside of Belleville, that is), you would know that the current St. E's is no longer viable as a modern hospital and needs to be replaced. O'Fallon is an excellent choice. 8/14/14

**Dave Arnold**
O'Fallon

## Work with St. E's

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert's campaign to stop St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a private corporation, from moving out of the city is typical King Eckert rationale. Instead of working with the hospital to come up with a new use for the building, Eckert has his mind made up. If St. Elizabeth's can't move, hospital executives will close it. But with the mayor it's his way or no way. 9/18/14

# City, school board pass resolutions opposing St. E's move

By Jamie Forsythe
and Jaqueline Lee
*News-Democrat*

A Belleville school board and the Belleville City Council passed resolutions at meetings Monday night formally opposing the relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital outside city limits.

St. Elizabeth's announced in June it will build a $300 million hospital in O'Fallon. The new site is about seven miles from its present location in downtown Belleville, where St. Elizabeth's has had a hospital for about 140 years.

BND.com
See the city's resolution

One Belleville District 201 school board member, Carol Eckert, didn't feel it was appropriate for the board to be voting on a matter not related to the education of students.

"I don't think it's the sort of thing an educational board should be involved in," she said. "We are in someone else's business here."

District 201 Superintendent Jeff Dosier defended the resolution opposing the relocation of St. Elizabeth's outside the city limits. He said a number of district families depend on the healthcare provided by the hospital.

"I think it will not be good for our community if they do leave," Dosier said.

Eckert said the board should have someone from St. Elizabeth's discuss the relocation before the board votes.

9/16/14

*Please see* **COUNCIL, A2**



## COUNCIL

*Continued from Page A1*

Despite her request, the board voted 5-1 to pass the resolution opposing the relocation.

Eckert voted no. District 201 board member Marvin Lampkin was absent.

Dosier said a decision hasn't been made yet regarding whether the district will send a letter opposing the relocation to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, which is the state board that would award the certificate of need required for St. Elizabeth's to build in O'Fallon.

The Belleville District 118 school board will consider a similar resolution at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at district headquarters, 105 W. A St. in Belleville.

The Belleville City Council voted 12-2-1 to approve a resolution drafted by Mark Silberman, an attorney hired by the city to represent officials in fighting the certificate of need.

Ward 1 Alderman Ken Kinsella said he supported the resolution as written by the attorney.

But Ward 2 Alderwoman Melinda Hult and Ward 7 Alderman Trent Galetti voted no because of the resolution's wording. Ward 6 Alderman Bob White abstained and Ward 2 Alderwoman Janet Schmidt was absent.

Elected officials across the aisle said they were disappointed by St. Elizabeth's intent to build a hospital outside Belleville and expressed the desire to show a united front in opposing the hospital's move.

Hult voted no after asking for more time to review and revise the resolution. She said she was distressed by the number of "trigger words" and "emotional" language, rendering the tone unprofessional.

"We just sound like we're pouting," Hult said.

The two-page resolution criticizes the hospital for setting out to advance the hospital's interest, after 140 years in Belleville, with disregard for the destructive impact on the city and the "economically challenged communities surrounding Belleville."

The resolution also proclaims that the certificate of need process is not a "done deal," urging residents to let their voices be heard on the issue, and states that city leaders "remain committed to a brand new or modernized St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville."

The resolution concludes: "Belleville does not oppose progress, but it does oppose abandonment!"

Galetti said he voted against the resolution because it makes city leaders sound "whiney."

"He ends the last sentence with an exclamation mark," Galetti said. "This isn't a text message ..."

Memorial Hospital in Belleville and Anderson Hospital in Maryville also have spoken against the move. The application for a certificate of need by St. Elizabeth's Hospital, however, included more than 30 letters of support.

Community members will have the chance to share their thoughts on the proposed replacement hospital at a public hearing on Oct. 2 at Lindenwood University.

A state board review of the hospital's certificate of need for the project is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 12 in Rochelle. The deadline to comment publicly at the November meeting is Oct. 23, and comments must be sent to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Contact reporter Jacqueline Lee at jlee@bnd.com or 618-239-2655. Follow her on Twitter at https://twitter.com/BNDJLee_

## Worlds apart in Belleville

WHAT A DICHOTOMY between St. Elizabeth's Hospital's spokesman and Belleville. It's like they are from two different planets. But they are not, just from two different points of view.

While I believe that St. Elizabeth's decision is wrong and, ever worse, premature, it is still based on an economic theory called "the invisible hand." That theory, first proposed by Adam Smith in the 18th century, supposes that, in a capitalist society, each business owner or corporation does not exist just to serve the people but to make money for the owners (including stockholders).

Thomas Edison did not invent the electric light to spur on the economy or lengthen work hours, but to sell light bulbs and electric power. It was coincidental but desirable that it let us have more time in the lights.

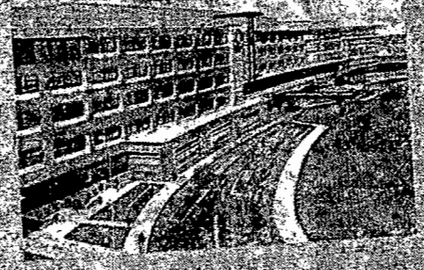
So, too, St Elizabeth's parent company sees it serving another community because leaders see it more financially rewarding. Belleville's appeal based on 140 years of history is actually irrelevant to the Hospital Sisters just as it was to car dealers, restaurants, hotels and retail stores. The money has moved east.

I think it's a mistake and premature until Memorial is up and running in O'Fallon. There may be more of the Belleville market soon available to them. Or,they may find another head-to-head battle with Memorial is still a loser there.

Maybe we could sell the hospital building to Lindenwood University, they seem to know how to operate anything at a profit. 9/17/14

**Joseph M. Reichert**
Belleville

# Eckert strays from the facts



I WOULD LIKE to correct some points made by Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert in his column Sept. 7. First, St Elizabeth's is not abandoning Belleville — just the opposite. We will continue to provide health care services and jobs at our current campus.

We believe metro-east residents deserve a state-of-the-art hospital that is easily accessible from Interstate 64. Our current 60-year-old building was not designed for 21st century acute care. Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert understood that point in December 2010, and he knows it now.

Eckert is inaccurate when he says we are attempting to get a "better patient mix." St. Elizabeth's remains very committed to serving the indigent. Moving our inpatient services seven miles will not change the percentage of our patients who are insured, rely on Medicaid or Medicare, or have no insurance. In addition, drive times to our new hospital will decrease for two-thirds of the region's low-income residents.

Eckert is also mistaken about mass transit serving the new location. There is a current bus route (St Clair 12) that serves the new hospital property. Once our project is approved, we will request expanded bus service to the new hospital.

Finally, the mayor misstates St Elizabeth's financial situation. Our tax returns are public and show the true picture.

We understand the mayor opposes our project. We would simply ask that he stick to the facts.

**William S. Lyke**
Chairman, St Elizabeth's Hospital Board of Directors 9/16/14

# Chamber, school board oppose St. E's plan

## Resolutions are against O'Fallon hospital

By Maria Hasenstab and Jamie Forsythe
*News-Democrat*

BND.com
See previous related coverage

The Belleville Chamber of Commerce and Belleville District 118 school board both voted Tuesday to oppose the proposed replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon.

Chamber Executive Director John Lengerman released a statement Tuesday that called St. Elizabeth's plan to close the hospital in downtown Belleville very disappointing.

In June, St. Elizabeth's announced plans to build a state-of-the-art replacement hospital because the cost to update the current building for 21st century medical needs would cost twice as much and take twice as long.

Hospital officials were not available Tuesday to discuss the chamber's vote.

Under Illinois law, nursing homes, hospitals and other medical centers must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board before they can build, expand or close a medical building.

"After much discussion it was approved that the Belleville Chamber is opposed to the CON as filed by St. Elizabeth," Lengerman said in an email Tuesday.

The loss of 1,300 employees and hospital patients in Belleville would affect the local economy in restaurants, hotels and gift shops, according to the statement.

"The scope of the hospital's abandonment will send shock waves throughout the entire community of Belleville, in ways too numerous to mention," the statement read.

The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber

*Please see* HOSPITAL, A3

9/17/14

## HOSPITAL

*Continued from Page A1*

of Commerce has already submitted a letter of support for the new St. Elizabeth's Hospital as part of the Certificate of Need process.

Belleville District 118 school board members unanimously passed a resolution formally opposing the relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital outside city limits during its meeting Tuesday night.

District 118 Board President Joe Robertson presented the resolution to the board.

He said St. Elizabeth's is one of the biggest employers in Belleville and the possible relocation of the hospital to O'Fallon would have a "big impact."

Superintendent Matt Klosterman said St. Elizabeth's is located in the center of the district's boundaries.

If the hospital does relocate, "it would be a significant negative impact," he said.

On Monday, the Belleville City Council and Belleville District 201 school board both passed resolutions to formally oppose the relocation of St. Elizabeth's outside the city limits.

The proposed $300 million, 144-bed hospital would be built on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, about seven miles from its present location on Third Street in Belleville.

**From the St. Louis Business Journal :http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2014/09/two-more-belleville-boards-oppose-st-elizabeths.html**

# Two more Belleville boards oppose St. Elizabeth's plan

Sep 17, 2014, 6:41am CDT

Angela Mueller
Reporter- *St. Louis Business Journal*
Email | Twitter | Facebook

The Belleville Chamber of Commerce and Belleville District 118's school board both voted on Tuesday to officially oppose St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plan to build a new replacement facility in O'Fallon, Illinois.

In a statement, Chamber Executive Director John Lengerman called St. Elizabeth's plan to move its hospital out of downtown Belleville "very disappointing," the Belleville News-Democrat reports.

St. Elizabeth's has filed for approval from the state to build a new $253.5 million hospital in O'Fallon, seven miles away from its current campus in downtown Belleville.

"The scope of the hospital's abandonment will send shock waves throughout the entire community of Belleville, in ways too numerous to mention," Lengerman's statement said.

Earlier this week, the Belleville City Council and Belleville District 201's school board passed similar resolutions opposing the plan.

The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce has submitted a letter of support to the state for St. Elizabeth's planned new hospital, the News-Democrat reports.

BND.com

See video, more photos, public pay database and previous coverage.

MARK HODAPP/Highland News-Leader

Highland School District teachers react Thursday after voting to approve a contract agreement and end their strike.

# Rescuing a chicken in Centreville

ZIA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

Gateway Guardians volunteer Jeremy Alms carries a chicken he caught Thursday at a burned-out house in Centreville. Gateway Guardians is a nonprofit animal rescue shelter that takes in abandoned animals. For more information on volunteering, fostering or adopting animals, visit www.gatewaypets.com. To make a report, visit www.gatewaypets.com/outreach. The rescued chicken will be taken to a local farm. To see a gallery of related photographs, go to bnd.com.

# St. Elizabeth's receives thousands in hospital waiting room furniture

## Donations made despite plans to build replacement site in O'Fallon

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

The Friends of St. Elizabeth's recently donated $130,000 to the Belleville hospital for furniture upgrades in the emergency room waiting room, despite St. Elizabeth's ongoing plans to build a replacement facility in O'Fallon.

"We can't stop operating our hospital, and we don't want to stop any of the high level of patient care we do here," said hospital spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau.

The unrestricted gift was not earmarked for a specific project, so an internal selection committee identified the waiting room in need of upgrades. The funds helped purchase hospital-grade chairs and couches and children's interactive play area.

"The decision was made based on the overall wear and tear of the equipment that was already in place," said Natalie Jablonski, executive director of mission integration and environment.

The "Kidzspace Interactive" software offers games to entertain children in the ER waiting area.

In addition to waiting room improvements in Belleville, some of the money went toward waiting room upgrades at the O'Fallon Medical Building.

Sue Ellen Dumstorff, a donor and vice chairwoman of the Friends Leadership Council, said the board approved the furniture purchase in April. She said there was no discussion of saving the money as a gift to invest in the proposed O'Fallon hospital. 9/19/14

*Please see* HOSPITAL, A2

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## LOTTERY

**ILLINOIS**
Pick 3-Midday: 8-1-2
Fireball: 9
Pick 3-Evening: 8-9-0
Fireball: 6
Pick 4-Midday: 7-9-6-3
Fireball: 7
Pick 4-Evening: 6-8-3-5
Fireball: 5
Lucky Day Lotto Midday: 1-7-33-35-45
Lucky Day Lotto Evening: 1-5-15-23-29
Lotto: 24-25-26-39-44-50
Lotto Extra Shot: 17

**MISSOURI**
Pick 3-Midday: 5-5-7
Pick 3-Evening: 9-1-3
Pick 4-Midday: 5-4-5-5
Pick 4-Evening: 7-8-2-9
Show Me Cash: 4-24-28-34-37

## DEATHS

PAGES A8-9

Hannah Bammer
Virginia Bell
Shirley Coleman
Dora Crouch
Glenda Davis Barks

# HOSPITAL

*Continued from Page A1*

"No," she said. "We want the patients to have the very best that they can have. We just want them to have the newest and the best equipment that we can provide."

She said the Friends group makes donations for items deemed necessary, and the hospital and medical building were in need of new furniture. "The most important thing is for the patients and for the staff to have the best... If we can provide it, we do it."

During the past year, additional funds from the Friends have been used to purchase a hydrotherapy tub for the mother child center, an Alter G Anti-Gravity Treadmill for physical therapy services and a Zoll CoolGuard Arctic Sun for therapeutic hypothermia treatment of patients in the critical care unit.

In June, St. Elizabeth's announced plans to build proposed $300 million, 144-bed hospital would be built on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, about seven miles from its present location on Third Street in Belleville. If a state review board allows the hospital to proceed with its plans, the current 60-year-old Belleville hospital building would be vacated when the new hospital.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert has been critical of the amount of money spent on upgrades to the existing Belleville hospital. He has said that St. Elizabeth's has not invested nearly as much as Memorial Hospital has put into its Belleville hospital.

"Any improvements they continue to make for the Belleville facilities are looked at as being much appreciated," Eckert said.

Jablonski said that more than $1.5 million in donations has been reinvested into the hospital since July 2008 in the form of equipment, programs and renovations.

"Comfort, quality care, and safety are top priorities for St. Elizabeth's Hospital, both now and in the future," Jablonski said. "We have a responsibility to serve patients from all over the region with high-quality care and a healing environment adds to their satisfaction."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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## Make room for St. E's

Here is a solution for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's problem. Move the post office out to the former Walmart on Carlyle Avenue. Use TIF funds. Good location and use of the property. Then St. E's could have Third Street over to First Street to build new buildings.

## Willing to pay up?

Let's be clear about St. Elizabeth's move to O'Fallon. You can stop complaining or pleading or reminding them that they have been in Belleville for 140 years. This is a business decision. It's about the money. If people who want the hospital to stay have the money, they can build a new hospital and lease it to St. Elizabeth's. Put up or shut up. The hospital is going where the money is, O'Fallon.

## Belleville isn't alone

Letter writers and Sound-off callers along with Belleville leaders seem to think that Belleville is the region's lone superpower. St. Elizabeth's Hospital belongs to Belleville and in Belleville it should remain, they say. To O'Fallon, Millstadt, Smithton, Fairview Heights: Get your own hospital. Funny, I live four miles from it and haven't used it in years. Belleville can't be the lone superpower and keep everything for itself.

## Move on to O'Fallon

Regarding the St. Elizabeth's Hospital's move: Go for it. Memorial coerced doctors to practice at their hospital and to send patients there instead of St. Elizabeth's. 9/29/14

# Abandonment would be devastating to Belleville

9/21/14

**JOHN LENGERMAN**

The mission of the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce is simple: "Advancing business. Supporting community." The brevity of that statement crystalizes our expansive purpose: We exist to improve the lives of the people of Belleville, in our businesses and in our homes.

In this way, we feel our purpose and the purpose of St. Elizabeth's Hospital are complementary. And it is why we find the recent filing of the hospital's Certificate of Need (CON) — to abandon their longtime downtown Belleville location in order to relocate to O'Fallon — so very disappointing.

The greater Belleville community has supported the health care services of the hospital for more than 140 years but also through generous financial support to fund-raising efforts that total in the millions of dollars.

The loss of more than 1,300 employees from Belleville will have a devastating impact on the people of our community economically, socially and medically. Belleville's downtown core will be dealt a blow from which it may not easily recover, to say nothing about the fates of the many sick or injured patients the hospital serves every day. These patients and their families support our local economy in our restaurants, hotels and gift shops. The scope of the hospital's abandonment will send shock waves throughout the entire community of Belleville, in ways too numerous to mention.

The economic issues are easier to understand: lost jobs, lost dollars, vacant buildings. But we must consider the community impact. Loss of a full-service hospital in downtown Belleville will impact many lives, including our neighbors in Freeburg, Smithton and Millstadt. Travel distance for emergency care will increase dramatically, putting ambulatory patients at greater risk. The convenience of public transportation for workers and visitors will not be available at the new location. The low-income residents of Belleville, East Saint Louis, Centreville and other surrounding communities will have every right to feel abandoned.

The chamber is not opposed to St. Elizabeth's examining ways to increase its profitability and demographic reach; in fact, the chamber would willingly partner with the hospital to achieve its goals. However, because the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board must approve or disapprove all hospital relocations through the CON process, we must read into the record our most vehement objections to this relocation.

We exist to support the people of this worthy community and must thus stand opposed to St. Elizabeth's proposed move to O'Fallon. Furthermore, we respectfully request open and honest dialogue between the city of Belleville and St. Elizabeth's in constructing a new hospital in Belleville.

John L. Lengerman is executive director of the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce.

# Committed to give quality health care

MARK TURNER

This week marks another milestone for Memorial Hospital as we "top out" the structural steel phase of construction on Memorial Hospital East in Shiloh. We look forward to celebrating with our board, physicians, volunteers, patients and many community members who have helped to make this new hospital a reality.

The building will be fully enclosed by the end of the year and the interior construction phase will begin. This is where we will define our new private patient suites, diagnostic areas, surgical suites, a 24/7/365 fully staffed emergency department and physician office space. In addition, the necessary preparations for the technologies that will ensure access to the latest medical advancements and services will take place.

As we look to the future of health care, Memorial Hospital East will provide patients with convenient access to a full range of services as well as expand Memorial's reach to communities further to the east and north with our integrated network of physicians and clinical expertise.

The future of health care does not call for duplicating full-service hospitals with copies. It means being thoughtful about providing care with the very best physicians and clinical care experts.

At Memorial, we are advancing how we treat patients, making care more accessible, not less, and most importantly, being efficient with resources so that cost savings can be reflected in real dollars to patients. The future of health care means integrating our network without leaving patients, especially those most vulnerable, behind.

Our reinvestment of $168 million over the last 10 years in our Belleville facilities reinforces that commitment and will ensure access to state-of-the-art health care at both facilities.

It is our privilege to serve all residents and we look forward to meeting the health care needs of this region for generations to come.

Mark Turner is president and CEO of Memorial Hospital in Belleville.

9/23/14

# Rally today opposes move by St. Elizabeth's

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

A rally against the proposed move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to O'Fallon is planned for Tuesday night in Belleville.

The grassroots group "Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville" is encouraging people to come at 7 p.m. to the Belleville West High School auditorium to fight to keep St. Elizabeth's Hospital in downtown Belleville.

BND.com

See previous stories

Maryann Reese, president and chief executive officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, said she welcomes questions. "St. Elizabeth's Hospital is and continues to be committed to region-leading health care," she said.

Mayor Mark Eckert will speak at the rally.

Hospital leaders announced in June that they would build a new hospital in O'Fallon. While medical and business offices would remain in Belleville, the hospital building would be vacated.

But it's not a done deal, opponents say.

Hospitals and other medical centers in Illinois must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board before they can close, build or expand a medical building.

Reese said she believes in the process: "This is a fair and equal process so that both the support and opposing sides may be heard. We are pleased with the regional community support to our project thus far, and look forward to holding community forums inviting regional community members

9/23/14

*Please see* RALLY, A3

## Move is a business decision

ST. ELIZABETH'S decision to move out of downtown Belleville is based on economics. As a business that wants to survive in this economy they must make tough choices.

Mayor Mark Eckert's decision to hire an attorney is another waste of taxpayer funds; the City Council and other civic leaders should be the driving force to persuade the hospital to stay.

Now Eckert wants to start a grassroots effort to interfere in private enterprise and attempt to keep St. E's from getting its application approved. Once again Eckert shows his arrogance and inability to lead.

This poor example of leadership in interfering with private industry is a classic.

9/23/14

Kevin Sheridan
Fairview Heights

# RALLY

*Continued from Page A1*

with direct questions to visit us and get the facts."

Oppose the Move organizer Patty Gregory said the goal of the movement is to encourage Illinois residents to write letters opposing St. Elizabeth's application for the new hospital.

The website http://www.opposethemove.com/ is asking residents of Belleville and surrounding communities to sign an online petition to stop the hospital's plans. The group also has a Facebook page titled "Oppose St. Elizabeth's Move."

An Oppose the Move booth at the Belleville Bicentennial Oktoberfest gathered more than 3,500 signatures and addresses of those who don't want to see the hospital leave Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, about seven miles from its location on Third Street in Belleville. The facility is anticipated to be ready for patient use by the beginning of 2018.

Reese has that it wo cost twice as much a take twice as long update the landlocked year-old Belleville hosp building downtown.

Gregory said she is c cerned how St. Elizabet closing its hospital wo affect Belleville and s rounding communiti She compared the sit tion to St. Mary's Hosp in East St. Louis, wh was sold in 2004 a renamed Kenneth H Regional Hospital. T new owners, South Illinois Healthc Foundation, also opera Touchette Regio Hospital in Centreville.

In 2008, Kenneth H was reduced to an em gency room and men health unit, while otl services were transfer to Touchette. Three ye later, Kenneth Hall close

Gregory expressed f that any remaining Elizabeth's services Belleville eventually wo close, impacting Bellev and surrounding commu ties.

"They do say hist repeats itself," Greg said.

Contact reporter Maria Has stab at mhasenstab@bnd.c or 618-239-2460.

# Eckert: 'We can do this'

## Mayor rallies support to keep St. E's in Belleville

9/24/14

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

About 50 people attended Tuesday night's Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville rally against the proposed move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to O'Fallon in Belleville.

In June, St. Elizabeth's announced plans to build a new hospital in O'Fallon. But first the hospital must receive approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

BND.COM
**Hear Mayor Eckert speak during the rally.**
Watch the video online.

"I cannot see the reason for moving," said Nancy Olson, of Belleville, a former St. Elizabeth's employee and volunteer.

Rick Ortiz organizes the website www.opposethemove.com. He encouraged rally-goers to write letters to the state board: "What we want is heartfelt, personal letters."

Ortiz and his sister were born at St. Elizabeth's, and his grandfather passed away there. "We all have personal stories ... Put that into words and pass that along," he said.

Rally organizer Stephanie Dorris said the hospital's plans to leave Belleville are a bad deal, but not a done deal: "You can make a difference."

She encouraged the audience to spread the word, write the Belleville News-Democrat and like and share the group's Facebook page "Oppose St. Elizabeth's Move." Organizers are planning to doll out bumper stickers and yard signs.

DERIK HOLTMANN/News-Democrat

**Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert reads a letter opposing the St. Elizabeth's Hospital move to O'Fallon during Tuesday night's rally. About 50 people gathered for the event in an effort to build support against St.**

the bottom is cut off. "Elizabeth's Hospital proposed relocation. "Belleville is a can-do community," Eckert says. "We can do this."

2511
City Desk: 239-2536
Lifestyle: 239-2547
Sports: 239-2516
BND Magazine: 239-2641
People in Business: 239-2526
Retail Roundup: 239-2526
Community Listings: 239-2547
Photo: 239-2470

**Advertising**
Classified: 234-7000
Display Advertising: 239-2541
Recruitment: 239-2478
Obituaries: 239-2581
Legal Notices: 239-2699
Paid Announcements: 239-2474 or 239-2611

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## CORRECTION

Because of a production error, a Page A3 article Tuesday about the Collinsville City Council had incorrect information about the council's next meeting. The board meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the council chambers in City Hall.

The News-Democrat welcomes calls from readers concerning errors and will make appropriate corrections promptly. To report an error, call 618-239-2500 or 800-642-3878, ext. 2500.

## DEATHS

PAGES A8-9

Evelyn Abel-McCormick
Robert Arlt Sr.
Larry Beard

Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from two Navy ships in the Red Sea and the northern Persian Gulf.

Gen. Mayville, director of operations for the Joint Staff, did not provide mission details so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The strikes weren't coordinated with the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad, but Syrian officials were notified in advance through Russian channels, the officials said.

Assad's government is a close ally of Iran, which has been a key supporter of Houthi rebels in Yemen. The Houthis have been battling a Saudi-led coalition that has been trying to restore the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who was forced out of the country in March 2015.

The Houthis have been accused of firing missiles at ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and the U.S. has said Iran has provided the rebels with weapons and training.

Mayville said the U.S. strikes were in response to the Houthis' "continued attempts to launch attacks threatening international maritime activity in the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea."

Mayville said the U.S. has "clear indications" that Houthi forces had fired missiles toward ships in the area on Oct. 9, Oct. 12 and Oct. 13. The Houthis have denied launching the missiles.

Mayville said the U.S. has "clear indications" that Houthi forces had fired missiles toward ships in the area on Oct. 9, Oct. 12 and Oct. 13. The Houthis have denied launching the missiles.

Mayville said the U.S. has "clear indications" that Houthi forces had hacked into computers [illegible] report," Henderson wrote.

## ST. E'S |

*Continued from Page A1*

St. Elizabeth's has gathered support through the website supportsteliz.org.

Melissa Sterling, spokeswoman for St. Elizabeth's parent company Hospital Sisters Health Systems, welcomed community opinions. She said the hospital looks forward to sharing its plan and why moving to O'Fallon is best for the region.

The state board will consider St. Elizabeth's certificate of need o Dec. 16. The board previously scheduled the hearing for November.

"We respect the state's process," Sterling said.

Emily Fultz, Belleville director of economic development and planning, quoted figures from a 2010 St. Elizabeth's study that said the hospital has 2,000 jobs and a $313 million economic impact.

"We cannot afford to let St. Elizabeth's leave Belleville," Fultz said.

A public hearing is planned for 4 p.m. Oct. 2 at Lindenwood University in Belleville.

Mayor Mark Eckert encouraged those opposed to the project to pack the Lindenwood auditorium.

"Belleville is a can-do community," he said. "We can do this."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

## HEROIN |

*Continued from Page A1*

Perkins, 66, pleaded guilty to heroin distribution and is serving a 27-year prison sentence in Aliceville, Ala. Her son, Douglas Oliver, who lived at the house, also pleaded guilty to heroin distribution charges and is serving a 30-year prison sentence.

Perkins claimed to be business partners with Sean McGilvery, a friend and former client of former St. Clair County Circuit Judge Michael Cook. McGilvery would pool his money with Perkins, who would travel to Chicago to buy heroin. McGilvery was one of Perkins' principal subdealers.

On May 22, 2012, Cook was arrested outside McGilvery's home on North 38th Street in Belleville. He later was charged with heroin possession and weapons charges. He pleaded guilty and is serving a two-year prison sentence.

McGilvery has pleaded guilty to heroin distribution and is serving a 10-year prison sentence.

Jennifer Herling, 20, overdosed at Perkins' home on Sept. 29, 2012. Jessica Williams, 30 died there six months earlier also of an overdose, police believe. Her remains were found days later in Washington Park.

As part of her guilty plea, Perkins forfeited her home.

But that forfeiture was complicated when Lennil Johnson, who operated a massage parlor in Venice called A Rare Touch Aromatherapy and offered sex with girls as young as 13, claimed in federal court that he had an ownership interest in Perkins' home.

The U.S. District Court denied Johnson's claim and fined him $1,000 for his actions. That decision was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals, allowing the forfeiture of the property.

The date and time of the demolition was not available Tuesday.

Chris Keel, the mother of Herling, said of the planned demolition, "It's about damn time. I just want that house to be gone."

Keel added, "At first I just felt evil coming out of it. But after Douglas Oliver and Deborah Perkins were charged with (concealing) Jennifer and Jessica's death, it felt different, like all the spirits were lifted."

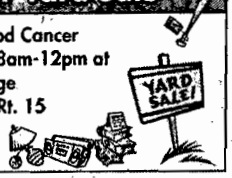
## LOTTERY

**ILLINOIS**
Pick 3-Midday: **8-5-4**
Fireball: **3**
Pick 3-Evening: **3-7-4**
Fireball: **7**
Pick 4-Midday: **5-0-4-4**
Fireball: **0**
Pick 4-Evening: **2-6-7-1**
Fireball: **7**
Lucky Day Lotto-Midday: **5-12-13-29-43**
Lucky Day Lotto-Evening: **6-29-36-40-41**
Jackpot: **$3.5 million**

**MISSOURI**
Pick 3-Midday: **0-4-6**
Pick 3-Evening: **3-0-2**
Pick 4-Midday: **4-0-6-6**
Pick 4-Evening: **0-7-3-5**
Show Me Cash: **4-8-9-30-31**

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Game: **21-24-25-40-43**
Mega Ball: **12**
Megaplier: **5**
Jackpot: **$83 million**

**Optimist Club of Belleville Fundraiser Yard Sale**
Benefits Childhood Cancer
Sat., Sept. 27 • 8am-12pm at
Turkey Hill Grange
1375 East State Rt. 15
Rain or Shine

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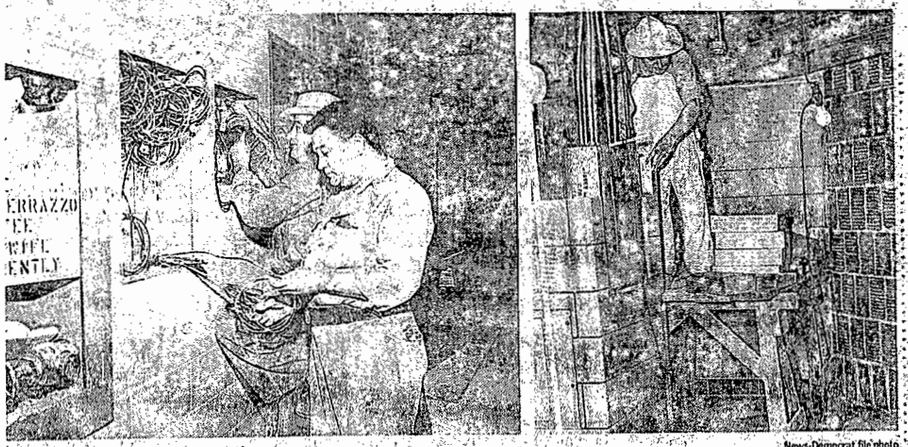
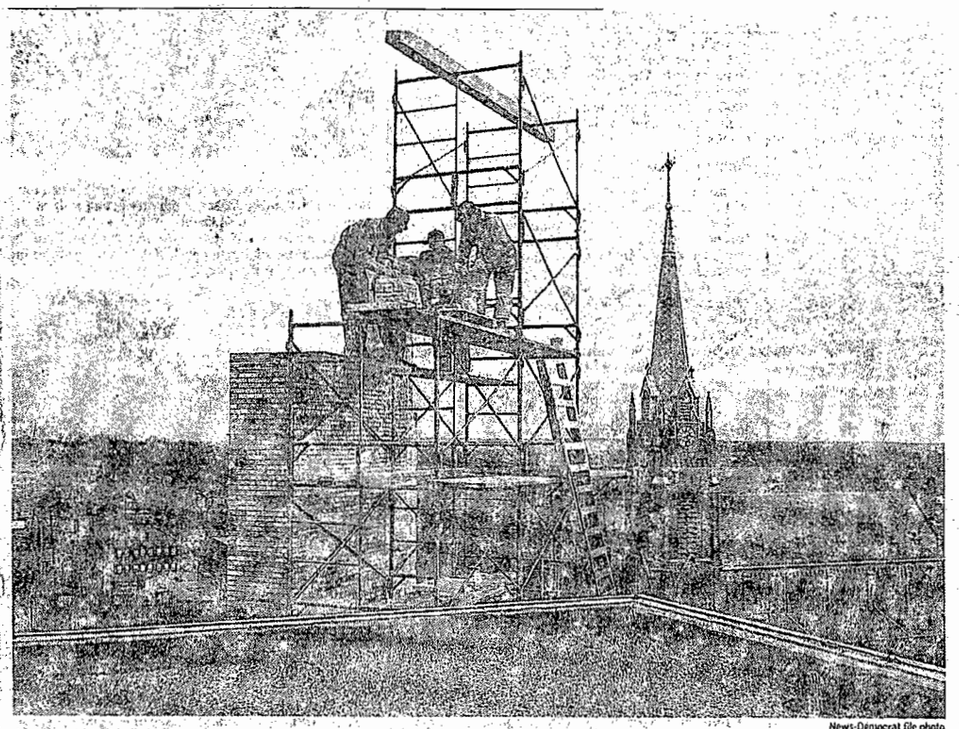
# rowback Thursday: Men at work in 1954 Belleville



News-Democrat file photo

ay 28, 1954, workers were rushing to finish St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. Two men (left) work on the hospital's wiring while anoth- n (right) works with blocks of concrete.



News-Democrat file photo

The $5 million St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville was built on the site where German nuns had operated a hospital since 1880. The Hospital Sisters Health System announced in June that they planned to build a new, $300 million hospital and move to O'Fallon. 9/25/14

# Throwback Thursday: When St. Elizabeth's got big in Belleville

*News-Democrat*

Maybe we should call this one Throwdown Thursday, because that's what Belleville's city, school and business leaders are doing about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's newest building plans. Things were much more congenial on May 29, 1954, when work crews were rushing to finish St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville.

The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis first announced plans to expand on Feb. 24, 1947. The $1 million project would add 250 beds and was possible because building supplies were again available following World War II.

Work progressed, and by 1954, the push was on to finish by the end of the year. The ambitious project had grown, and the cost reached $5 million to build what is now regarded as the main part of the hospital.

In reality, the Belleville hospital has quadrupled since 1954, including outpatient facilities and a heart institute.

The hospital's Belleville legacy began in 1875 when three German nuns began visiting people in their homes and maintained six beds in a former school. They built a real hospital in 1880 at 211 S. Third St. in Belleville where they remain today, or at least for now.

The Hospital Sisters Health System announced in June that they planned to build a new, $300 million hospital and move to O'Fallon. Belleville leaders vowed to fight the move, as have two other local hospitals, as St. Elizabeth's seeks a certificate from Illinois stating there is a need for the O'Fallon hospital.

BND.com

**For more photos of the hospital construction and past episodes of Throwback Thursday, visit us at bnd.com/tbt.**

**See more photos on Page A2.**

# Opinions

OUR VIEW

## Speak up on St. E's move

OCTOBER AND the public hearing about St. Elizabeth's Hospital are fast approaching.

The hearing is set for 4 p.m. Thursday at Lindenwood University in Belleville. If you care about the hospital moving from Belleville to O'Fallon — pro or con — this will be the time to speak up. The meeting will be run by the staff of the state Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

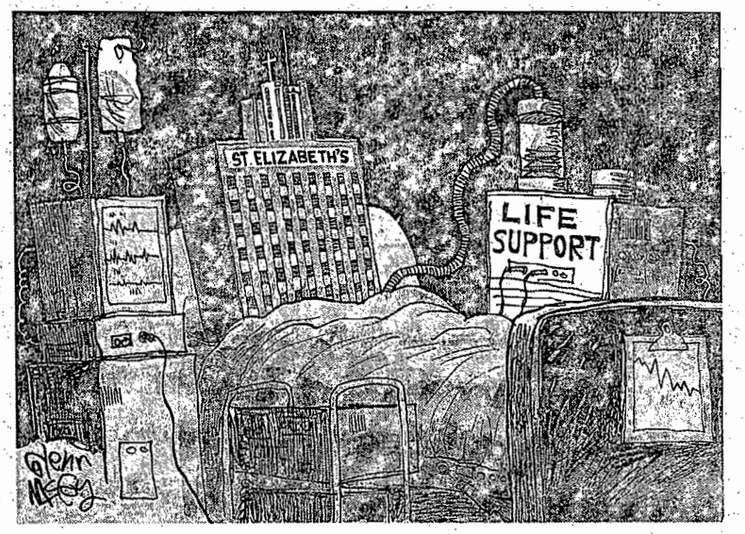
It certainly won't be when the full review board meets. That meeting is now pushed back from Nov. 12 to Dec. 16.

Whose idea was it to move the board meeting to the week before Christmas anyway? We're not sure who benefits from that delay, but it's not the public.

Illinois law requires that the public be allowed to participate, but the meeting's early time and distant location — the health board's website says it will be at 9 a.m. in Bollingbrook, which is more than four hours from Belleville — discourages that. If board members wanted to hear directly from the community, the meeting would be held somewhere in the metro-east, not several hours away.

A lot of people think that if a business wants to move, it should be able to do so, hospitals included. But like it or not, that's not the way it works in Illinois. The state has to believe a move is beneficial for the overall community before it issues a certificate of need to allow the move. Public comment is a significant part of that determination.

If the opponents hope to have any chance of keeping the hospital in Belleville, they need a better turnout than the 50 people who showed up at a rally last week. The state may approve the relocation plan anyway; St. E's says a replacement hospital request has never been denied. But if on-



## St. E's is leaving

Belleville should be looking at Plan B for the hospital move because St. Elizabeth's has already made its decision. If the city tries to block it, the hospital owners will shut it down and walk away. They have the power and the money. The only alternative would be to find a professional hospital company that run hospitals on a for-profit basis in hopes to save the building and some workers. 9/29/14

## Move based on money

With respect to Joe Reichert's letter about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's planned move to O'Fallon: He is correct that it is all about the money whether William Lyke, chairman of the St. E's board, wants to admit it or not. This move would be detrimental to Belleville and the surrounding communities, especially after 140 years of support. Too bad Lyke couldn't find anything redeeming in his own community. His fellow board members and St. Elizabeth's are telling a different story about what is being left behind. Who is misleading whom?

## Start the timer

They say it's only a 20-minute drive from downtown St. Elizabeth's out to the new O'Fallon site. Well, on a recent Friday afternoon it took me 17 minutes to get from downtown Shiloh to Hartman Lane and another 12 minutes from Hartman Lane to Old Collinsville Road. Twenty minutes on a Friday afternoon will never work.

## Belleville is old news

The Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce and Belleville School District 118 are living in a dream world. Belleville is dead. Downtown died more than 40 years ago when St. Clair Square opened. Belleville hasn't grown in the last 50 years while O'Fallon's population has skyrocketed. Hospital employees don't go out for meals, they eat in the cafeteria. Also Belleville has a full-service hospital, and it's called Memorial.

## Getting out of Dodge

Let's face it, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert does not own St. E's. Hospital leaders realize Belleville is the next East St. Louis and they want to get out while the getting is good.

## Victory would be brief

If Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert and his minions succeed in making sure St. Elizabeth's Hospital does not get approval to move, St. E's will close in two years. Belleville and the surrounding area will be left with one hospital.

9/29/14

## Are sirens for critical only?

JUDGING FROM the number of ambulances that travel on West Main and North 37th streets in Belleville, (with sirens on) either Memorial Hospital is going to get a lot more patients or the roads to the new St. Elizabeth's Hospital location will be getting a lot more traffic.

If the sirens are going, I assume it must be critical (or the sirens are being misused). I'm sure that a review of the ambulance companies' records would give an indication of how many people would be affected.

Charles Price 9/28/14
Belleville

# THINK REGIONALLY

YOUR VOICE. YOUR CHOICE. YOUR CARE.

# GET THE FACTS

## WITH ST. ELIZABETH'S PRESIDENT AND CEO, MARYANN REESE

The community is invited to one of three Open House sessions with St. Elizabeth's President and CEO Maryann Reese and project leaders. This is an opportunity to hear HSHS' plans for a new facility along I-64 and the ambulatory care services at the current Belleville campus.

Join us at

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wednesday, October 1** | **5:00 to 6:00 p.m.** |
| **Saturday, October 4** | **3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** |
| **Monday, October 6** | **12:00 to 1:00 p.m.** |

St. Elizabeth's Hospital
AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

Location: Southern Illinois Heart Institute Building Lobby, 340 West Lincoln, Belleville

**To learn more about St. Elizabeth's plans, visit www.SupportSteliz.org**

211 South Third Street | Belleville, Illinois 62220 | 618.234.2120

9/30/14

# St. E's schedules 3 open house sessions about replacement hospital plan

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

St. Elizabeth's Hospital will hold three open house sessions in the next week for the community to ask questions about the hospital's plans to build replacement inpatient services in O'Fallon.

The open house sessions will be held from 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, 3-4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 1 p.m. Monday in the lobby of the Southern Illinois Heart Institute, 340 W. Lincoln St. in Belleville.

Hospital officials plan to build a new hospital along Interstate 64 off Green Mount Road in O'Fallon, across from where it now operates a popular Urgicare Center. But first the hospital must receive approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

St. Elizabeth's President and Chief Executive Officer Maryann Reese will speak at the open house and then answer questions from the audience.

"I recognize that many people have questions about our plans to build a replacement hospital and what services will remain on our Belleville campus," she said.

"As we move forward, we want to engage the community on how we can best deliver health care services in Belleville and across the region," she continued.

The state board will hold a public hearing at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Lindenwood University auditorium, 2600 W. Main St. in Belleville. Sign-in for public comments begins at 3:30 p.m.

*Please see* **ST. E'S, A2**

9/30/14

BND.com

**See previous stories at bnd.com/hospitals.**

## If you go

**THE OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS:**

- 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday
- 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday
- 12 to 1 p.m. Monday

All sessions will take place in the lobby of the Southern Illinois Heart Institute at 340 W. Lincoln St. in Belleville.

# Motorcyclist injured af

Associated Press

**iswers questions during an interview with The Associated Dick Durbin, D-Ill., right, for the U.S. Senate in the Novem- day whether universal background checks for firearm pur- checks, while Oberweis does not believe the checks would**

owners are afraid of the government keeping a database of people with guns.

"People don't believe the government should have access to too much information," Oberweis said, pointing to instances of the government tracing cell phone use and messages. "That's an area that certainly has some concern."

given up is an intellectually false statement." He said the labor force across the country has been declining for decades. This year, retiring Baby Boomers make up more than half of the workforce leaving payrolls, he said.

"So by definition, they are not discouraged," he said. "We also know that some people will drop out of the labor force to go to school. Whether they be college students

**WHAT YOU CAN DO ONLINE FOR ST. E'S**

St. Elizabeth's leaders are asking for support at www.steliz.org/st-elizabeths-hospital.

Save St. E's is asking for opposition to the hospital's plans at www.opposethemove.com.

## ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

At the hearing, leaders from St. Elizabeth's and the hospital's parent company, Hospital Sisters Health System,, will explain why it plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital on 114 acres about seven miles from its current location. While inpatient services would move, ambulatory care services would remain at the current campus on Third Street in Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's leaders are asking for support and providing additional information at http://www.steliz.org/st-elizabeths-hospital/.

The group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville is soliciting opposition to the hospital's plans at http://www.opposethemove.com/.

About 50 people attended an Oppose the Move rally last week at Belleville West High School. Mayor Mark Eckert and other community leaders spoke about the reasons that they don't want the hospital to leave downtown Belleville.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

6

# St. E's abandons its mission

IT IS WITH great sadness that after 140 years in our community, we may be losing our hospital, St. Elizabeth's.

More disheartening is the way this situation has come to pass. As a former friend of St. Elizabeth's and a Catholic, it appears there is more than just regionalism in this anticipated move.

St. Elizabeth's is promoting this as a move toward a "regional" hospital, but yet it has served Belleville, East St. Louis, Freeburg, Smithton, Millstadt, etc., for 140 years. It already is a regional hospital.

The location south of Interstate 64 that the hospital has served for 140 years will become the "underserved population" as a part of this move. Also a segment of population will be left behind as hospital leaders move on for what seems to be greener pastures.

St. Elizabeth's will be leaving behind an underserved population. They will say that the seven miles to the new hospital does not mean much. But it does mean much to the people left behind.

Left behind is another interesting term. Are the Sisters of Saint Francis leaving behind their mission as they move away from an area of greater community need? You decide for yourself.

I will tell you this. They will be leaving behind a wonderful community that is loving and caring with a great sense of support and volunteerism — a community that has used these values to support St. Elizabeth's because they have believed in this hospital for 140 years.

Whatever that means, you decide.

9/11/96

**Patty Gregory**
Belleville

# Think creatively, Belleville

SOME SUGGESTIONS if St. Elizabeth's Hospital moves out of Belleville: Move the Police Department and the post office there; renovate the post office building, lease it to attorneys, etc.

Keep an ungicare there to include an x-ray/MRI facility. Continue and expand the inpatient and outpatient drug and alcohol rehab unit. Take one wing and rent the rooms to Lindenwood University; take another wing and rent to attorneys. They might take another wing and rent it for assisted living for seniors and or disabled vets.

Check with Southwestern Illinois College, maybe they can expand to one wing. Downsize the cafeteria, but serve breakfast from 5:30 to 9 a.m.; lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner from 4 to 6:30 p.m.; adjust as demand or need changes.

I think city leaders need to be creative and think about how to use this big facility to the city's best interest. Don't give it away like they did Belleville West. Look what happened with the Meredith Home building, handling of the YMCA, Anglers Park, the old furniture store at the bottom of the hill, etc., etc.

**Vern Baugh**
Belleville

10/7/96

# St. E's says they won't move everything to O'Fallon

10/2/14

## Hospital also says it would pay to demolish the current building

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — St. Elizabeth's will maintain outpatient care in downtown Belleville to meet the changing needs of modern medicine, if a certificate of need is granted by the state board later this year.

"Care is changing," said Maryann Reese, St. Elizabeth's Hospital chief executive officer and president.

"That's why outpatient centers are so important. That's why Belleville is going to be an outpatient center."

*Please see* ST. E'S, A3

BND.com

Read more about St. Elizabeth's possible relocation.

See previous stories online.



## ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

However, an expensive power plant that needs upgrading has made the 60-year-old hospital building unattractive to other businesses, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

When the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, the order that founded St. Elizabeth's about 140 years ago, told Reese they were praying for her, she countered: "Pray for the boiler. It's 60 years old and it's leaking."

That was some of the information that was discussed Wednesday at an open house at St. Elizabeth's. About 30 people attended the presentation by Reese followed by a question-and-answer session in the lobby of the Southern Illinois Heart Institute in downtown Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's announced in June that it planned to build a $300 million replacement hospital in O'Fallon off Interstate 64 because it would cost twice as much and take twice as long to update the current hospital. Before it can begin construction, the hospital needs approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

The Belleville hospital building would be vacated, but other health services would remain on a Belleville health campus. Some of those services include lab, radiology, therapy, primary care, urgent care and a specialty clinic.

The power plant, which only services St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the connecting Heart Institute, would take at least $2 million to upgrade.

Reese clarified that several businesses have looked at the hospital and were not interested in buying the building for $1. If no buyers can be found, the hospital has budgeted money to raze the building.

"We will not leave an abandoned building. We will not leave an eyesore," Reese said.

Hospital leaders said they are interested to hear what the community would like to see in that area — whether a park, something to do with arts and entertainment or something else.

"If somebody wants to repurpose the building, we would love to talk to them," Reese said.

When someone in the audience suggested the Veterans Affairs, Reese said, "The VA looked and they are not interested."

Reese told the audience that when the sisters founded the hospital, they built in Belleville because it was near railroads, which brought people and supplies. Today, interstates bring people and supplies.

"No hospital is built today without being on the interstate," she said.

Reese said that more than 75 percent of St. Elizabeth's patients come from outside Belleville ZIP codes. "And our patients tell us it's hard to get here," Reese said.

Belleville resident Donna Dougherty was interested to find out the percentage of patients who come from south of Belleville — areas such as Smithton, St. Libory and other locations — because the new hospital would not be easily accessible for them.

"I don't think that the needs of the people south of here are being heard," said Dougherty, whose children were born at St. Elizabeth's.

Figures on the number of patients from south of Belleville were not available Wednesday, but St. Elizabeth's spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau said she would get those numbers to Dougherty.

St. Elizabeth's spent years studying if the move to O'Fallon would be best for the hospital. Other alternatives it studied were if the hospital should close, or rebuild or remodel its current location, Reese said.

They conducted drive-time analysis and found that the commute for most St. Elizabeth's employees would be on average two minutes longer to the location on Green Mount Road in O'Fallon than to the downtown Belleville location.

Also, two-thirds of poor people in the area will have a faster drive time to the new hospital, Reese said.

"Who cares about poor people?" an audience member asked.

"We do," Reese said. "We have a mission to serve the poor and vulnerable. That was very important to the sisters and it's very important to us ... We care for all we have a special place in our hearts for the poor and vulnerable."

In addition, patients from seven of the 10 hospitals that refer people to St. Elizabeth's would have a shorter drive time to the hospital in O'Fallon, said Brian Reardon, of Hospital Sisters Health System, St. Elizabeth's parent company.

When audience members asked what to do if someone has a heart attack and the new location is not more convenient for them.

"If you're having a heart attack, you call 911, like you always would," Reese said, "and the ambulance will take you to the appropriate hospital."

The hospital will have two more open house sessions from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 1 p.m. Monday in the same location, 340 W. Lincoln St. in Belleville.

The state board has a public hearing at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Lindenwood University auditorium, 2600 W. Main St. in Belleville. Sign-in for public comments begins at 3:30 p.m.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

ZIA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

St. Elizabeth's Hospital President and CEO Maryann Reese speaks about the proposed new facility in O'Fallon during Wednesday's open house. Should no one be interested in the hospital's current building, "we will not leave an abandoned building. We will not leave an eyesore," Reese says.

## What makes a hospital good?

THE PLANNED move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon has been discussed and written about quite a bit. My opinion will probably not make any difference to the decision.

Over the past two months I have had relatives in two very old hospitals in St. Louis. The hospitals were beautiful buildings. They both have excellent patient care while staying in an old building and choosing to maintain an upgrade.

The St. Elizabeth's emergency room doctor who was quoted in the Belleville News-Democrat didn't seem to think that was possible. Please don't tell that to Barnes or St. Louis University Hospital. I didn't believe it and I doubt that they would either. They seem proud of their heritage and their locations.

We are indeed lucky to live so close to those great hospitals and many of the others in the St. Louis area.

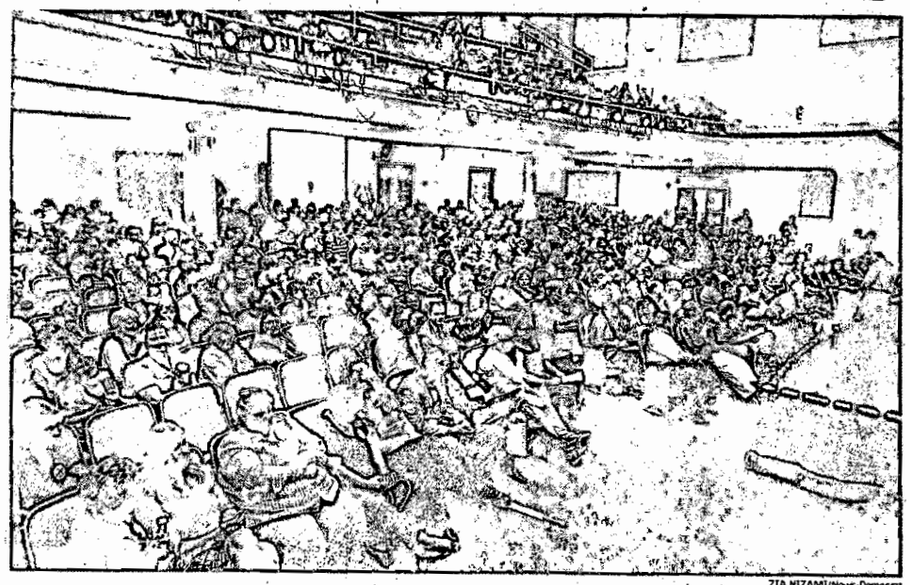
My point is that it is not the building (old or new) that makes a great hospital. Those in charge of running it are the ones who can make it great or let it lose money. St. Elizabeth's administrators and board members needs to look at what their patient care, food, staff, maintenance, etc., looks like. They should visit some of the hospitals in St. Louis to find out what makes a great hospital.

You would think that with all the changes St. Elizabeth's has had in administrators that one of them would have looked at the whole picture of what a hospital should be like. The administrator now seems to think a new building will make a difference. I doubt it.

**Gladys Boisseau**
Belleville

10/2/14

# s jam St. Elizabeth's public hearing



ZTA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

**The Lindenwood University auditorium in Belleville was full of people attending a hearing Thursday for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to relocate to O'Fallon. To see related video, go to bnd.com.**

10/3/14

Belleville attorney Patrick Sullivan spoke against the move: "It's a certificate of need, not a certificate of want. You do not need to move. We need you here."

St. Elizabeth's plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road, which is about seven miles from its location on Third Street in Belleville. While inpatient services would move, outpatient services, including labs, therapy and urgent care, would remain in downtown Belleville.

Jessica Mackins lives near St. Elizabeth's in the Franklin neighborhood, which she said has many low income, elderly and minority residents who need the

*Please see* **HEARING, A2**

Title is "Hundreds jam St. Elizabeth's..

cluding the St. Louis Cardinals Preview Section; the April 27 Edition, including the Circus for Kids Section and a $1.50 premium charge for the May 18 Edition, including the Summer Fun section; the June 29 Edition including the High School Sports All Stars Section; the July 20 Edition, including Metro-east Living; the August 24 Edition, including the Football Preview Section; the Sept. 28 Edition, including Partners in Defense-SAFB; the October 26 Edition including the Belleville Bicentennial Section; and the December 25 Christmas Day Edition and a $2 premium charge for the November 27 Thanksgiving Day Edition. Subscription paid through dates are subject to change due to these specific premium content day charges and will be adjusted based on available credit balance in the account. Subscriptions are not extended while on vacation.

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Fireball: 2
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District 42 - Hyde Park Township 2
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District 22 - Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Union counties 7

2

# HEARING |

*Continued from Page A1*

hospital nearby. She opposed the hospital's move on behalf of her now 2-year-old daughter, who was born premature and weighed just 1.14 pounds.

"She wouldn't be here if it weren't for that hospital," Mackins said.

Philip Paeltz, headmaster of Governor French Academy on East Main Street just blocks from the hospital, said he believes the new hospital in O'Fallon will attract more people to the region.

"As a downtown business, I am proud to support St. Elizabeth's" plan to build a new hospital.

The Health Facilities and Services Review Board is scheduled Dec. 16 to decide whether to grant a certificate of need to allow St. Elizabeth's to build the new hospital and accompanying ambulatory care center and medical offices.

St. Elizabeth's staff members handed out 300 yellow buttons that said "I Support St. E's" at the hearing.

The hearing began with a brief presentation from Mary Starmann-Harrison, president and chief executive officer of Hospital Sisters Health System.

"We undertake this new chapter of St. Elizabeth's history with our entire community in mind. We truly believe that a replacement hospital will ... provide state-of-the-art care to all metro-east residents."

Then commenters were called to a podium one at a time, alternating between those who signed up to speak in support of the project and those who opposed it.

Speakers included employees and leaders from St. Elizabeth's and Memorial hospitals, community and business leaders and residents from the metro-east.

**UP NEXT**

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is scheduled to hear St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plan for a replacement hospital at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook.

For more information about St. Elizabeth's plans, visit supportsteliz.org.

For more information about the Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville campaign, visit opposethemove.com.

Herb Simmons, director of the St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency and mayor of East Carondelet, said he opposes the replacement hospital. "I think it's a bad time ... The emergency management plans depend on St. Elizabeth's current location," he said.

State Sen. Bill Haine, D-Alton, said he strongly favors the hospital's move. "It will serve Southern Illinois, not just southwestern Illinois because it's easily accessible by Interstate 64."

Belleville Alderman Ken Kinsella said St. Elizabeth's chose not reinvest in its building: "St. Elizabeth's created the problem itself and now wants to use it as an excuse to abandon Belleville for a more affluent community. It's not right."

Donna Meyers, of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, said, "I want to reaffirm, to you, the review board, and the community that we are not abandoning our mission or Belleville."

Mike McManus, the chief operating officer of Memorial Hospital in Belleville, said he is concerned about Memorial's capacity to care for the surge of patients, especially emergency and intensive care patients, that will result from St. Elizabeth's closing its Belleville location. "If St. Elizabeth's closes, local EMS providers have told us that they will be required to transport all critically ill patients from Belleville and surrounding communities to Memorial as the closest hospital."

At 5:24 p.m. a hearing organizer said all those signed up to comment would not get a chance before the next hearing. Commenters who did not wish to speak out loud were asked to turn in their written comments.

Dozens of people submitted their comment forms and exited the auditorium.

After a couple more comments, the hearing organizers asked the rest of the commenters to state their names and if they supported or opposed the plan and turn in their written comments.

Several commenters attempted to make statements in the microphone about why they opposed the hospital's plan; organizers threatened to end the hearing.

Larry Schumacher, the COO of Hospital Sisters Health System, gave a closing statement: "We are committed to this region and we will be for many, many years to come. We respectfully ask the review board to approve this plan."

Patty Gregory, who helped organize the grassroots Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Bellevile campaign, said she was upset that not all the people who wanted to speak were given the opportunity to do so.

Fewer than 100 people remained to attend a second hearing that began shortly after 6 p.m. for the ambulatory care center to be constructed in O'Fallon.

The proposed ambulatory care center and physicians' offices would be built near the proposed hospital, which is now a standard for hospitals, said hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Maryann Reese.

Hearing organizers encouraged people to submit letters stating their opinions about St. Elizabeth's plans to: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, 2nd Floor, 525 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62761.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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s jam St. Elizabeth's public hearing

# MEDICARE FINES 28 HOSPITALS IN AREA

**Readmissions** • Too many patients are back within a month.

**More cases** • Hip replacements and lung ailments now counted.

**Unfair?** • Critics say censures are too harsh, hit poor hardest.

BY JORDAN RAU
Kaiser Health News

Medicare is fining a record number of hospitals — 2,610 nationwide, including 28 in the St. Louis area — for having too many patients return within a month for additional treatments, federal records released Wednesday show. Even though the nation's readmission rate is dropping, Medicare's average fines will be higher, with 30 hospitals across the U.S. receiving the largest penalty allowed.

The federal government's penalties, which begin their third year this month, are intended to jolt hospitals to pay attention to what happens to their patients after they leave. Around the country, many

**AREA HOSPITALS**

**Mercy Hospital Jefferson** in Crystal City, **Des Peres Hospital**, and **St. Anthony's Medical Center** in south St. Louis County received the highest fines. **Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital** in Creve Coeur is the only local hospital that was not fined.

See HOSPITALS • Page A6

"It's a certificate of need, not a certificate of want. You do not need to move. We need you here."

114 acres north of intersection of and west of Green Mount Road, which is about seven miles from its location on Third Street in

urgent care, would remain in downtown Belleville.

Jessica Mackins lives near St.

minority residents who need the

Please see HEARING, A2

## HOSPITALS • FROM A1

Fines reduce reimbursement for Medicare patients

hospitals are replacing perfunctory discharge plans — such as giving patients paper instructions — with more active efforts, such as ensuring that outside doctors monitor their recoveries and giving supplies of medication to patients who may not be able to afford them.

Others are still struggling to meet the new expectations. Before the program, some hospitals resisted such efforts because they weren't paid for the services, and, in fact, benefited financially when a patient returned.

Last year, nearly 18 percent of Medicare patients who had been hospitalized were readmitted within a month. While that is lower than past years, roughly 2 million patients return a year, costing Medicare $26 billion. Officials estimate $17 billion of that comes from potentially avoidable readmissions.

Under the new fines, three-quarters of hospitals that are subject to the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program are being penalized. That means that from Oct. 1 through next Sept. 30, they will receive lower payments for every Medicare patient stay — not just for those patients who are readmitted. Over the course of the year, the fines will total about $428 million, Medicare estimates.

More than 1,400 hospitals are exempt from the penalties, including certain cancer hospitals and critical access hospitals, as well as facilities dedicated to specific services such as psychiatry or rehabilitation. The fines are based on readmissions from July 2010 through June 2013.

In New Jersey, every hospital but one will lose money this year. So will a majority of hospitals in 28 other states, including Missouri and Illinois, and the District of Columbia.

Sixty-six Missouri hospitals and 118 Illinois hospitals will face a financial penalty for readmitting certain patients too soon after their previous visits.

Western Missouri Medical Center of Warrensburg faces the largest fine in the state. It will be fined 3 percent of each Medicare stay starting Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

Locally, the hospital that received the highest fine was Mercy Hospital Jefferson in Crystal City. It will be docked 2 percent of its Medicare payments starting Oct. 1. Des Peres Hospital received the second-highest penalty, 1.9 percent, followed by St. Anthony's Medical Center in south St. Louis County with 1.6 percent. Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital in Creve Coeur is the only local hospital that was not fined.

Dr. David Morton, president and chief medical officer of St. Anthony's, said the penalty reflects older data, and that the hospital has a plan in place to lower readmission rates that is "already working and showing great results."

Among Metro East hospitals facing readmission fines, Jersey Community Hospital in Jerseyville got the highest fine out of the local hospitals and will lose almost 2 percent of each Medicare stay. The next-highest fine in the Metro East was levied against St. Anthony's Health Center in Alton. It will lose 1.5 percent.

While some penalties are as small as a hundredth of a percent, hospitals with the highest readmission rates are losing 3 percent of each payment, an increase from a maximum punishment of 2 percent last year. The increase brings the top penalties to the full force authorized by the federal health law.

### MEDICARE READMISSION PENALTIES BY HOSPITAL

Medicare is fining 28 St. Louis area hospitals for having too many patients return within a month for additional treatments. In the region, Mercy Hospital Jefferson in Crystal City faces in the highest penalty in fiscal year 2015. Only Barnes-Jewish West County dodged a penalty.

| NAME | LOCATION | PENALTY |
|---|---|---|
| Alton Memorial Hospital | Alton, Ill. | 0.76 |
| Anderson Hospital | Maryville, Ill. | 0.05 |
| Gateway Regional Medical Center | Granite City, Ill. | 0.71 |
| Greenville Regional Hospital | Greenville, Ill. | 0.08 |
| Jersey Community Hospital | Jerseyville, Ill. | 1.84 |
| Memorial Hospital | Belleville, Ill. | 0.44 |
| St. Anthony's Health Center | Alton, Ill. | 1.52 |
| St. Joseph's Hospital | Breese, Ill. | 0.13 |
| St. Elizabeth Hospital | Belleville, Ill. | 0.58 |
| Touchette Regional Hospital | Centreville, Ill. | 0.52 |
| Barnes-Jewish | St. Louis | 0.39 |
| Barnes-Jewish St. Peters | St. Peters | 0.99 |
| Barnes-Jewish West County | Creve Coeur | 0.00 |
| Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest | St. Louis County | 0.66 |
| Des Peres Hospital | St. Louis County | 1.90 |
| Mercy Hospital Jefferson | Crystal City | 2.08 |
| Mercy Hospital St. Louis | Creve Coeur | 1.07 |
| Mercy Hospital Washington | Washington | 0.72 |
| Missouri Baptist Medical Center | Town and Country | 0.20 |
| Progress West | O'Fallon, Mo. | 1.38 |
| SSM DePaul | Bridgeton | 0.47 |
| SSM St. Clare | Fenton | 0.10 |
| SSM St. Joseph | St. Charles | 0.63 |
| SSM St. Joseph West | Lake Saint Louis | 1.06 |
| SSM St. Mary's | Richmond Heights | 0.59 |
| St. Alexius | St. Louis | 0.22 |
| St. Anthony's Medical Center | St. Louis | 1.66 |
| St. Louis University Hospital | St. Louis | 0.16 |
| St. Luke's Hospital | Chesterfield | 0.46 |

### TWO MORE CONDITIONS ADDED

One reason for the higher and more widespread fines is that this year Medicare began evaluating readmissions of two new categories of patients — those initially admitted for elective knee or hip replacements, and those suffering lung ailments such as chronic bronchitis. Those patients were assessed along with the heart failure, heart attack and pneumonia patients Medicare has examined since the penalties began in October 2012.

A hospital was fined if it had higher than expected readmission rates in any category. Thus, a number of specialty hospitals that focus on hip and knee replacements received fines for the first time because readmissions of those patients are now being assessed.

"Every time they add conditions, the penalties go up," said Nancy Foster, a quality expert at the American Hospital Association.

Dr. Don Goldmann, chief medical and science officer at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a nonprofit organization in Massachusetts, cautioned against attributing the drop in readmissions only to the penalties, because the government also has other, less-punitive programs underway. "I'd be careful about imputing the reduction to any one intervention," Goldmann said.

As the penalties have played out, an increasing number of prominent experts are voicing concerns that the punishments are too harsh and doled out unfairly. For one thing, Medicare lowers payments to hospitals even if they have reduced their readmission rates from the previous year — so long as their rate is still higher than what the government believes is appropriate.

"You have to run as fast as everyone else to just stay even," Foster said. Medicare officials, however, consider the competition motivation for hospitals to not to become complacent.

Another concern about the program is that safety-net hospitals that treat large numbers of low-income patients have been more likely to receive penalties, because poor patients face financial and logistical challenges that make them more likely to get sicker after discharge than others, even if the hospital is trying to oversee their recuperations.

Dr. Stephen Jencks, one of the first researchers to document the nation's high readmission rates, said he was impressed overall by how much the fines have prompted hospitals to concentrate on their patients' health after discharge.

"This really fairly modest step" of penalties has "persuaded a lot of hospitals to talk in ways they simply were not talking 10 years ago," he said.

Samantha Liss and Jordan Shapiro of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report. The Post-Dispatch is part of a consortium of news organizations working with Kaiser Health News to cover the Affordable Care Act. KHN is an editorially independent program of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

# News Democrat

Previous Story
Next Story

# Reconvene St. E's hearing

October 4, 2014

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The turnout for the public hearing on St. Elizabeth's Hospital's planned move from Belleville to O'Fallon was impressive. Phil Bradley, an Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board member, said the crowd of about 600 people was the biggest he'd ever seen.

Unfortunately, the people who showed up still got a one-size-fits-all hearing.

With that kind of participation, the people conducting the hearing should have extended it. Instead, people waiting to testify were told: Sorry, we're out of time. Send us your written comments.

That's a poor way to treat people who turned out on a stormy night to take part in the decision-making process.

Holding a public hearing shouldn't just be a matter of checking off a box in the certificate of need process. What really needs to happen is that the board listen to the public. Who knows what someone might say that might cause a board member to look at this from a whole new angle?

The people who showed up and got shut out deserve to have their say. The board should reconvene the hearing on another date so that everyone who wants to speak can be heard.

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## Join The Conversation

Belleville News-Democrat is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

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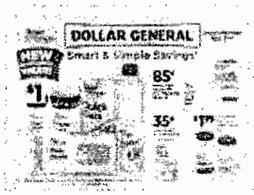


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# Sound-off 10/6

By NEW HOSPITAL NEEDED

October 5, 2014

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Watch out for skyrocketing medical costs if St. Elizabeth's Hospital pulls out of the area after being denied a certificate of need and only Memorial Hospital exists. The area needs two hospitals, as competition prevents a monopoly. Look at how Memorial has pulled most of its specialists and all of its primary care docs off staff from St. Elizabeth's. This keeps the admissions and testing mostly at Memorial and almost bankrupted St. Elizabeth's. Where was Belleville's support when St. Elizabeth lost millions of dollars in one year? The goal of some nonprofit hospitals is to make maximum dollar without much regard to the patient.

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Be glad taxes are paid

Madison County Treasurer Kurt Prenzler allowed a tax buyer to purchase the taxes on a home at no interest. That benefited the county by having the taxes paid and benefited the homeowner because he or she can now pay the taxes at no interest. Prenzler should be given a Good Samaritan award for making this happen. The Democrats prefer to jack up the interest rates on tax sales, jack up the cost to the homeowners who are behind on their taxes, and then take political contributions from the tax buyers.

Praying for peace

If you forgot, didn't know about it or didn't care, you missed the opportunity to offer your prayers together with others for peace. The hour of prayer for peace held at St. Luke's in Belleville was inspiring and showed that there is hope for tomorrow. The LDS young people's choir sang and played the violin, and just their music and demeanor gave hope. The speakers from different faiths and religions led us in prayers for peace in Spanish, Zwahili and English. Whatever the reason you did not come, please do pray for peace and an end to the violence that is overwhelming our world.

Easy to investigate

Concerning the recent accident in which a young girl was struck be a car driven by an off-duty O'Fallon Police captain: The police say that it will take two to three weeks to complete the investigation and determine whether he was talking on his cell phone. Really? All they have to do is pull up the recent calls made on the phone and all dates, times and phone numbers are listed -- unless the officer deleted them, in which case he should be charged with obstructing justice. What really needs to be determined is, if he was on the phone, did it have any effect on whether he could have avoided the girl. Just because he might have been on his phone doesn't automatically mean he was responsible. Witnesses said they heard skidding tires before the impact, which proves he was at least partially attentive.

Public can speak now

Prior to the September St. Clair County Board meeting, a member of the public had to sign up to speak to the board on the Thursday prior to the Monday meeting. At the September board meeting, the board passed a resolution that allows the public to speak without signing up in advance. Why the change? County Board candidate Guy Don Carlos asked Chairman Mark Kern at the August meeting to follow the state Open Meetings Act and allow the public to speak at each meeting without signing up to speak. We need to elect independent thinkers like Don Carlos to bring openness to our county government.

Misguided editorial

In your editorial about Illinois' proposal to ban smoking in outdoor beer gardens and patios, you stated that this is unfair to business owners and smokers. The reason for the proposal is to protect workers from secondhand smoke. No one forced business owners to spend money to build outdoor spaces just so smokers could use them. To claim that businesses will lose their investment is ridiculous. For every smoker they lose, they will gain new customers who don't smoke and can now use the outdoor spaces. Then the editorial states that if workers don't like the smoke they can get a different job. Seriously? A

worker is expected to quit and enter the unemployment lines so that people can smoke and make the area unusable for non-smokers? That is wrong.

Don't ban smoking

Regarding Illinois' proposed outdoor smoking ban, why provide an additional incentive to party at home or out of state? We were told Illinois needed more tax revenue; hasn't the indoor ban hurt us enough? More jobs will be lost. Having a job also promotes good health.

Embarrassed all right

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said he is embarrassed to ask Lindenwood University to pay for a safety study that involves its students. I am embarrassed that our local government sold the old high school for $1. The City Council agreed to spend $29,000 of taxpayers' money on a safety study, and I am embarrassed that college students aren't expected to know how to cross the street safely.

200 is just the start

Belleville continues to evolve after 200 splendid years. Passionate people respect the foresight, determination and wisdom of their forefathers. New traditions are emerging thanks to a vibrant downtown, expanding college atmosphere, and the unique historic structures. Feel proud, blessed and accomplished as the city moves into its third century.

Recipe for disaster

A recipe for enrollment disaster at Southwestern Illinois College: Cut enrollment services office hours, making it more difficult for working students to enroll. Hire academic advisors, not professional certified counselors. Make as many rules as possible to prevent students from registering. Hire unqualified administrators and deans. Put political hires in critical areas like enrollment services. Blame the economy for enrollment drops even though other colleges and universities in our area that cost more are increasing enrollment. SWIC enrollment has dropped by more than 6,500 students -- from a high of more than 17,000 students to 10,545 -- because of the above misguided policies. The current leaders do not have a clue as to what works.

Take control at SWIC

Each time enrollment falls, Southwestern Illinois College builds a new building at taxpayers' expense. Build it and they will come. We all know that is not working at MidAmerica Airport. It's time for people to take control of their community college. SWIC is primarily supported by state and local District 522 taxes. It is time to hold the elected college board of trustees accountable. It is time to get the political hacks out of the job of education.

Fee's for credit cards

This is response to a letter to the BND from Charles V. Lyerla of Troy: The fee of $2.37 for a renewal sticker on Illinois license plates is a credit card charge because Illinois doesn't want to pay their fees. He should bring cash if he does not want to be charged next time.

Good job on scores

I want to compliment the BND on getting in the late baseball scores. A game went 10 innings, the game started at 9:20 p.m. and we got the score in the morning.

What's in the water?

I'm trying to be optimistic that the highly chlorinated drinking water in Mascoutah isn't hazardous to my health. The way I see it I should get my water from the swimming pool before it's drained.

Here's a good review

With all the negative comments about the St. Clair County courthouse, I actually had a pleasant experience at the Board of Review. They treated me courteously and were helpful. Not everything is as bad in the courthouse as people think it is.

Don't throw stones

Former state representative Scott Penny goes on in a recent guest column about the sins of congressional candidate and state Rep. Mike Bost. Penny forgets his own sin: Awarding two political children legislative scholarships when the scholarships were about to be outlawed.

Stop crying, casino

I see the Casino Queen says it is losing 11 percent of its revenue to slot machines in taverns in Illinois. Where was the fight to keep the machines out of these establishments? Casino officials were more worried about Fairmount Park having them. The casino should stop crying; it helped create this monster.

Not a job for Troy

While driving on Interstate 55 I noticed the Troy Police were running radar at the exit ramp. Not enough activity in Troy? Leave traffic enforcement on the interstate to the state troopers. This looks bad for Troy.

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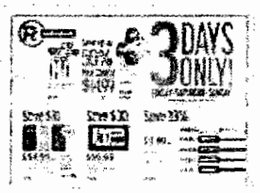
EXPIRES THIS SATURDAY

JCPENNEY
JUST RELEASED

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS
VALID UNTIL OCT 29



RADIOSHACK
3 DAYS LEFT

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# Support St. E's

By Gary Graham

O'Fallon MayorOctober 6, 2014

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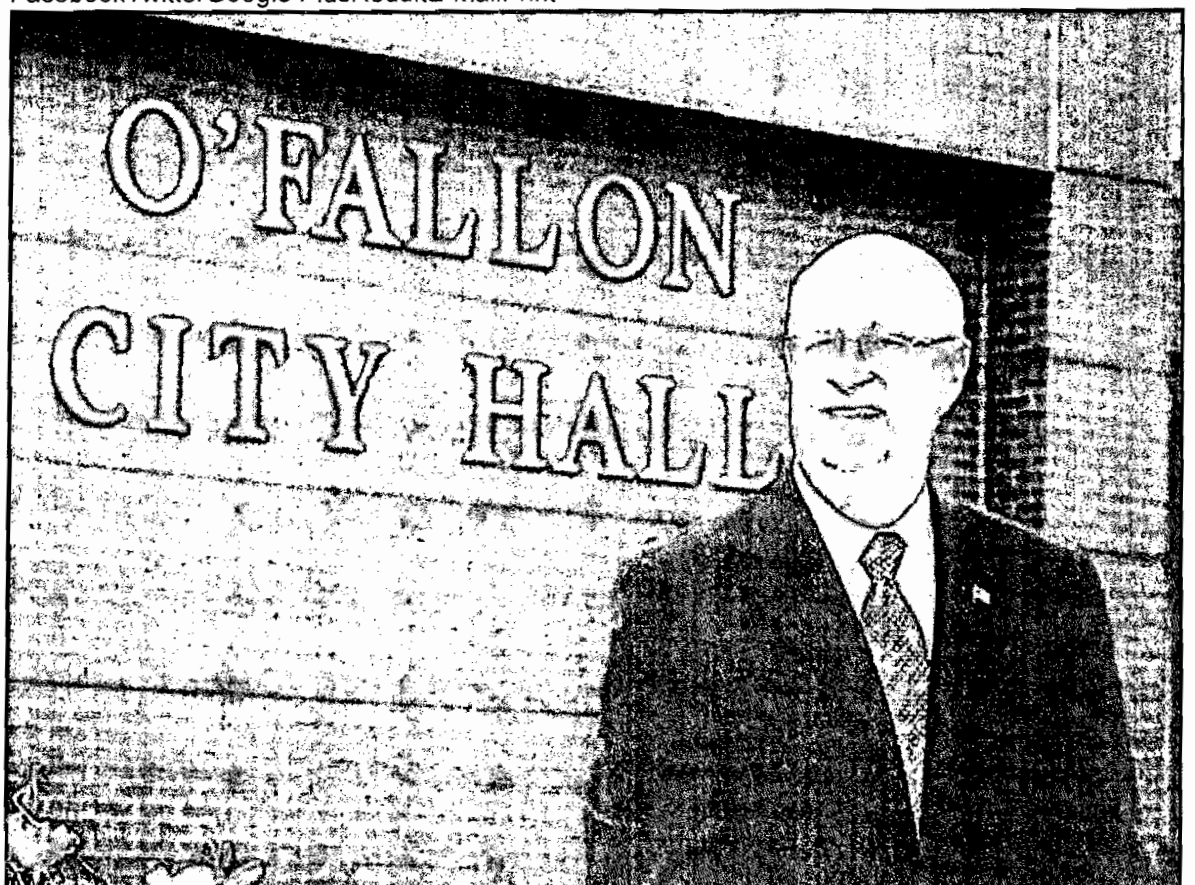


City of O'Fallon Mayor stands in front of city hall

FILE PHOTO — For the Progress Buy Photo

**To the Editor:**

O'Fallon has been experiencing smart growth over the last several years as one of the economic leaders in the region.

We are one of the top five communities in terms of residential growth in the whole St. Louis area and we have been quite fortunate to see commercial growth in multiple locations around the city.

All while at the same time, Scott Air Force Base continues to be a major force for our community.

And now we are poised for what will be the single largest catalyst for growth in our city over the next decade with the construction of the new State of the Art Medical Corridor by St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Memorial.

By locating the region's premier healthcare providers at the epicenter of O'Fallon and Shiloh, over 1,500 new jobs will be coming to our city.

And with those jobs will come new homeowners. These new residents will help to shore up O'Fallon's stronghold as the most desirable place to live, learn, work, play and pray in the region.

As I am sure you have heard by now, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has submitted to the state its certificate of need (CON) to build a $300 million, 144-bed hospital on 114 acres of land just north of Interstate 64 and Exit 16.

Under Illinois law, nursing homes, hospitals and other medical centers must apply for and receive a certificate of need from the nine-member health services review board before they can build, expand, or close a medical building.

I believe the site in O'Fallon was chosen for one specific reason: immediate interstate access. Nearly 140 years ago, the site for St. Elizabeth's' current hospital was selected because of its access to the railroad system, which at that time was the primary means of transportation.

Today, the importance of accessibility to health care hasn't changed. The proposed site of the new hospital location along I-64 will increase their ability to offer life-saving and life-sustaining services for the entire metro-east region for generations to come.

A new hospital being built is a good thing for O'Fallon, and it's a great thing for the metro-east region. The new medical campus will include 144 private patient rooms, an emergency department, state-of-the-art operating rooms, an advanced intensive care unit and inpatient rehabilitation area.

It also would allow St. Elizabeth's to offer a wide array of inpatient and outpatient services, including cancer care, modern birthing suites, telehealth consultations featuring accredited stroke care, and award-winning heart care. All from a site that is centrally located and more readily accessible to the entire Metro-East Region than the hospital's current location.

The proposed location also will make it easier for those living in low-income communities to get to the new hospital and the adjacent physician offices.

In the early stages, St. Elizabeth's did an analysis of drive times from under-served neighborhoods in the metro-east to the new location, and found that two-thirds of low-income residents will have shorter drive times than they currently have driving to the current location. The hospital also will be served by mass transit.

When patients require an inpatient hospital stay, they typically are either very sick or have suffered a serious injury. When those happen, a hospital that is easily accessible via a major interstate could be the difference between life and death. The proposed hospital is designed with those patients who are in need of immediate care in mind.

For a long time now, health care traffic has always headed west and across the Mississippi River to one of the many St. Louis area hospitals—with it went thousands of healthcare jobs. By offering high-quality, easily accessible care at the proposed St. Elizabeth's Campus, we will keep those high-paying health care jobs in Illinois and help improve the quality of life for the residents of the entire metro-east region.

I understand that all those jobs will not come at once and right off the start, but eventually the area around Interstate 64, known as the "Healthcare Highway," will be the healthcare engine Southern Illinois has longed for. It is exciting to think students who graduated from high schools in the metro-east, and have pursued a career in healthcare, will no longer have to move to St. Louis or Chicago or Kansas City to find a job; they will be able to return to a place where they grew up and a healthcare job will be available.

If St. Elizabeth's does not receive their CON, the jobs they would have created will be lost from the region. St. Elizabeth's' leaders already have said they will not consider reinvesting in its Belleville hospital building if plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon are denied by a state regulatory board.

St. Elizabeth's has said attempting to update the current building for modern day medicine does not make sense due to renovations that would be double the cost and double the length of new construction. I understand that Belleville does not want to lose St. Elizabeth's, but as a mayor and as a resident, I don't want the metro-east region to lose St. Elizabeth's.

To better their position for receiving a CON, St. Elizabeth's is looking for public written support in favor of its new hospital proposed for O'Fallon. They have created a website (www.supportsteliz.org) that includes the latest developments on the plans for the new hospital, past media coverage and a place to submit a letter of support.

I have talked to hundreds of residents that have gone to www.supportsteliz.org and submitted a letter of support online. It is very simple—just go to www.steliz.org/letter/index.cfm?pageID=331 and follow the few simple steps. The letters of support will be addressed to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, the board in charge of reviewing St Elizabeth's CON application.

St. Elizabeth's has distributed magnetic (bumper) stickers and business cards around the area and I encourage you pick one up to show your support for the development and for the advancement of healthcare in the metro-east. If you would like one for yourself or for your friends and family, we have the magnets and cards available at City Hall, Katy Cavin's Community Center and the Public Library.

I am truly lucky to live in O'Fallon and call myself your mayor for all these years. It excites me as a resident, and as one of your elected officials, to say I believe O'Fallon's greatest years are still to come and that is yet another example of why O'Fallon is such a great community in which to live.

**Mayor Gary Graham**

**O'Fallon**

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By JAMIE FORSYTHE

News-DemocratOctober 6, 2014

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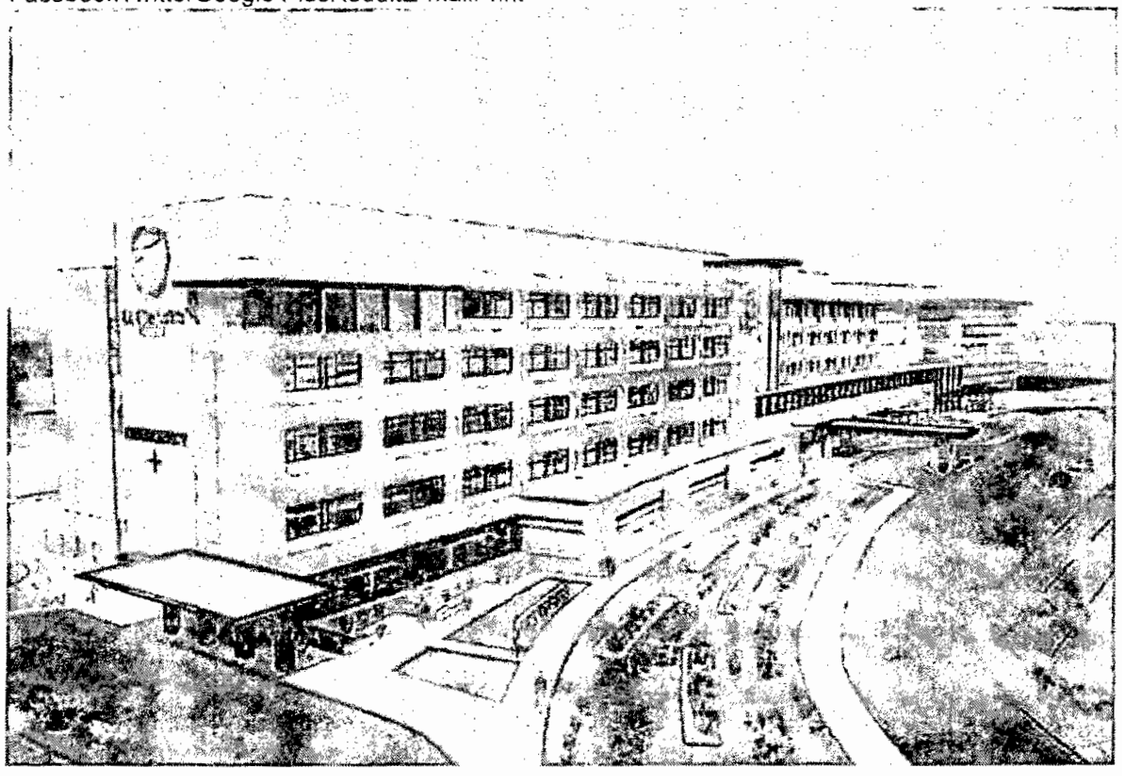

An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site.

PROVIDED/BND

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The main questions: what services will remain in downtown Belleville, what buildings will be demolished and what will take their place?

Business owner Dennis Lavery, who along with his son owns the Ace Hardware stores in Belleville and O'Fallon, asked what buildings would remain and which ones would be demolished if the hospital does build its replacement facility in O'Fallon.

Brian Reardon, a spokesman for Hospital Sisters Health System, said it's too early to discuss any definite plans regarding what will stay and what will be razed regarding the buildings. The hospital system has reached out to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and also met with U.S. Rep. Bill Enyart, according to Reardon.

"We are not going to leave a whole in the ground," he said. "We are still committed to Belleville."

If the state gives approval to move forward with the project, the health system will work with the city of Belleville, Reardon said, to repurpose and revision the campus to compliment downtown Belleville.

"At some point when the dust settles, we want to have a meaningful conversation with the mayor, city and community," Reardon said.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert and a group of community residents oppose the hospital's relocation to O'Fallon.

Hospital officials have committed to keeping some outpatient services in downtown Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's Chief Nursing Officer Shelley Harris, wearing a yellow "I Support St. E's" button, provided an overview of the hospital's plans during Monday's open house.

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"It provides us the ability to care for more people in a more timely manner," Harris said. "The new hospital will provide all the services we have here."

The only area being reduced is the number of inpatient care beds, said Sue Beeler, project manager.

Before it can begin construction, St. Elizabeth needs approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

In an effort to better inform area residents about the hospital plans, St. Elizabeth's Hospital officials held two open house events last week. In addition, the state held a public hearing Thursday night at Lindenwood that attracted more than 600 people. The state board will consider St. Elizabeth's certificate of need on Dec. 16.

"We think we have a very good certificate of need," Reardon said. "We want to make sure we can continue to care for patients for the long term."

Contact reporter Jamie Forsythe at 618-239-2562 or jforsythe1@bnd.com. Follow her on Twitter at @BND_JForsythe.

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Before it can begin construction, St. Elizabeth needs approval from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

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"We think we have a very good certificate of need," Reardon said. "We want to make sure we can continue to care for patients for the long term."

# St. E's abandons its mission

IT IS WITH great sadness that after 140 years in our community, we may be losing our hospital, St. Elizabeth's.

More disheartening is the way this situation has come to pass. As a former friend of St. Elizabeth's and a Catholic, it appears there is more than just regionalism in this anticipated move.

St. Elizabeth's is promoting this as a move toward a "regional" hospital, but yet it has served Belleville, East St. Louis, Freeburg, Smithton, Millstadt, etc., for 140 years. It already is a regional hospital.

The location south of Interstate 64 that the hospital has served for 140 years will become the "underserved population" as a part of this move. Also a segment of population will be left behind as hospital leaders move on for what seems to be greener pastures.

St. Elizabeth's will be leaving behind an underserved population. They will say that the seven miles to the new hospital does not mean much. But it does mean much to the people left behind.

Left behind is another interesting term. Are the Sisters of Saint Francis leaving behind their mission as they move away from an area of greater community need? You decide for yourself.

I will tell you this. They will be leaving behind a wonderful community that is loving and caring with a great sense of support and volunteerism — a community that has used these values to support St. Elizabeth's because they have believed in this hospital for 140 years.

Whatever that means, you decide.

10/11/14

**Patty Gregory**
Belleville

# Think creatively, Belleville

SOME SUGGESTIONS if St. Elizabeth's Hospital moves out of Belleville:

Move the Police Department and the post office there; renovate the post office building, lease it to attorneys, etc.

Keep an urgicare there to include an x-ray/MRI facility. Continue and expand the inpatient and outpatient drug and alcohol rehab unit. Take one wing and rent the rooms to Lindenwood University; take another wing and rent to attorneys. They might take another wing and rent it for assisted living for seniors and or disabled vets.

Check with Southwestern Illinois College; maybe they can expand to one wing. Downsize the cafeteria, but serve breakfast from 5:30 to 9 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner from 4 to 6:30 p.m.; adjust as demand or need changes.

I think city leaders need to be creative and think about how to use this big facility to the city's best interest. Don't give it away like they did Belleville West. Look what happened with the Meredith Home building, handling of the YMCA, Anglers Park, the old furniture store at the bottom of the hill, etc., etc.

**Vern Baugh**
Belleville

10/7/14

# News Democrat

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# St. Elizabeth's has open houses

By Robyn L. Kirsch

Progress Staff WriterOctober 9, 2014

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Brian Reardon, a Public Relations Officer for St. Elizabeth's, addresses the crowd at one of the open house events. Representatives from St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a hospital sisters health system (HSHS) affiliate, addressed nearly 50 people, including St. E's staff members and community members of all ages, with reasons why the hospital has made the ultimate decision to relocate, as well as offering the opportunity for inquiries and suggestions for the Belleville campus' future. To learn more about, to sign a letter of support for the project or offer suggestions for plans regarding the Belleville campus, Melissa Sterling, a St. Elizabeth's Hospital communications representative said individuals can contact her at (618) 234-2120 ext. 1357 or email at melissa.sterling@hshs.org or visit www.supportsteliz.org.

BY ROBYN L. KIRSCH — For the Progress Buy Photo

The third open house forum on Monday, Oct. 6, at the Prairie Heart Institute building on the downtown Belleville campus for the public to ask questions and learn more about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to relocate to O'Fallon was a great success, according to Chief Nursing Officer Shelley Harris.

"I think today was a great turn out. We had lots of great questions and comments from those of the community, (and) that's what we've been looking for," Harris said. "We are trying to be as transparent as can be. We know that with our ministry being a pillar for the community for 140 years, this open dialogue is bound to get emotional, but we want to allay people's fears."

Representatives from St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a hospital sisters health system (HSHS) affiliate, addressed nearly 50 people, including St. E's staff members and community members of all ages, with reasons why the hospital has made the ultimate decision to relocate, as well as offering the opportunity for inquiries and suggestions for the Belleville campus' future.

"We're sad. But ultimately, we support St. E's. We've lived in this area all our lives and we've watched the area change, so we understand the problem with location and the old building," Bill and Terry Rettig said jointly. "There's a lot of heavy traffic on Green Mount though, but if the county is going to address that regardless, that's something to consider too."

The Rettig's said they live off of Hartman Lane and agree that they will follow St. E's to O'Fallon, but also anticipate some services remaining in Belleville.

"We feel like if it's what they need to do to give us better care, then we are behind them," Terry said.

The means of transportation for the majority of patients frequenting the hospital upon its inception was solely dependant on the railroad system that runs through Belleville, but times are changing and so is the technology, Harris explained.

"We have as many souls to care for in Lebanon, Fairview Heights, Shiloh and O'Fallon, just as we do here," Harris said. "And with the current infrastructure being what it is today, a replacement facility in O'Fallon, not a satellite facility (like that of Memorial East), is what the metro east region needs, and for it to be close to the main highway artery like Interstate 64."

Harris said studies reflect that 30 percent of all metro east residents are going across the river to St. Louis for care instead of staying close to home.

"Twenty-six percent of our patients are from Belleville, and about 74 percent are outside of the Belleville zipcode, a substantial amount of people who could access our facilities with ease if we were located closer to the highway system," Harris said. "We've also received a great deal of feedback from our EMT crews and others who have said that it's challenging to try and get to the Belleville campus during times of emergency."

"It's all about keeping healthcare close to home," Harris added. "Our services won't change, but there will be a reduction in the number of inpatient beds because as most of you know people just don't stay overnight more than a few days in the hospital like they used to.

"The average stay is three days versus the previous decades being seven- to 10-day stays for testing."

The Belleville campus will remain for outpatient care services like therapy, radiology, scanning and lab testing and physician directed care, according to Brian Reardon, public relations officer for St. E's.

"When the dust settles we're hoping to have some very meaningful discussions about what will happen to these buildings. It's too expensive to retrofit the buildings to meet the needs of technology and healthcare delivery in the 21st century as opposed to a 20th century care facility, but we certainly won't leave a hole in the ground," Reardon assured attendees.

"Our ministry here is a Franciscan Order—one that has high reverence for the earth," Harris explained.

"This reverence guides every part of our decision. We want to add to Belleville not take away, as we know how valuable our ministry is to those we serve.

"We will still have a presence here and will take all suggestions under consideration for the future possibilities of re-envisioning this campus."

In November 2011, HSHS purchased 106 acres in O'Fallon for $18 million.

The hospital announced plans at that time to build a $300 million hospital north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

To learn more about, to sign a letter of support for the project or offer suggestions for plans regarding the Belleville campus, Melissa Sterling, a St. Elizabeth's Hospital communications representative said individuals can contact her at (618) 234-2120 ext. 1357 or email at melissa.sterling@hshs.org or visit www.supportsteliz.org.

For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

**rkirsch@bnd.com**

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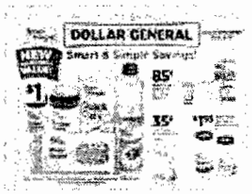


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# Letters on St. Elizabeth's plans must follow proper format

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratOctober 10, 2014

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Hundreds of letters have been sent to a state agency both in favor and against St. Elizabeth's proposed replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

However, state officials warn that some of the letters have not followed the proper format and will not be considered when the state board votes whether to allow the hospital to move.

Fewer than a dozen letters did not meet the guidelines and will not be attached to the hospital's proposal, confirmed a representative from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

"Individual voices may be missing form the process," said Melissa Sterling, spokeswoman for St. Elizabeth's parent company Hospital Sisters Health System.

According to information on the state board's website, more than 240 letters of support and more than 60 letters opposing the plan have been submitted and successfully attached to the project.

Those numbers do not include the initial 30-plus letters of support and two letters opposing the project that were included in the original 493-page certificate of need application.

In addition, a petition was attached to the project that included about 6,300 signatures against St. Elizabeth's plan. The petition was organized by the grassroots group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board and St. Elizabeth's Hospital wanted to make sure those opposed and in support of the project know the proper steps to submit a letter.

Written comments can be mailed directly to Mike Constantino or Courtney Avery at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, 525 West Jefferson Street (Second Floor), Springfield, Illinois 62761.

All letters:

* must be on standard 8.5-by-11-inch sheets of paper;

* include the appropriate project number as assigned by the state board (Project #14-043 for St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, and Project #14-044 for St. Elizabeth's Hospital-Ambulatory Care Center, O'Fallon);

* must include full name, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone number and email address, if applicable; and

* must be signed.

Electronic letters may be submitted through an online format found at http://www.supportsteliz.org.

All letters submitted will be posted on the state website, http://www.hfsrb.illinois.gov/CompApps.htm.

St. Elizabeth's leaders announced in June plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed replacement hospital and ambulatory care center on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road. While inpatient services would move about seven miles from its 140-year home in downtown Belleville, outpatient services, including labs, therapy and urgent care, would remain on the current Belleville campus.

All Illinois medical centers and hospitals require the state's approval for a certificate of need before it can begin construction on a new facility.

The state review board is scheduled to make a decision about St. Elizabeth's plans at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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# Want your views heard on St. Elizabeth's? Follow the right format

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratOctober 10, 2014

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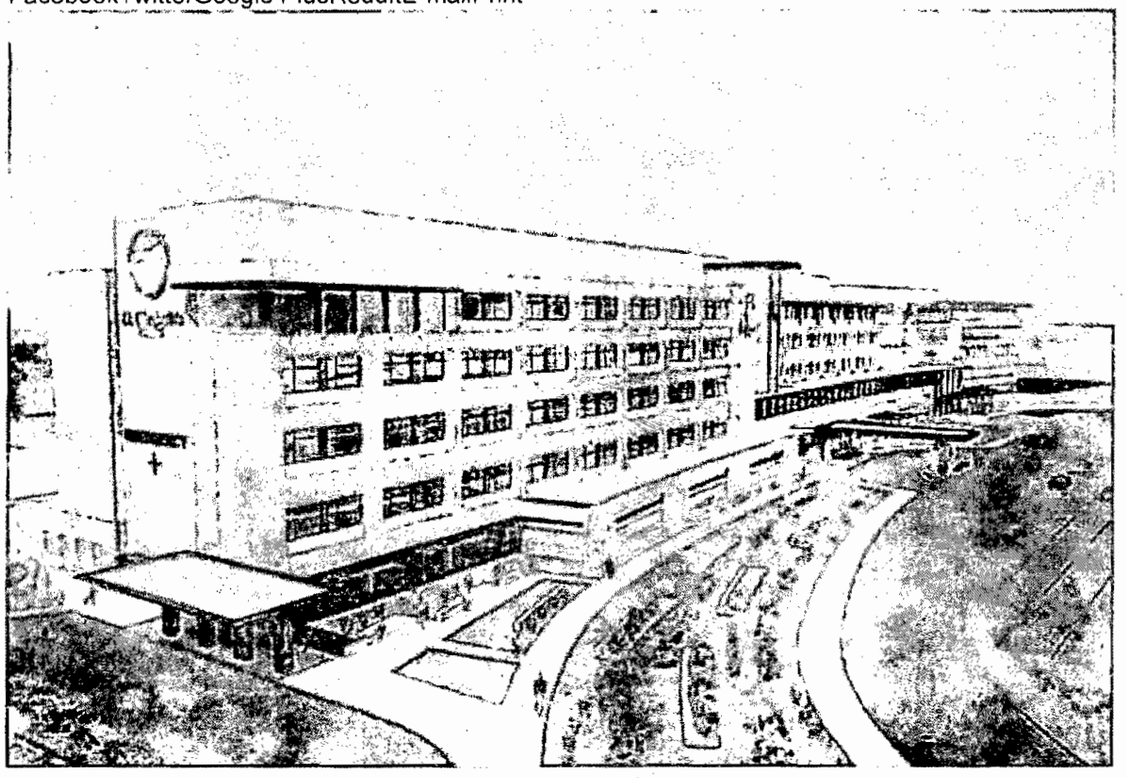

An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site. PROVIDED/BND

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All written comments must be submitted to the state review board by Nov. 26. The board is scheduled to make a decision about St. Elizabeth's plans at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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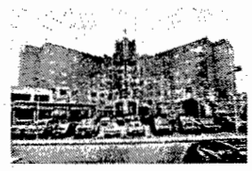
# St. Elizabeth's proposed move puts care farther out of reach for some Metro East residents

6 hours ago • By Samantha Liss sliss@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8017 4



An exterior view of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville as seen on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. St. Elizabeth's plans to move from downtown Belleville and build a new $300 million hospital in O'Fallon. Hospital officials say the new building will allow the hospital upgrade their technology.

Photo By David Carson, dcarson@post-dispatch.com

Enlarge Photo

St. Elizabeth's Hospital administrators want to relocate the hospital to an area that's more affluent, arguably more populated and situated next to a major highway, Interstate 64.

It's a move that some applaud — and hospitals officials say is necessary because of the 60-year-old, 303-bed hospital's outdated infrastructure in downtown Belleville.

But public officials in communities in southern St. Clair County, as well as residents south of Belleville, are concerned because of likely longer commute times to receive care.

"You can't get there from here — and it's the truth," said Smithton Mayor Ray Klein. "You cannot get to the new location from the southern area in any amount of time. This is a hazard for people in our area."

St. Clair County has no hospitals south of Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital's move goes before Illinois state regulators Dec. 16. It's strongly opposed by competitor Memorial Hospital. At a recent hearing in Belleville, Memorial's chief operating officer, Michael McManus, spoke out against the move.

He later told the Post-Dispatch: "We do expect an increase in patients if St. Elizabeth's closes their Belleville hospital, and we are especially concerned about residents who need emergency or intensive care services. All EMS trauma and cardiac arrest patients, for example, will now be transferred here as the closest hospital."

Memorial is currently building a 94-bed satellite hospital in Shiloh, near St. Elizabeth's proposed 144-bed O'Fallon location, but Memorial will continue to provide 216 inpatient beds in Belleville.

If St. Elizabeth's move is approved, it would be the first time a hospital in the metropolitan area has moved since 2008, when then-SSM Health Care relocated a hospital from Kirkwood to Fenton.

### CHASING DOLLARS?

St. Elizabeth's Hospital administrators have been sharply criticized for their plan to move the hospital, in what opponents see as a move to improve the hospital's "payer mix."

The median household income in the area surrounding St. Elizabeth's Hospital in downtown Belleville is about $42,000. And $60,000 is about the median household income for the area

immediately surrounding the new location proposed in O'Fallon, about seven miles from the current campus.

But the move would also put the hospital closer to areas of even greater wealth along Interstate 64, where median incomes creep up closer to $100,000.

Moving to more affluent areas is nothing new for health care providers, local health care experts said.

"Hospitals do tend to gravitate, if not move completely, certainly open branches out in the more affluent suburbs. They clearly do follow the money to some extent," said Tim Greaney, co-director of the Center for Health Law Studies at St. Louis University School of Law.

St. Elizabeth's has been criticized because of its plans to move to a wealthier area because it's a nonprofit hospital affiliated with the Catholic church, which has a mission to cater to those in need. But the bottom line is, Greaney said, hospitals need to make money to cater to patients who struggle to pay.

"The oldest saying in this area about nonprofits is: no margin, no mission. If you don't make money, you can't serve your mission and that's the dilemma."

And in St. Elizabeth's case, it has had operating losses since at least the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, according to Form 990 filings with the Internal Revenue Service. For the year ended June 30, 2012, St. Elizabeth's reported about $167 million in revenue and about $182 million in expenses, an operating loss of about $15 million.

But administrators are adamant that the move is not about catering to more affluent patients; it's about being able to serve more patients throughout the region thanks to the highway access.

"It actually puts us closer to areas of abject poverty, and they can get to us quicker now," said Melissa Sterling, chief marketing and communications officer for St. Elizabeth's.

"There are lots of communities that win here," Sterling said.

But Klein, the mayor of Smithton, does not feel like a winner.

Smithton is about eight miles directly south of Belleville, 15 minutes away by car on Route 159. The move would put 17 miles between Smithton and the new hospital, about a 30-minute drive without traffic.

While Smithton is a fraction of O'Fallon in terms of population, Smithton's population grew 64 percent to about 3,700 residents in 2010, the last count by U.S. Census Bureau since 2000. And the areas around Smithton are growing, too. Add together the populations of Klein's neighboring towns Waterloo, Freeburg and Millstadt, and that accounts for more than 20,000 residents.

"They are not considering what the move is going to do to them, and I oppose this wholeheartedly," Klein said.

Herb Simmons, former ambulance operator of 30 years turned director of emergency services for St. Clair County, said he is fearful of longer commute times for residents in southern St. Clair County, especially during emergencies.

"Every day of the week I was in a hospital, so I know the difference of what it means when you have to drive the extra six or seven miles," Simmons said.

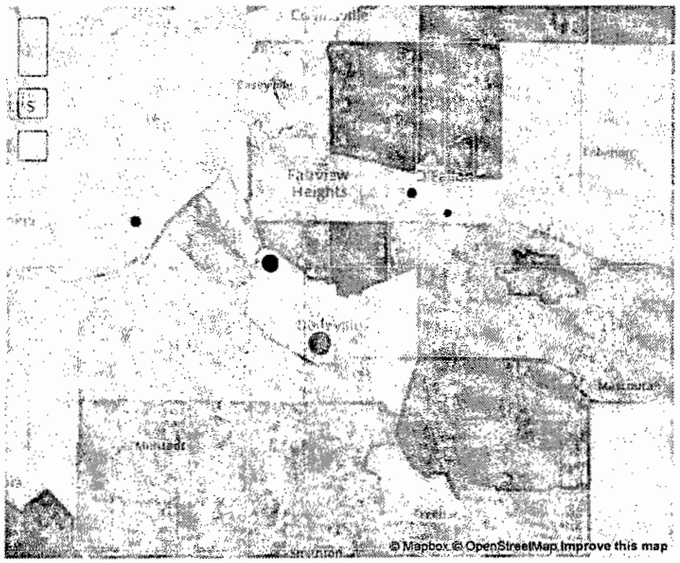
But St. Elizabeth's Hospital officials say residents would still have options after a move, including Memorial Hospital in Belleville and outpatient services at its current downtown campus.

St. Elizabeth's administrators insist they needed to think more broadly and that the move allows them to better cater to the entire region.

"We can't narrow our focus to one specific area of geography," Sterling said. "We're moving toward what is now the center of population."

*Walker Moskop of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.*

This map shows the locations of Metro East area hospitals as well as the median household incomes of surrounding census tracts. A larger marker indicates a greater number of patient beds available at that hospital.




Map by Walker Moskop of the Post-Dispatch
*Memorial Hospital-East is under construction.
**The light blue marker is St. Elizabeth's Hospital's current location, and the dark blue marker is its proposed location.

Samantha Liss is a business reporter at the Post-Dispatch. Follow her on Twitter @samanthann and the business section @postdispatchbiz.

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**Tags** Ray Klein, Melissa Sterling, Belleville, Tim Greaney

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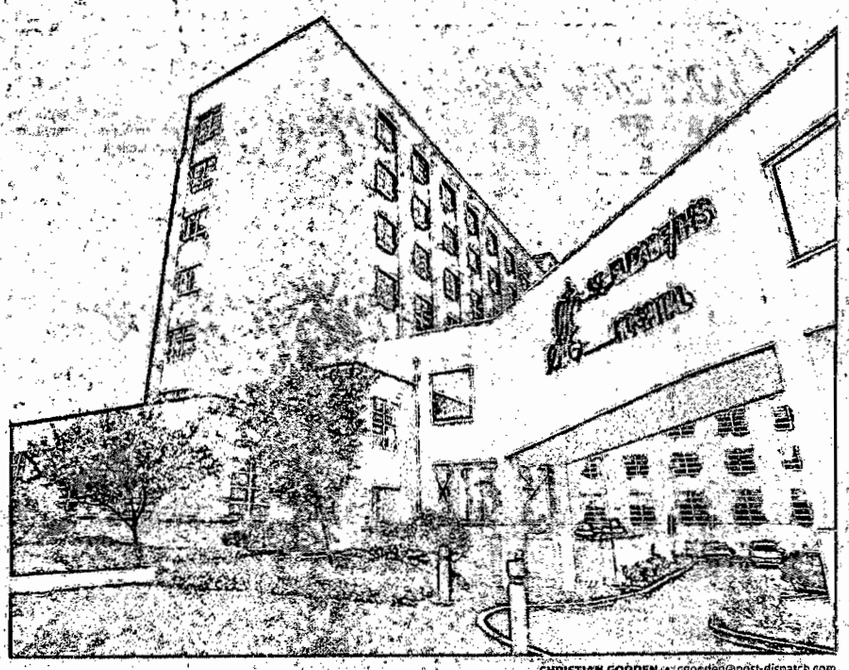
# BELLEVILLE HOSPITAL'S MOVE: WHO BENEFITS?

Critics say proposal puts care farther out of reach for some in Metro East.



CHRISTIAN GOODEN • cgooden@post-dispatch.com

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, pictured in July 2011. Administrators say a move would allow them to better cater to the region.

BY SAMANTHA LISS
sliss@post-dispatch.com
314-340-8017

St. Elizabeth's Hospital administrators want to relocate the hospital to an area that's more affluent, arguably more populated and situated next to a major highway, Interstate 64.

It's a move that some applaud — and hospitals officials say is necessary because of the 60-year-old, 303-bed hospital's outdated infrastructure in downtown Belleville.

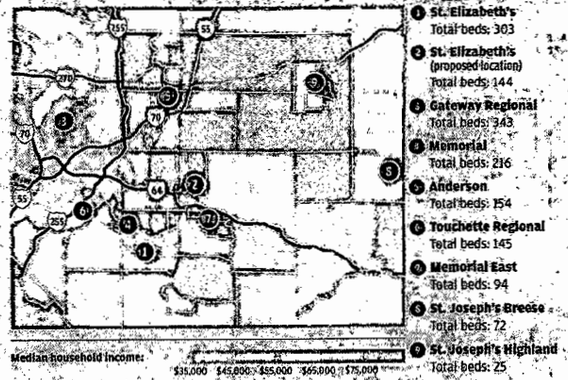
But public officials in communities in southern St. Clair County, as well as residents south of Belleville, are concerned because of likely longer commute times to receive care.

"You can't get there from here — and it's the truth," said Smithton Mayor Ray Klein. "You cannot get to the new location from the southern area in any amount of time. This is a hazard for people in our area."

See HOSPITAL • Page B6

**THE IMPACT OF ST. ELIZABETH'S MOVE**

A Post-Dispatch analysis shows that St. Elizabeth's Hospital proposed location, which is closer to Interstate 64, is in a more affluent region than its current location.




1. St. Elizabeth's — Total beds: 303
2. St. Elizabeth's (proposed location) — Total beds: 144
3. Gateway Regional — Total beds: 343
4. Memorial — Total beds: 216
5. Anderson — Total beds: 154
6. Touchette Regional — Total beds: 145
7. Memorial East — Total beds: 94
8. St. Joseph's Breese — Total beds: 72
9. St. Joseph's Highland — Total beds: 25

## SLU plans 2 new dorms for midtown campus

DAVID NICKLAUS
dnicklaus@post-dispatch.com
314-340-8213

## 'Gone Girl' no reason to revive tax credit for films

State provided $2.36 million in subsidies to Ben Affleck thriller.

If you watch the movie "Gone Girl" and enjoy it, be sure to thank the people sitting around you.

Assuming that you're in a Missouri theater, many of them helped pay for the film even before they bought tickets. Missouri taxpayers provided 20th Century Fox with $2.36 million in subsidies for "Gone Girl," which stars Ben Affleck.

The movie caused a lot of excitement in Cape Girardeau during filming last year, and it will bring a few tourists who want to see the locations that made up the fictional town of New Carthage.

Star-struck lawmakers, though, should let this be the last big Hollywood film financed with Missouri taxpayers' help. The state's film production tax credit expired last November, having provided nearly $18 million in credits to filmmakers since 2000.

The movie industry, of course, wants to revive the credit, and it will use the positive buzz

See NICKLAUS • Page B5

## Dozens of Missouri state license offices being rebid

BY JACOB BARKER
jbarker@post-dispatch.com
314-340-8291

Contracts for dozens of state license offices are being bid for the second time in a year as the state continues to try to iron out problems in what has long been a controversial and politicized system.

The offices are run by individuals, businesses and nonprofit groups that pay for staff and potentially earn a profit with thousands of dollars charged for processing fees.

2

BUSINESS

# Southwest shows modest gain in on-time performance

Carrier is 11th of 14 airlines; American dropped the most.

BY TERRY MAXON • Dallas Morning News

Southwest Airlines, the dominant passenger airline serving St. Louis, changed its schedule on Aug. 10 to improve its reliability and end a year of really bad results for on-time arrivals.

Its executives said the new schedule should boost its on-time performance.

The good news from August's report from the U.S. Department of Transportation: Southwest is off the bottom. Its on-time rate was up 1.5 percentage points from August 2013 when it first jimmied its schedule to squeeze more flights in.

The bad news: Dallas-based Southwest ranked 11th of 14 airlines in August, below the industry's average and still a very subpar finish.

Of the biggest carriers, Delta Air Lines outclassed the others. American's merger partner, US Airways, came next, followed by United Airlines, Southwest Airlines and American, according to the DOT report, released Thursday.

American's record dropped the most of the 14 carriers ranked by the DOT. Its on-time record of 73.2 percent was 8.1 points worse than in August 2013.

The DOT considers a flight on time if it arrives within 14 minutes of schedule.

The DOT report says that 3.1 percent of Southwest's regularly scheduled flights in August were late at least 70 percent of the time. The industry average was 0.9 percent. Excluding Southwest, the industry average was 0.3 percent.

To access the report, visit t.usa.gov/1w20mnZ

# HOSPITAL • FROM B1

Proposal goes before Illinois state regulators on Dec. 16

St. Clair County has no hospitals south of Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital's move goes before Illinois state regulators Dec. 16. It's strongly opposed by competitor Memorial Hospital. At a recent hearing in Belleville, Memorial's chief operating officer, Michael McManus, spoke out against the move.

He later told the Post-Dispatch: "We do expect an increase in patients if St. Elizabeth's closes their Belleville hospital, and we are especially concerned about residents who need emergency or intensive care services. All EMS trauma and cardiac arrest patients, for example, will now be transferred here as the closest hospital."

Memorial is currently building a 94-bed satellite hospital in Shiloh, near St. Elizabeth's proposed 144-bed O'Fallon location, but Memorial will continue to provide 216 inpatient beds in Belleville.

If St. Elizabeth's move is approved, it would be the first time a hospital in the metropolitan area has moved since 2008, when then-SSM Health Care relocated a hospital from Kirkwood to Fenton.

### CHASING DOLLARS?

St. Elizabeth's Hospital administrators have been sharply criticized for their plan to move the hospital, in what opponents see as a move to improve the hospital's "payer mix."

The median household income in the area surrounding St. Elizabeth's Hospital in downtown Belleville is about $42,000. And $60,000 is about the median household income for the area immediately surrounding the new location proposed in O'Fallon, about seven miles from the current campus.

But the move would also put the hospital closer to areas of even greater wealth along Interstate 64, where median incomes creep up closer to $100,000.

Moving to more affluent areas is nothing new for health care providers, local health care experts said.

"Hospitals do tend to gravitate, if not move completely, certainly open branches out in the more affluent suburbs. They clearly do follow the money to some extent," said Tim Greaney, co-director of the Center for Health Law Studies at St. Louis University School of Law.

St. Elizabeth's has been criticized because of its plans to move to a wealthier area because it's a nonprofit hospital affiliated with the Catholic church, which has a mission to cater to those in need. But the bottom line is, Greaney said, hospitals need to make money to cater to patients who struggle to pay.

"The oldest saying in this area about nonprofits is: no margin, no mission. If you don't make money, you can't serve your mission and that's the dilemma."

And in St. Elizabeth's case, it has had operating losses since at least the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, according to Form 990 filings with the Internal Revenue Service. For the year ended June 30, 2012, St. Elizabeth's reported about $167 million in revenue and about $182 million in expenses, an operating loss of about $15 million.

But administrators are adamant that the move is not about catering to more affluent patients; it's about being able to serve more patients throughout the region thanks to the highway access.

"It actually puts us closer to areas of abject poverty, and they can get to us quicker now," said Melissa Sterling, chief marketing and communications officer for St. Elizabeth's.

"There are lots of communities that win here," Sterling said.

But Klein, the mayor of Smithton, does not feel like a winner.

Smithton is about eight miles directly south of Belleville, 15 minutes away by car on Route 159. The move would put 17 miles between Smithton and the new hospital, about a 30-minute drive without traffic.

While Smithton is a fraction of O'Fallon in terms of population, Smithton's population grew 64 percent to about 3,700 residents in 2010, the last count by U.S. Census Bureau since 2000. And the areas around Smithton are growing, too. Add together the populations of Klein's neighboring towns Waterloo, Freeburg and Millstadt, and that accounts for more than 20,000 residents.

"They are not considering what the move is going to do to them, and I oppose this wholeheartedly," Klein said.

Herb Simmons, former ambulance operator of 30 years turned director of emergency services for St. Clair County, said he is fearful of longer commute times for residents in southern St. Clair County, especially during emergencies.

"Every day of the week I was in a hospital, so I know the difference of what it means when you have to drive the extra six or seven miles," Simmons said.

But St. Elizabeth's Hospital officials say residents would still have options after a move, including Memorial Hospital in Belleville and outpatient services at its current downtown campus.

St. Elizabeth's administrators insist they needed to think more broadly and that the move allows them to better cater to the entire region.

"We can't narrow our focus to one specific area of geography," Sterling said. "We're moving toward what is now the center of population."

Walker Moskop of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.

# Icahn renews his quest for Apple share buyback

BY TIM HIGGINS AND BETH JINKS
Bloomberg News

Billionaire activist investor Carl Icahn renewed pressure on Apple Inc. Chief Executive Tim Cook to accelerate buying back the company's stock, saying the shares are trading at half their value.

Icahn made his demands Thursday in an open letter to Cook saying "our valuation tells us that Apple should trade at $203 per share today," which would put the company's market capitalization at more than $1.2 trillion.

Icahn

The stock rose 22 cents to close Thursday at $101.02 Thursday. Icahn Associates Corp. owns about 0.9 percent of the company's shares.

Kristen Huguet, an Apple spokeswoman, said the company always appreciates hearing from shareholders.

Apple shares had gained 26 percent this year through Thursday's close.

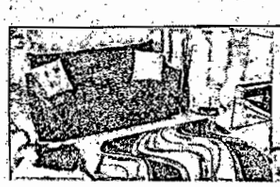
Icahn is restarting his pressure on Apple after last year pushing the iPhone maker to increase its payout for shareholders. The investor, who first unveiled his stake in Apple in August 2013, followed in December by saying he would pursue a shareholder vote to force the company to increase its stock buyback plan. In February, he dropped his campaign to spur Apple to buy back $50 billion of stock this year, after the company stepped up repurchases.

A trillion-dollar stock would be an ambitious goal. PetroChina, the Asian country's biggest oil and natural gas producer, is the only stock that's surpassed $1 trillion market value, and it did that for only one day, on Nov. 5, 2007. The stock has since lost about three-quarters of its value.

In his letter, Icahn said Apple products, including the iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch, will help accelerate earnings growth. The recently introduced iPhone 6 positions the company to take market share from Google's Android, he said.

Apple finished the quarter that ended June 30 with $164.5 billion in cash. In April, the company said it would increase its share repurchase authorization by $30 billion, boost its dividend and split its stock 7-for-1. The move followed an announcement in April 2013, when Apple disclosed a plan for a total of $100 billion in dividends and buybacks.

Icahn also said there's "good enough reason to expect" Apple to introduce an UltraHD television in its 2016 fiscal year.

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# Some letters on St. Elizabeth's plan have been tossed

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

Hundreds of letters have been sent to a state agency both in favor and against St. Elizabeth's proposed replacement hospital in O'Fallon, but some have not followed the proper format and will not be considered, a state board warns.

BND.com
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Fewer than a dozen letters did not meet the guidelines and will not be attached to the hospital's proposal, confirmed a representative from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

"Individual voices may be missing from the process," said Melissa Sterling, spokeswoman for St. Elizabeth's parent company Hospital Sisters Health System.

According to information on the state board's website, more than 240 letters of support and more than 60 letters opposing the plan have been submitted and successfully attached to the project.

Those numbers do not include the initial 30-plus letters of support and two letters opposing the project that were included in the original 493-page certificate of need application.

In addition, a petition was attached to the project that included about 6,300 signatures against St. Elizabeth's plan. The petition was organized by the grassroots group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services

10/11/14

*Please see* **LETTERS, A2**

## LETTERS

*Continued from Page A1*

Review Board and St. Elizabeth's Hospital wanted to make sure those opposed and in support of the project know the proper steps to submit a letter.

Written comments can be mailed directly to Mike Constantino or Courtney Avery at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, 525 West Jefferson Street (Second Floor), Springfield, Illinois 62761.

All letters:

- Must be on standard 8.5-by-11-inch sheets of paper;
- Must include the appropriate project number as assigned by the state board (Project #14-043 for St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, and Project #14-044 for St. Elizabeth's Hospital-Ambulatory Care Center, O'Fallon);
- Must include full name, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone number and email address, if applicable; and
- Must be signed.

Electronic letters may be submitted through an online format found at http://www.supportsteliz.org.

All letters submitted will be posted on the state website, http://www.hfsrb.illinois.gov/CompApps.htm.

St. Elizabeth's leaders announced in June plans to build a $300 million, 144-bed replacement hospital and ambulatory care center on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road. While inpatient services would move about seven miles from its 140-year home in downtown Belleville, outpatient services, including labs, therapy and urgent care, would remain on the current Belleville campus.

All Illinois medical centers and hospitals require the state's approval for a certificate of need before it can begin construction on a new facility.

All written comments must be submitted to the state review board by Nov. 26. The board is scheduled to make a decision about St. Elizabeth's plans at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

# Questions for the opponents

I HAVE A number of questions that the opponents of the St. Elizabeth's move need to answer:

• Why are the political leaders of St. Clair County not at the forefront of this project, jumping up and down about the real jobs that will be created to construct the new St. Elizabeth's Hospital? They are always talking about imaginary jobs and growing the economy. This is real.

• Why haven't the hospital opponents dissected St. Elizabeth's submission for the certificate of need showing why it's wrong and how it's wrong?

• Isn't it time to approach healthcare as a regional issue and not one so parochial as to be limited to Belleville vs. everyone else?

• Would the people who work at St. Elizabeth's all move out closer to the new hospital, or perhaps will they commute to work like thousands of others to St. Elizabeth's, the base and elsewhere?

• In the next round of base closings, will the county point to the two brand new hospitals so close to the base — right down the interstate and not on roads winding through Belleville?

**Harry Sterling**
Fairview Heights

10/15/14

## Why oppose move?

Thanks to the BND for providing a link to St. Elizabeth's comments on staying in Belleville. I read the comments about city leaders, and I had to question their intent of opposing the move. Was it for indigent care or for losing a very large number of income-tax-paying jobs? If Mayor Mark Eckert knew of the hospital's intent to leave since 2004, why has the city not prepared itself for this possibility? That's what people's blind allegiance will do to a city.

10/20/14

## Old can be updated

St. Elizabeth's Hospital wants to move to O'Fallon because hospital officials say they couldn't update the current facility in Belleville. But then I drive by Anheuser-Busch brewery on South Broadway in St. Louis and that building is much older than St. Elizabeth's and the company is very successful. I think it's a matter of what they want or you don't want to do. Hospital leaders should just admit what they are doing.

## Inconsistent on St. E's

It's very interesting that Belleville Alderwoman Melinda Hult, a candidate for state representative, criticizes her opponent Rep. Jay Hoffman in regard to St. Elizabeth's Hospital on a Facebook campaign page. But when she voted against the city's resolution to keep St. E's in Belleville, she said it was a business that should be able to do as it wished. For shame, what a flip-flop.

10/13/14

## Put it on the ballot

Why didn't O'Fallon officials ask their voters whether St. Elizabeth's Hospital should be approved to move to the city? The site will be near residential areas and add to the traffic jams on Green Mount Road. Compound that with the Interstate 64 ramp backups and the noise and sirens 24 hours a day. We want a referendum.

10/20/14

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# 'We felt like it would be fair': State plans 2nd public hearing for St. Elizabeth's

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratOctober 23, 2014 Updated 22 hours ago

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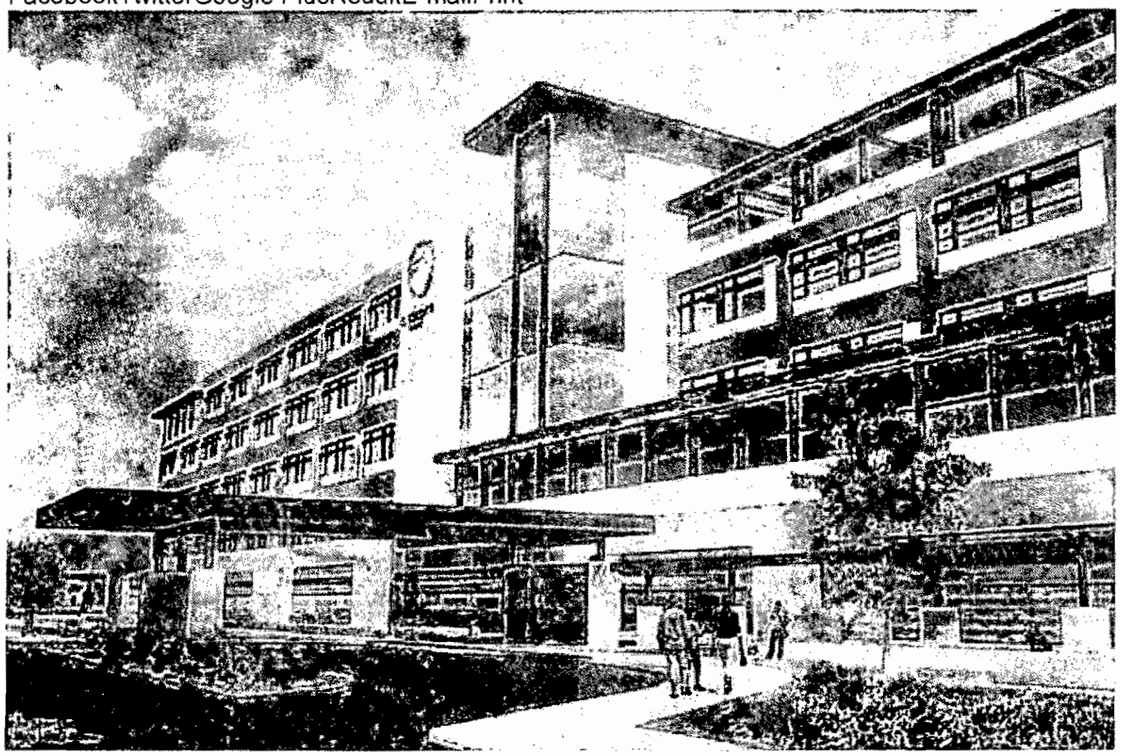

An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site.

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- Hundreds jam St. Elizabeth's public hearing, nearly overwhelming organizers
- St. E's says they won't move everything to O'Fallon

A second public hearing has been scheduled for those wishing to speak their minds about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's proposed move to O'Fallon.

Courtney Avery, the administrator of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, said Thursday that a second public hearing has been scheduled for Nov. 18 in Belleville. An exact time and location have not been set.

"We felt like it would be fair," Avery said, after dozens of people were not able to speak in favor of or against the replacement hospital at the Oct. 2 public hearing at Lindenwood University's auditorium.

Commenters who spoke at the first hearing will not be able to speak again, Avery said.

"This is unprecedented," said Patty Gregory, one of the organizers of the Oppose the Move group, against the hospital's plans to relocate.

Melissa Sterling, a spokeswoman for the hospital's parent company Hospital Sisters Health System, could not be reached Thursday afternoon.

The state board has the power to approve or deny St. Elizabeth's request for a certificate of need, which is necessary for the hospital to relocate.

St. Elizabeth's filed a 493-page application to the state board stating why the hospital needs to move, namely that the downtown Belleville location is not as easily accessible as the proposed site off Interstate 64. In addition, the hospital's application explained that rebuilding at the current site or remodeling the Belleville hospital is not cost efficient.

The proposed 144-bed replacement hospital and ambulatory care center would cost about $300 million to build on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

The cost to replace the hospital at the existing site was estimated at $365 million and the cost to upgrade the current building was estimated at $353 million, according to the hospital's certificate of need application.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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# Keep moving toward fairness

October 24, 2014

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"We felt like it would be fair." It was a pleasant surprise when the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board gave that as its reason for scheduling a second public hearing on St. Elizabeth's Hospital's proposed move from Belleville to O'Fallon.

Good for the review board; holding a second hearing definitely is the fair thing to do. Hundreds of people turned out Oct. 2 for the first one, which meant a lot of disappointed people, supporters and opponents, never got to testify. Sure, they could send in written comments for the board's consideration, but that's just not the same. Now they will get their chance.

In that same spirit of fairness, we would also urge the board to move its meeting on St. Elizabeth's certificate of need to a neutral site in the metro-east, maybe Collinsville. The meeting currently is set for Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. in Bollingbrook, a four-hour or so drive from Belleville. The distance, the early start time and the fact it's just days before Christmas will make it difficult for people from our area to attend.

This is a huge issue for residents of the metro-east, and in fairness the hearing should be held at a place that would allow the greatest number of people to participate in the process.

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Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

10/24/14

# Opinions

OUR VIEW

## Keep moving toward fair

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This is a huge issue for residents of the metro-east, and in fairness the hearing should be held at a place that would allow the greatest number of people to participate in the process. 10/25/14

## St. E's needed in Belleville

IS ANYONE ELSE disgusted by those haters from outside Belleville who delight in the prospect of St. Elizabeth's Hospital moving to O'Fallon? Seems that for some their desire to see Belleville harmed outweighs any affinity they might have for the hospital. Assuredly no resident of Belleville in his right mind is in favor of the proposed move.

Over the past several years Belleville has seen a revived downtown, major growth at Lindenwood University and Southwestern Illinois College, wildly successful annual events (e.g. Art on the Square), new shopping centers and it has becoming a more vibrant, diverse community. St. Elizabeth's has been a major part of Belleville for 140 years. Moving away would inflict a devastating blow to this dynamic, historic and loyal city. The last thing Belleville needs is a core institution sowing the seeds of "white flight" by callously walking away.

Regardless of the disingenuous excuses by St. Elizabeth's corporate spokespeople and local apologists, the real motivators are bigger profits and less care for the indigent. They haven't invested in facilities or infrastructure, and have let the current hospital decline nearly into obsolescence — as though abandoning Belleville was the plan all along.

The proposed move would cut off many elderly, poor and indigent people from access to care — not just in Belleville but many other areas. Memorial Hospital and its already crowded ER would also be overwhelmed.

St. Elizabeth's surely should be allowed to build a new hospital, but where it belongs is in Belleville.

10/26/14

**Kevin J. Gagen**
Belleville

## Measure of failure

Way to go, Belleville. How could city leaders approve the new grocery store on North 17th Street and North Belt? It looks cheap and trashy. This would never be allowed in other communities. Belleville has set another new low; someone's head should roll for this one. The city has set a precedent for other low-cost buildings. 10/27/14

## Keep the hospital close

DURING AN OFFICE visit to my cardiologist, I was short of breath, had chest tightness and was dizzy. I was scheduled early the next morning at St. Elizabeth's Hospital for a cardiac cath. I always preferred Memorial Hospital but the doctor's office is adjoining St. Elizabeth's. I ended up having a stent put in.

Recently I got up to go to church and did not feel right with symptoms of a heart attack. Since St. Elizabeth's is so close and they have my records, I decided to drive myself. If they move, I would not chance it to drive that far. I know I could call an ambulance, but guess I'm just too independent and St. Elizabeth's is only minutes away.

I agree it needs upgrading, but it's a shame to see this building not be available. It could be used. What about St. Elizabeth's 1 and St. Elizabeth's 2?

10/25/14

**Joann Ebel**
Belleville

## The grass is greener

St. Elizabeth's Hospital's situation can be summarized with a simple statement: a struggling hospital seeking to catch a star. Developers promote the modern medical principle: All health care must be along an interstate. (Where are the dental offices?) Welcome to St. E's garden setting in suburbia.

## The Democrats' doing

Belleville Democrats' own actions have caused the planned relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. City leaders set a precedent with Wal-Mart when they gave TIF incentives after declaring farmland that had some mine subsidence "blighted." Now St. E's undermined property in O'Fallon can receive TIF. Belleville has given TIF or rebated property taxes to nonprofits and non sales tax-generating businesses. Now St. E's can get it. Belleville years ago gave money to develop the Memorial Hospital medical building, which pulled many of the doctors to their location. 10/27/14

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# Belleville West to hold St. Elizabeth's 2nd public hearing

By MARIA HASENSTAB

News-DemocratOctober 28, 2014 Updated 23 hours ago

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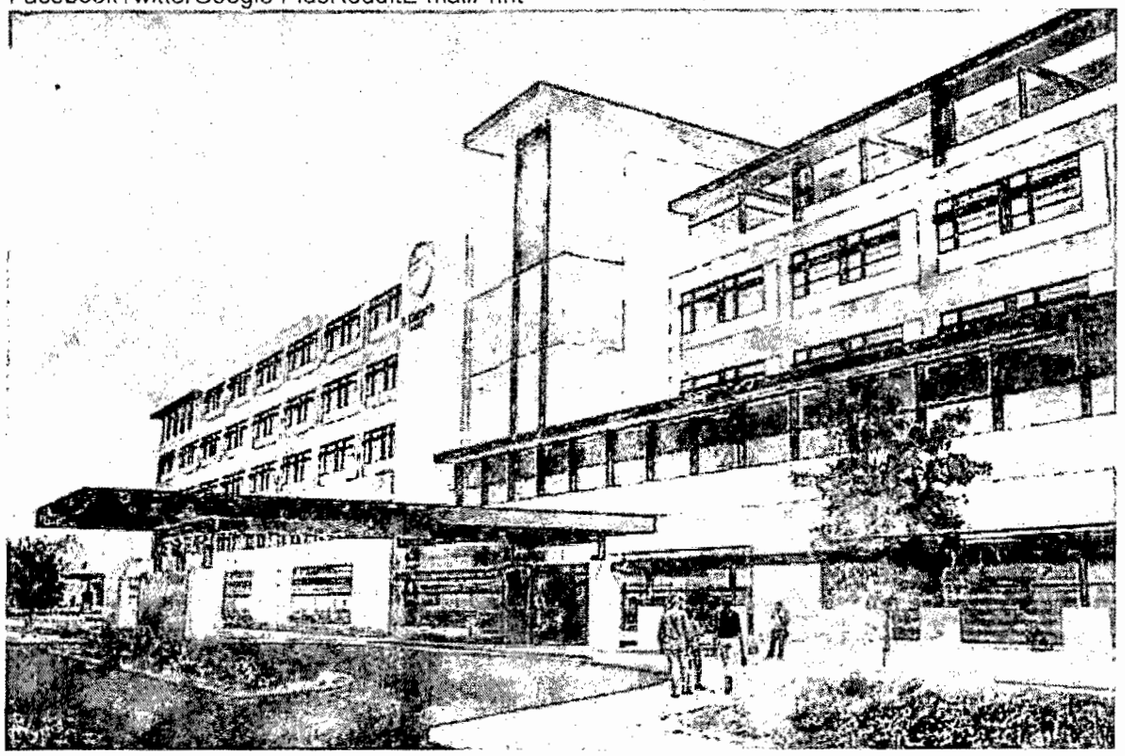

An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site.

PROVIDED/BND

A second public hearing for the proposed St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon will be held Nov. 18 at Belleville West High School.

The hearing will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the high school's commons/cafeteria, 4063 Frank Scott Parkway West in Belleville. Sign-in for those wishing to speak for or against the proposal will be from 4:30-5 p.m.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board announced the second hearing last week. More than 600 people attended the first public hearing Oct. 2 at Lindenwood University in Belleville; dozens of people who signed up to comment were not able to do so because of a time constraints.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is asking the state board for a certificate of need to allow it to close its 303-bed hospital in downtown Belleville and open a replacement hospital with 144 beds off Interstate 64 on North Greenmount Road. The cost of the project is $253 million. St. Elizabeth's also plans to build an ambulatory care center adjacent to the new proposed hospital, upping the total cost of the project to about $300 million.

Supporters of the project have said the hospital needs a new building to offer 21st-century medicine; opponents have said the hospital is abandoning Belleville, where it has offered medical services for about 140 years.

The hearing is put on by the state board. It is open to the public to allow written and/or verbal comment relevant to the project. All comments should be printed or typed on two pieces of 8.5-by-11-inch paper, according to the board's website.

The state board is scheduled to consider St. Elizabeth's application at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook. The deadline for submission of all public comments related to this project is Nov. 26.

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# Second hospital hearing will be at Belleville West

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

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10/29/14

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# Public hearing for St. E's moved to East St. Louis church

By Maria Hasenstab

News-DemocratNovember 6, 2014 Updated 17 hours ago

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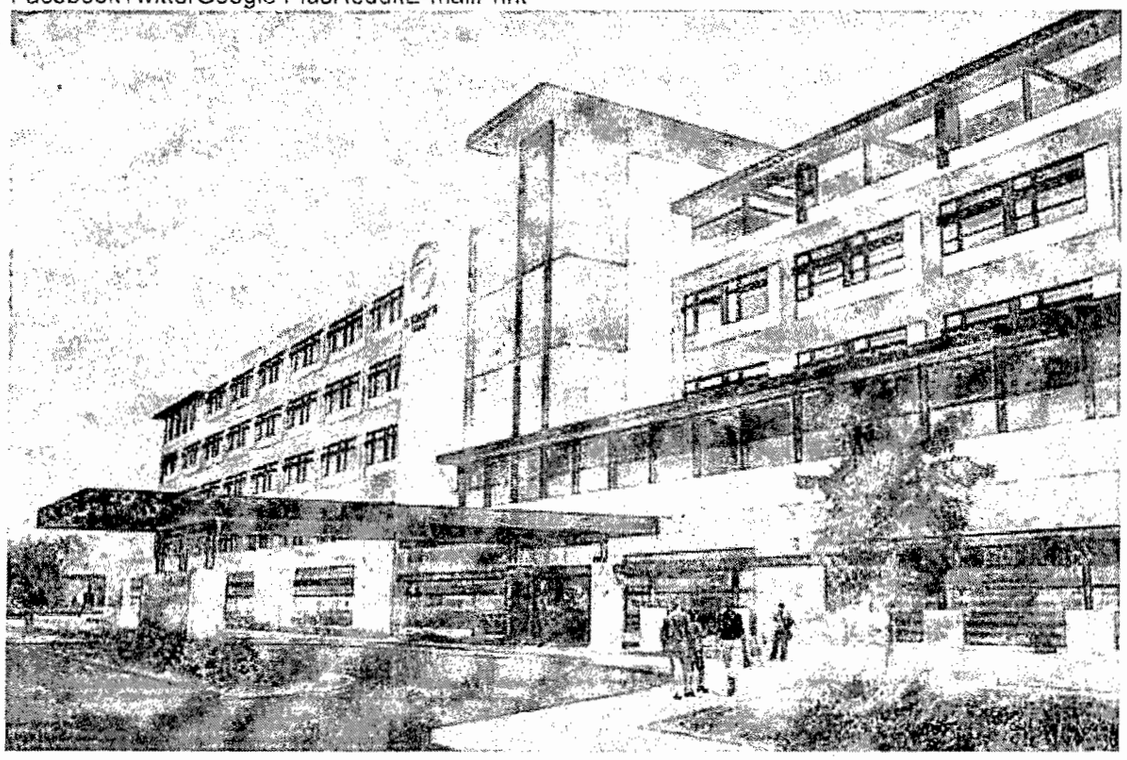

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- Belleville Chamber, school board oppose St. E's plan for O'Fallon hospital
- 'We felt like it would be fair': State plans 2nd public hearing for St. Elizabeth's

A second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's proposed move has been relocated to an East St. Louis church, where the pastor has written a letter in support of the hospital's plans to relocate to O'Fallon.

The public hearing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church at 2235 Bond Ave., according to a statement on the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

The hearing had been originally scheduled to be held at Belleville West High School. In September, the Belleville District 201 School Board passed a resolution to formally oppose the relocation of St. Elizabeth's outside the city limits.

In a letter dated Oct. 27, Rev. Curtis Levingston, the pastor of Mount Zion, wrote in support of hospital's move. The letter is one of hundreds attached to the hospital's online application to the state board requesting permission to close the Belleville facility and build a new 144-bed hospital just off Interstate 64 at Green Mount Road.

"We believe that in order for St. Elizabeth's to continue their healing ministry, they must change with the times and be allowed to build a new, modern hospital along I-64," Levingston wrote. "The location they have chosen will actually be easier for many of our residents to reach because of the close proximity to the interstate."

Stephanie Dorris, an organizer of the Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville group, said she does not think the new location for the public hearing will be a neutral spot — especially if the move from Belleville West was because the location was deemed to be controversial.

Brian Reardon, of Hospital Sisters Health System, St. Elizabeth's parent company, said he learned about the change of location from the state board's website.

No one could be reached at the state board late Thursday.

About 600 people packed Lindenwood University in Belleville's auditorium for the first public hearing on Oct. 2. Dozens of people who signed up to comment were not able to do so because of a time constraints.

Supporters of the project have said the hospital needs a new building to offer 21st-century medicine; opponents have said the hospital is abandoning Belleville, where it has offered medical services for about 140 years.

The hearing is organized by the state board. It is open to the public to allow written and/or verbal comment relevant to the project. All comments should be printed or typed on two pieces of 8.5-by-11-inch paper, according to the board's website.

The state board is scheduled to consider St. Elizabeth's application at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook. The deadline for submission of all public comments related to this project is Nov. 26.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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**From the St. Louis Business Journal**
**:http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2014/11/second-hearing-for-st-elizabeths-moved-to-east-st.html**

# Second hearing for St. Elizabeth's moved to East St. Louis

Nov 7, 2014, 6:26am CST

Angela Mueller
Reporter- *St. Louis Business Journal*
Email | Twitter | Facebook

A second public hearing on St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a new replacement hospital has been moved from Belleville to East St. Louis.

The hearing, to be hosted by the Illinois Health Facilities Services Review Board on Nov. 18, will now be held at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis, according to a notice on the review board's website. The hearing originally was scheduled to be held at Belleville West High School.

The Belleville News-Democrat reports that the pastor of Mount Zion has voiced his support for St. Elizabeth's plan to build a new $253.5 million hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, seven miles away from its current campus in downtown Belleville. Conversely, the Belleville District 201 School Board has passed a resolution formally opposing the hospital's plan to move outside Belleville city limits.

An organizer with the group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville told the newspaper that she doesn't believe the new hearing location will be a neutral spot, particularly if the change was made because holding it at Belleville West was deemed to be controversial.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board decided to hold a second hearing on the project since dozens of people did not get a chance to speak at the first Oct. 2 hearing.

# Public hearing for St. E.'s has moved

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

A second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's proposed move has been relocated to an East St. Louis church, where the pastor has written a letter of support of the hospital's plans to relocate to O'Fallon.

The public hearing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church at 2235 Bond Ave., according to a statement on the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

The hearing had been originally scheduled to be held at Belleville West High School. However, the school district has publicly opposed the hospital's plans to leave Belleville.

In a letter dated Oct. 27, Rev. Curtis Levingston, the pastor of Mount Zion, wrote in support of hospital's move. The letter is one of hundreds attached to the hospital's online application to the state board requesting permission to close the Belleville facility and build a new 144-bed hospital just off Interstate 64 at Green Mount Road.

"We believe that in order for St. El-

*Please see* **HOSPITAL**, A3

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## HOSPITAL

*Continued from Page A1*

izabeth's to continue their healing ministry, they must change with the times and be allowed to build a new, modern hospital along I-64," Levingston wrote. "The location they have chosen will actually be easier for many of our residents to reach because of the close proximity to the interstate."

Stephanie Dorris, an organizer of the Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville group, said she doesn't think the new location will be a neutral spot — especially if the move from Belleville West was because the location was deemed to be controversial.

About 600 people packed Lindenwood University in Belleville's auditorium for the first public hearing on Oct. 2. Dozens of people who signed up to comment were not able to do so because of a time constraints.

Supporters of the project have said the hospital needs a new building.

# Opinions

OUR VIEW

## Hold hearing at neutral site

We cheered when Illinois officials scheduled a second public hearing on the proposed move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital so the people who didn't have time to testify at the first hearing would have their chance. Now the Illinois Facilities and Services Review Board needs to choose a different venue for that hearing.

The Nov. 18 hearing was originally scheduled at Belleville West High School; the High School District 201 board is on record as being opposed to the move. St. Elizabeth's officials naturally questioned the site selection; we completely understand and agree. This is a heated issue with lots of concerns on both sides about the process being impartial and fair. Holding the hearing at a neutral location is the best way to demonstrate that.

The trouble is, the second venue choice, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis, is questionable also. The pastor there sent a letter of support to the state for moving St. E's from Belleville to O'Fallon.

How did state officials settle on Mount Zion, and why didn't they see they were trading one problem for another?

The logical, only alternative is to move the hearing yet again. That's a pain, but not impossible. The state has to give 48 hours advance notice of a public hearing, so there's still time to get it right and choose a neutral location. 11/9/14

# St. E's plan is about wants, not needs

PATTY GREGORY

When St. Elizabeth's declared its plans to shutter their Belleville hospital and build a new facility in O'Fallon, immediately a group of concerned citizens formed: Oppose the Move, Save St. E's Belleville. To be clear, it is not because we think St. E's is fine just the way they are; we don't. We are in total agreement that St. E's needs to modernize their facilities and provide state-of-the-art health care. We are in total opposition to having St. E's move away from this region to achieve these things. We want Belleville, the city that has supported St. E's for 140 years, to continue to be the location for their new state-of-the-art hospital.

The state regulatory process currently underway is called "Certificate of Need." We believe St. E's is focusing on a "Certificate of Want." In reviewing St. E's state application, we found some items that cause concern. The application requires St. E's to specify what would happen to the discontinued facility. Their answer was (on page 76) "the existing hospital will be vacated. The hospital will continue to maintain it until an appropriate re-use (if any) can be decided upon." We keep hearing them talk about keeping certain things in Belleville, but there is no consistency to what they say and more importantly nothing holding them to leaving anything behind.

The reasons why they cannot stay in Belleville are shallow. They claim issues with one-way streets and parking (p. 80). The reality is they own 12 city blocks of downtown Belleville and the city would have been willing to work with them on any of these issues, but St. E's never tried. They purchased the land in O'Fallon in 2011.

St. E's also says a modernization of their current facility would cost upwards of $365 million (p. 101). Where is the support for these numbers? Review the application yourself on the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board website www.hfsrb.illinois.gov.

If St. E's relocates, the impact on residents of Belleville and communities south will be devastating. Charity care for the poor is currently shared between Memorial and St. E's with Memorial supporting 52 percent to St. E's 48 percent. Those most impacted and unable to travel to a hospital farther away will be the poor and underserved. The reality is: St. E's is moving to a wealthier community and away from those who need them the most.

What's more, the impact on Memorial will be huge in terms of things like emergency services and bed space. When Memorial East opens, they will need to reduce the Belleville hospital by 100 beds as per the terms of their approval. That leaves Belleville residents in a more crowded hospital with fewer beds.

Right now, St. E's management is orchestrating a media campaign to fool citizens into believing that there is nothing anyone can do because it's a done deal. If they don't get approval, St. E's claims they will still leave Belleville because it's unprofitable. That's too bad. And by law, they just can't do that. Memorial has found a way to be successful here.

Our group put together a map that puts it quite simply. The map shows a line west to east through Belleville. If St. E's is allowed to move north, there are only 51 hospital beds to the south and west. If you look above the line, there are already 1,523 beds approved and operating in a 50-mile radius. St. E's approval would increase that count to 1,767 beds. 51 vs. 1,767 – we can all see the problem with that.

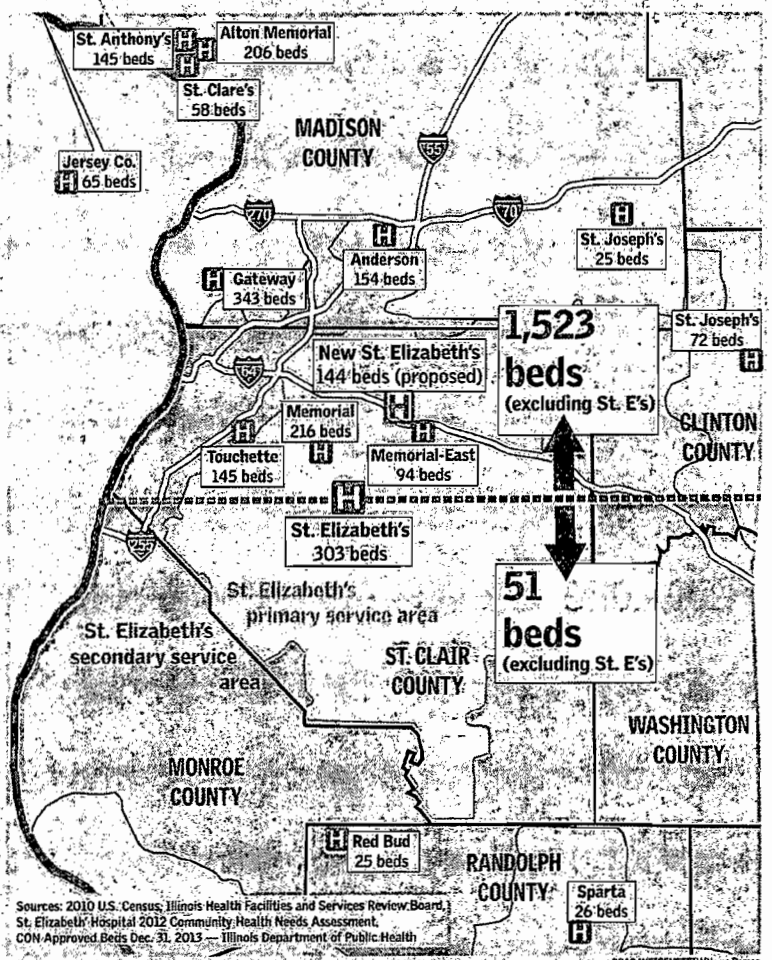
The O'Fallon site would put St. E's at the top of their own defined primary and secondary service areas, leaving people to the south and west of Belleville out of luck. It's clear from our map that this is not just a Belleville problem. In fact, the communities to the south and west have voiced their opposition, resulting in numerous city resolutions.

The time to act is now. This is not a done deal. We can save our hospital and keep Belleville strong.

Join us and have your voice heard at a second public hearing. The hearing will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2235 Bond Ave., East St. Louis. Signup begins at 4:30pm. We urge you to visit www.opposethemove.com for more information and to find out how you can help by writing letters.

Patty Gregory, of Belleville, is an organizer of the group Oppose the Move.

11/9/14




Sources: 2010 U.S. Census, Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, St. Elizabeth Hospital 2012 Community Health Needs Assessment, CON Approved Beds Dec. 31, 2013 — Illinois Department of Public Health

BRAD WEISENSTEIN/News-Democ

## Question for St. E's

I am not against the best medical care available, just questions.

Comments I have heard:

- St. Elizabeth's Hospital spent $18 million to purchase land, will require another $10 million to prepare site due to mine shafts; they plan to spend $300 million for new facilities.
- Hospital says it would cost $2 million to repair and replace the power plant and that it would cost twice as much and take twice as long to remodel existing building; I guess that would be about $600 million.
- Hospital says new location will add only a few minutes time from present location and will affect no one. So location means nothing.
- Hospital says it is too early to know which buildings will remain or be demolished.
- Hospital said they have contacted the Veterans Administration about possibly buying the old hospital. I guess they think it is good enough for the VA.
- Maybe the doctors offices and administration and therapy would be left in Belleville. Duh?
- So the $300 million will not be a completely new facility?

My question is: Does the hospital staff, the administrators, the architect and engineer or any competent person involved in this move have any idea as to what is planned, needed and where? I don't see how the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board can make a decision based on such vague guesses.

If speed is the important factor, maybe they need a good emergency room with good MASH doctors. I had a good one, twice.

11/11/14

**Lew Hiatt**
Belleville

## Rx for St. E's

I see there will be another public hearing regarding the state issuing a certificate of need for St. Elizabeth's Hospital to relocate. The hospital needs help when it comes to making business decisions – decisions that have nothing to do with the certificate of need. They do no not recognize the change in who the providers are in the greater Belleville area. If they move to O'Fallon, like Memorial Hospital has done, two to three years later they will lose again. The problem is we have a lot of Muslim doctors in the area now who feel more comfortable at Memorial instead of a Catholic hospital. Build a smaller hospital and have it used by the Christian doctors in the area. 11/10/14

# State official defends decision to move St. E's hearing

By MARIA HASENSTAB
*News-Democrat*

The leader of a state board that will decide whether St. Elizabeth's has a need to relocate its hospital defended the board's decision to move the next public hearing to a church in East St. Louis where the pastor wrote a letter in support of the hospital's plans to move to O'Fallon.

"I was not aware of the letter," said Courtney Avery, administrator of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, when the board announced the location on Nov. 5.

The hearing originally was scheduled for Nov. 18 at Belleville West High School. But the District 201 Board of Education had passed a resolution against the hospital's plans.

To avoid the conflict, Avery said the board sought a new location.

It has planned the hearing for 5 p.m. Nov. 18 at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church at 2235 Bond Ave.

Avery said several Belleville locations, including Southwestern Illinois College and Lindenwood University Belleville, were not available for the hearing. Common hearing locations, like a city's council chambers and City Hall, would not be large enough, Avery said.

The first public hearing at the auditorium at Lindenwood had more than 600 people attend. Due to time restraints, not everyone who wanted to speak was able to do so. That's why the board scheduled a second public hearing.

The hearing needs to be held in an area that would be affected by the hospital's decision to move, Avery said.

The board did research and found two East St. Louis locations large enough for the public hearing: New Life Community Church and Mount Zion.

Avery said Mount Zion was chosen before she knew of the letter of support from the pastor, which some have viewed as a possible conflict of interest.

Stephanie Dorris and Patty Gregory, organizers of the group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville, were not available Monday to comment.

In a letter dated Oct. 27, the Rev. Curtis Levingston, pastor of Mount Zion, wrote in support of the hospital's move. The letter is one of hundreds attached to the hospital's online application to the state board requesting permission to close the Belleville facility and build a new 144-bed hospital just off Interstate 64 at Green Mount Road.

The location for the public hearing cannot be changed because it is too late in the process, Avery said Monday.

To critics who have complained that the East St. Louis location might not be safe to travel to, especially at night, Avery said the state board has put on hearings in East St. Louis and parts of Chicago's inner city. "Never has this been an issue," she said.

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# HSHS ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL EARNS 'TOP PERFORMER ON KEY QUALITY MEASURES®' RECOGNITION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

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BY StElizabethsHospital | Posted: Thursday, November 13, 2014 12:37 PM

*Belleville, IL* – HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital is proud to announce it has been recognized as a 2013 *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the United States. St. Elizabeth's Hospital was recognized as part of The Joint Commission's 2014 annual report *"America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety,"* for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for Heart Attack, Heart Failure, Pneumonia and Surgical Care.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is one of 1,224 hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2013 *Top Performer* distinction.

The *Top Performer* program recognizes hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children's asthma, stroke, venous thromboembolism and perinatal care, as well as for inpatient psychiatric services and immunizations.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is one of only of 712 hospitals to achieve the *Top Performer* distinction for the past two consecutive years. In 2012, the hospital was recognized for the same four measure sets.

"Quality isn't accidental; it's the product of intense effort and attention to detail. The patients and region that we serve deserves nothing less. St. Elizabeth's is incredibly proud to receive this award as it reflects the level of dedication and commitment that each of our physicians and colleagues provide when delivering care," said Shelley Harris, Chief Nursing Officer, St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

To be a 2013 *Top Performer*, hospitals had to meet three performance criteria based on 2013 accountability measure data, including:

- Achieving cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures;
- Achieving performance of 95 percent or above on each and every reported accountability measure where there were at least 30 denominator cases; and
- Having at least one core measure set that had a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and (within that measure set) all applicable individual accountability measures had a performance rate of 95 percent or above.

"Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high-quality health care. I commend the efforts of St. Elizabeth's Hospital for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions," said Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president and CEO, The Joint Commission.

For more information about the *Top Performer* program, visit http://www.jointcommission.org/accreditation/top_performers.aspx

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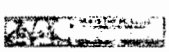

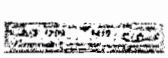

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# St. Elizabeth's Hospital relocation hearing postponed

By Will Buss

News-DemocratNovember 14, 2014

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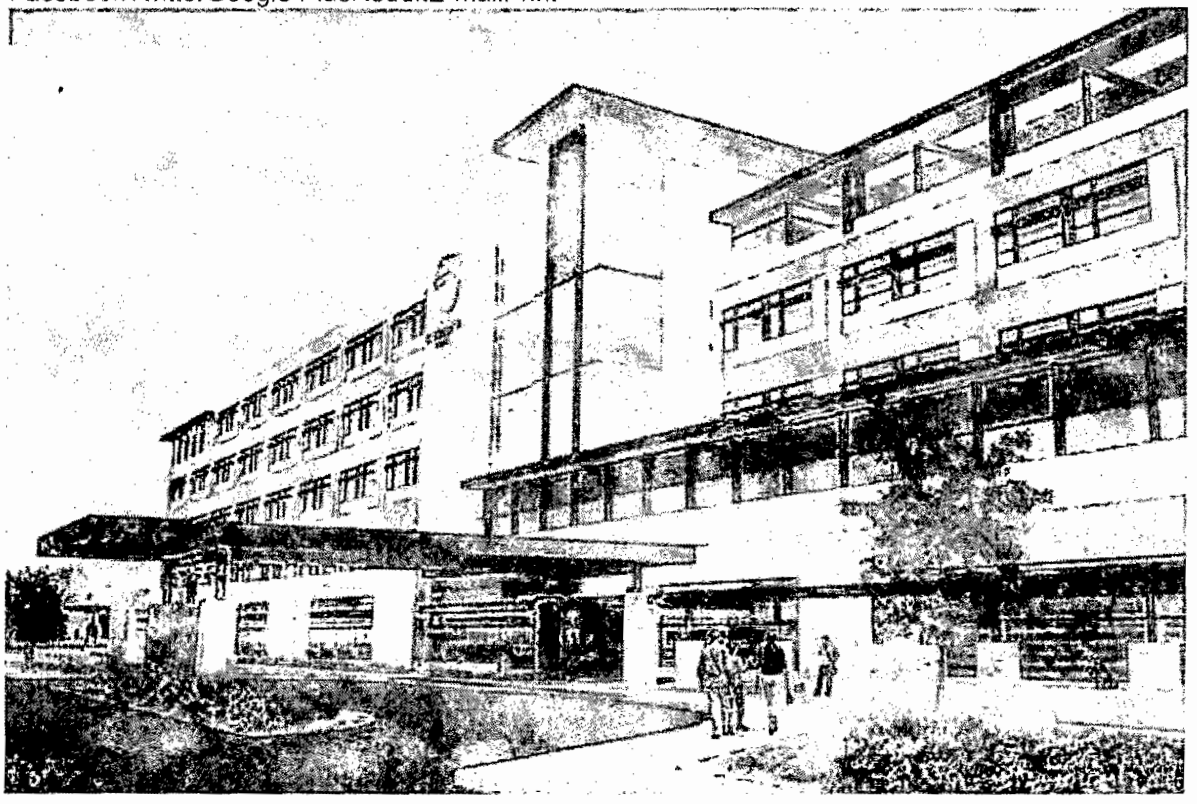

An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site.

PROVIDED/BND

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board has postponed a hearing that was planned for Tuesday in East St. Louis over the planned relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon.

Board administrator Courtney Avery said the postponement that was announced on Friday was "due to circumstances beyond our control."

Avery said the hearing will be rescheduled sometime before the board's Dec. 16 meeting in Bollingbrook when board members are scheduled to ultimately decide whether to allow the Belleville hospital to move. The state board has the power to approve or deny St. Elizabeth's request for a certificate of need, which is necessary for the hospital to relocate.

"It will be still be scheduled on the 16th," Avery said.

St. Elizabeth's has filed a 493-page application to the state board stating why the hospital needs to move, namely that the downtown Belleville location is not as easily accessible as the proposed site off Interstate 64. In addition, the hospital's application explained that rebuilding at the current site or remodeling the Belleville hospital is not cost efficient.

Supporters of the project have said the hospital needs a new building to offer 21st-century medicine; opponents have said the hospital is abandoning Belleville, where it has offered medical services for about 140 years.

The proposed 144-bed replacement hospital and ambulatory care center would cost about $300 million to build on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

The cost to replace the hospital at the existing site was estimated at $365 million and the cost to upgrade the current building was estimated at $353 million, according to the hospital's certificate of need application.

About 600 people attended a hearing on Oct. 2 at Lindenwood University Belelville's auditorium to give feedback on St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to relocate to O'Fallon.

Anyone who wants to submit any written comments can mail their submission to 525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor, in Springfield, Ill. 62761. The deadline is Nov. 26.

Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 618-239-2526.

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# St. Clair County health official raises concerns over St. E's move

By Maria Hasenstab

News-DemocratNovember 15, 2014

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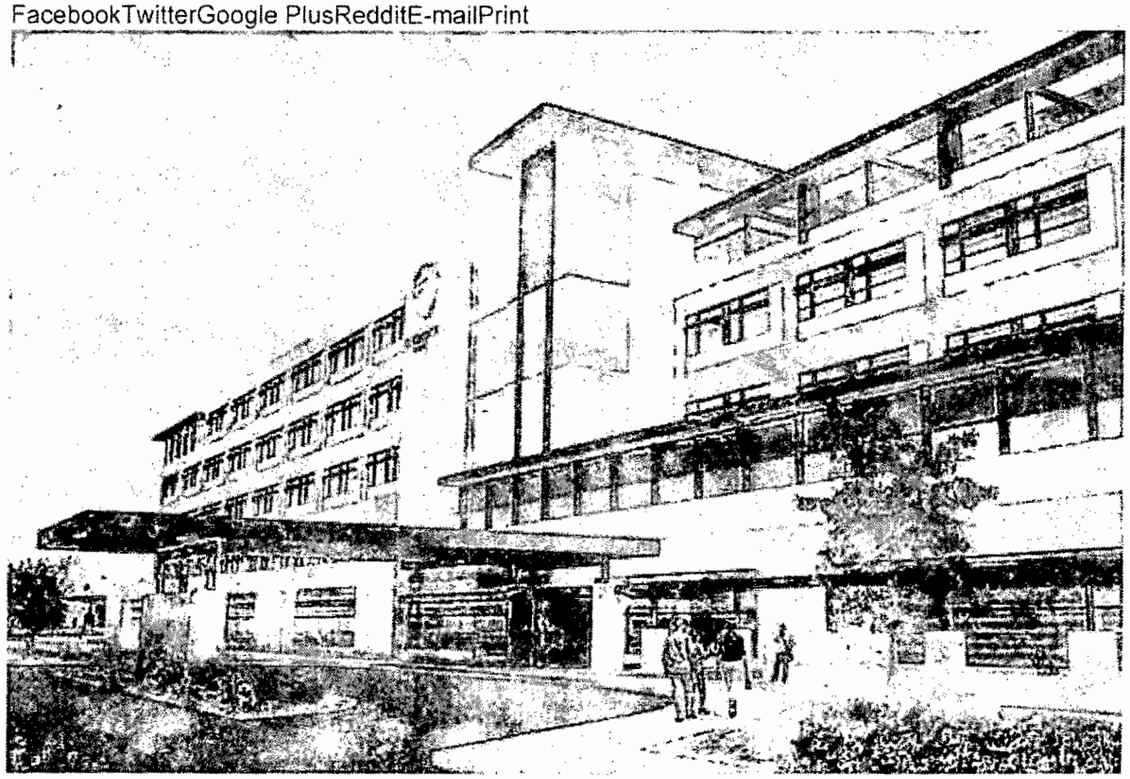

An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site.

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  Written comments about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's request to build a replacement hospital can be mailed directly to Mike Constantino or Courtney Avery at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, 525 W. Jefferson St. (Second Floor), Springfield, Illinois 62761. The deadline for submission of all public comments related to this project is Nov. 26.

The state board is scheduled to consider St. Elizabeth's application at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook.

Concerns about access to care for the poor, transportation barriers and the affect on neighboring hospitals were some of the reasons that the St. Clair County Health Department recently wrote a letter to a state board about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plan to replace its Belleville hospital with a new building in O'Fallon. The hospital responded with a letter that said the proposed replacement hospital will better serve the entire region, including the poor, elderly and disabled residents.

Kevin Hutchison, executive director of the St. Clair County Health Department, penned a letter to Courtney Avery, the administrator of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, dated Oct. 17: "We are very concerned that the proposed replacement hospital location will adversely impact the safety net services currently provided by St. Elizabeth's hospital to residents of St. Clair County."

Susan Beller, St. Elizabeth's project manager, and Amy Ballance, a vice president at St. Elizabeth's parent company Hospital Sisters Health Systems, responded in a letter submitted Thursday to the state board: "St. Elizabeth's appreciates the opportunity the health department has given to confirm that, indeed, the proposed replacement hospital will better serve the entire region and its associated poor, elderly and disabled residents."

The health department's letter neither supports nor opposes St. Elizabeth's Hospital's request to the state board for a certificate need, which if granted would allow the hospital to close its downtown Belleville hospital and build a replacement hospital off Interstate 64 and Green Mount Road.

"We're just commenting and expressing some concerns as the state looks through their process of review," Hutchison said in an interview. "Our goal was to review the application and its impact on essential services to all the residents of St. Clair County"

The health department expressed three specific areas of concern: safety net impact, access to care and clinical emergency service and same day access.

Safety net impact

The health department wrote that 17.1 percent of St. Clair County residents live in poverty, as well as the 13.8 percent of the county residents who are disabled.

"While every community will have persons living at or below poverty, the concentration of St. Clair County residents living in poverty is higher in the communities of East St. Louis, Centreville, Cahokia and Washington Park," Hutchison wrote.

Also, the letter said East St. Louis had the highest incidence of disability in the county, at 21.1 percent of the population.

"An analysis of the demographics, health disparities and patient utilization of safety net services does not align with the applicant's statement that the new hospital will be located closer to a greater number of vulnerable people living at or below the poverty residing in medically underserved areas," Hutchison wrote.

The health department recommended a "specific health impact assessment," which Hutchison described as a "structured process for reviewing major public projects that could impact the health of the community."

St. Elizabeth's safety net services will continue at the proposed replacement hospital and the hospital believes is will "serve a greater number of Medicaid and uninsured patients," according to the hospital's letter.

"Our proposed campus is closer to the majority of ZIP codes outlined in Mr. Hutchison's letter as having the highest percentage of residents living below the poverty line," St. Elizabeth's letter read. "For the two ZIP codes within East St. Louis where our proposed campus is farther away, it is by only two minutes in each case and those ZIP codes are also served by Touchette Regional Hospital."

St. Elizabeth's highlighted 2010 Census Bureau information that showed Belleville's population has grown by 1.9 percent during the past decade, compared to O'Fallon's population that has increased by 27.4 percent during the same time period.

"It makes sense for us to relocate to an area which is more accessible to the current and future regions of population growth," St. Elizabeth's wrote.

Access to care

The East-West Gateway Council of Governments reported that of the nearly 103,000 households in St. Clair County, more than 8,700 of them had no personal vehicle. More than 60 percent of those households without cars were in Belleville, Cahokia, Centreville, East St. Louis and Washington Park, according to the health department's letter.

"The applicant did not provide information or analyze the vulnerable population's access to passenger cars, public transportation or non-emergency medical transportation resources," the health department wrote.

St. Elizabeth's said that the proposed site, on Green Mount Road just off of Interstate 64, is more accessible by passenger and emergency vehicles than the existing site.

In addition, the O'Fallon location is easily accessible by public transportation. The #12 bus line already has established stops near the propose campus. The hospital is planning for a bus stop directly on its proposed campus and hospital officials will continue to work with Metro and other public transportation entities to increase accessibility, St. Elizabeth's letter said.

"Public transportation is not an issue," Ballance and Beeler wrote.

Clinical emergency service and same day access

"Other hospital emergency rooms in Belleville and Centreville may see a surge in demand and their capacity to meet this need has not been clearly addressed in the application," Hutchison wrote.

St. Elizabeth's responded by citing 2013 data that Memorial Hospital in Belleville has the ability to treat an additional 20,000 patients annually.

"There is no question it has the capacity to treat any additional patients it might see as a result of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon," Ballance and Beeler wrote. "However, there is no reason to believe that the patients .... will not choose to go to the St. Elizabeth's (emergency department) in O'Fallon since the majority of our patients will be living closer to it than to the current site."

In addition, St. Elizabeth's plans to construct an UrgiCare center on its Belleville campus. The center's proposed hours will be 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

A public hearing put on by the state board that was scheduled for Tuesday in East St. Louis has been canceled. Board administrator Courtney Avery said the public hearing will be rescheduled prior to the Dec. 16 hearing in Bolingbrook, when the state board will vote on St. Elizabeth's application for a certificate of need.

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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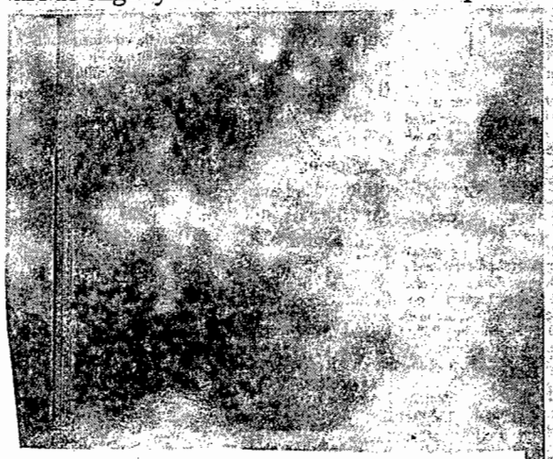

# St. E's hearing on move delayed

## Hearing will be reset sometime before Dec. 16

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board has postponed a hearing that was planned for Tuesday in East St. Louis over the planned relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon.

Board administrator Courtney Avery said the postponement that was announced on Friday was "due to circumstances beyond our control."

Avery said the hearing will be rescheduled sometime before the board's Dec. 16 meeting in Bollingbrook when board members are scheduled to ultimately decide whether to allow the Belleville hospital to move. The state board has the power to approve or deny St. Elizabeth's request for a certificate of need, which is necessary for the hospital to relocate.

"It will be still be scheduled on the 16th," Avery said.

St. Elizabeth's has filed a 493-page application to the state board stating why the hospital needs to move, namely that the downtown Belleville

*Please see* ST. E'S, A2 11/15/14

...premium charge for the February 2 Edition, including the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics Guide; the March 30 Edition, including the St. Louis Cardinals Preview Section; the April 27 Edition, including the Camps for Kids Section and a $1.50 premium charge for the May 18 Edition, including the Summer Fun section; the June 29 Edition including the High School Sports All Stars Section; the July 20 Edition, including Metro-east Living; the August 24 Edition, including the Football Preview Section; the Sept. 28 Edition, including Partners in Defense-SAFB; the October 26 Edition including the Belleville Bicentennial Section; and the December 25 Christmas Day Edition and a $2 premium charge for the November 27 Thanksgiving Day Edition. Subscription paid through dates are subject to change due to these specific premium content day charges and will be adjusted based on available credit balance in the account. Subscriptions are not extended while on vacation.

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VOL. 157, NO. 319

School, Business and Providers."

Katie Adamson, the director of Health Partnerships and Policy for the YMCA, said only 20 percent of health outcomes are predicted in the clinical setting; health outcomes have a lot more to do with environment, income and neighborhoods.

She said the United States is too wealthy of a country to deal with the

you feed him," she said.

"YMCA branches around the country are partnering with churches and other organizations to help feed needy children, while providing a fun place full of activity for child care options," she said.

"It's a huge problem," Adamson said. "If a kid's not eating, they're not learning."

Linda Renee Baker, a professor with the Paul Simon

fort to create a better healthcare system, with lower costs, Baker said.

She challenged the summit attendees to get involved and not simply let changes in healthcare happen without their input. "The system is changing as we know it."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

## ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

location is not as easily accessible as the proposed site off Interstate 64. In addition, the hospital's application explained that rebuilding at the current site or remodeling the Belleville hospital is not cost efficient.

Supporters of the project have said the hospital needs a new building to offer 21st-century medicine; opponents have said the hospital is abandoning Belleville, where it has offered medical services for about 140 years.

The proposed 144-bed replacement hospital and am-

Supporters of the project have said the hospital needs a new building to offer 21st-century medicine; opponents have said the hospital is abandoning Belleville.

bulatory care center would cost about $300 million to build on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

The cost to replace the hospital at the existing site was estimated at $365 million and the cost to upgrade the current building was estimated at $353 million, according to the hospital's certificate of need application.

About 600 people attended a hearing on Oct. 2 at Lindenwood University Belelville's auditorium to give feedback on St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to relocate to O'Fallon.

Anyone who wants to submit any written comments can mail their submission to 525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor, in Springfield, Ill. 62761. The deadline is Nov. 26.

Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 618-239-2526.

## VET

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# County joins St. E's discussion

## Health official raises concerns

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

Concerns about access to care for the poor, transportation barriers and the affect on neighboring hospitals were some of the reasons that the St. Clair County Health Department recently wrote a letter to a state board about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plan to replace its Belleville hospital with a new building in O'Fallon.

The hospital responded with a letter that said the proposed replacement hospital will better serve the entire region, including the poor, elderly and disabled residents.

Kevin Hutchison, executive director of the St. Clair County Health Department, penned a letter to Courtney Avery, the administrator of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, dated Oct. 17:

BND.com
See PDFs of the letters online.

"We are very concerned that the proposed replacement hospital location will adversely impact the safety net services currently provided by St. Elizabeth's hospital to residents of St. Clair County."

Susan Beller, St. Elizabeth's project manager, and Amy Ballance, a vice president at St. Elizabeth's parent company Hospital Sisters Health Systems, responded in a letter submitted Thursday to the state board: "St. Elizabeth's appreciates

11/16/14

*Please see* ST. E'S, A3

ST. E'S |

*Continued from Page A1*

St. Clair County."

The health department expressed three specific areas of concern: safety net impact, access to care and clinical emergency service and same-day access.

The health department wrote that 17.4 percent of St. Clair County residents live in poverty, as well as the 19.8 percent of the county residents who are disabled.

"While every community will have persons living at or below poverty, the concentration of St. Clair County residents living in poverty is higher in the communities of East St. Louis, Centreville, Cahokia and Washington Park," Hutchison wrote.

The letter said East St. Louis had the highest incidence of disability in the county, at 21.1 percent of the population.

"An analysis of the demographics, health disparities and patient utilization of safety net services does not align with the applicant's statement that the new hospital will be located closer to two minutes in each case and those ZIP codes are also served by Touchette Regional Hospital."

St. Elizabeth's highlighted 2010 Census Bureau information that showed Belleville's population has grown by 1.9 percent during the past decade, compared to O'Fallon's population that has increased by 27.4 percent during the same time period.

"It makes sense for us to relocate to an area which is more accessible to the current and future regions of population growth," St. Elizabeth's wrote.

The Base West Gateway Council of Governments reported that of the nearly 103,000 households in St. Clair County, more than 8,700 of them had no personal vehicle. More than 60 percent of those households without cars were in Belleville, Cahokia, Centreville, East St. Louis and Washington Park, according to the health department's letter.

"The applicant did not provide information or analyze the vulnerable population's access to passenger cars, public transportation or non-emergency medical transportation resources," the health department wrote.

St. Elizabeth's responded by citing 2013 data that Memorial Hospital in Belleville has the ability to treat an additional 20,000 patients annually.

"There is no question it has the capacity to treat any additional patients it might see as a result of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon," Ballance and Beeler wrote. "However, there is no reason to believe that the patients ... will not choose to go to the St. Elizabeth's (emergency department) in O'Fallon since the majority of our patients will be living closer to it than to the current site."

In addition, St. Elizabeth's plans to construct an UrgiCare center on its Belleville campus.

"Public transportation is not an issue," Ballance and Beeler wrote.

"Other hospital emergency rooms in Belleville and Centreville may see a surge in demand and their capacity to meet this need has not been clearly addressed in the application," Hutchison wrote.

St. Elizabeth's responded by citing 2013 data that Memorial Hospital in Belleville has the ability to treat an additional 20,000 patients annually.

"There is no question it has the capacity to treat any additional patients it might see as a result of St. Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon," Ballance and Beeler wrote. "However, there is no reason to believe that the patients ... will not choose to go to the St. Elizabeth's (emergency department) in O'Fallon since the majority of our patients will be living closer to it than to the current site."

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"Public transportation is not an issue," Ballance and Beeler wrote.

"Other hospital emergency

# Opinions

OUR VIEW

## Can safety net survive a move?

Many people think that the opposition to St. Elizabeth's Hospital's proposed relocation is purely parochial and that a 6.5-mile move is no big deal, but the St. Clair County Public Health Department has a very different take. County health officials are on record that moving the hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon would blast a huge hole in the safety net for the poor.

All things being equal, the county shouldn't mind where the hospital is located because both sites are in its boundaries, and a brand new facility with construction jobs is appealing. That makes these public concerns especially alarming.

Kevin Hutchison, the director of the county's health department, writes to the state Health Facilities and Services Review Board: "A large concentration of medically underserved and vulnerable population lives in close proximity to the current location. Transportation barriers may reduce access to the proposed location, resulting in a shift of emergency and ambulatory care services to other hospitals that may not have the capacity to meet this increased demand."

The letter provides numerous facts and figures to back up Hutchison's argument, including that 42 percent of St. E's admissions in 2013 were from Belleville and East St. Louis, and 5,367 households in those and surrounding communities to the west do not have a personal vehicle. For people without private transportation, easy interstate access to a new hospital is meaningless. You can read the letter on our website or the review board's.

One of the reasons Illinois has an approval process and doesn't allow hospitals to move wherever they please is to protect that safety net for the poor. The county's concerns do not necessarily mean that the state should deny St. E's application; however, the state does need to ensure that the county health department's concerns are considered and addressed before acting on the hospital's application.

# St. Elizabeth's project addresses needs of patients

Amy Ballance

In my role with HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, I analyze health care data, which we use to objectively and thoughtfully plan for how to deliver the highest quality and most effective health care services. All of our planning has one goal in mind: to ensure we meet the needs of our patients, both today and in the future. With that context, I want to address some of the misinformation that was put forth by Patty Gregory in her guest column last Sunday.

First, our replacement hospital along Interstate 64 will not create an uneven distribution of hospital beds in the area. Rather, it will equalize hospital-based services for the region. Belleville has about 45,000 residents, as do the combined cities of O'Fallon and Shiloh. Yet Belleville has 554 licensed hospital beds while O'Fallon/Shiloh has 94 approved beds for Memorial East, which is still under construction. If St. Elizabeth's plans are approved, the O'Fallon/Shiloh area, which is the fastest growing area in the county, will have a total of 238 licensed beds and Belleville will have 210. This is a very reasonable and even approach to the distribution of licensed hospital beds.

It's also important to remember that more than 75 percent of St. Elizabeth's patients who are admitted for around-the-clock care live outside of Belleville. Our current hospital does not serve residents of one community over another. We care for patients who are admitted from across the region, whether they live in East St. Louis, Belleville or Breese. The health care needs of all of our patients were taken into account when planning our replacement hospital.

We serve a large geographical area, and where our patients come from is not expected to change, other than attracting an increased number of patients from currently underserved areas such as Caseyville and Venice. Because drive times decrease due to better access via I-64, we know that residents in 63 percent of the communities we currently serve will have shorter commutes to our replacement hospital. We recognize there are residents who live south of St. Elizabeth's who may be farther away from the replacement hospital. These residents account for less than 8 percent of our patients. We point this out not to say these patients are unimportant, but as we planned for a replacement hospital, we looked at how best to serve the health care needs of the vast majority of our patients.

As part of our planning, St. Elizabeth's also recognized that hospitals are seeing strong growth in ambulatory services while inpatient hospital visits are decreasing. Annually, about 6,000 patients visit St. Elizabeth's Emergency Department who could have been treated just as effectively at an urgicare facility. These patients will still have access to an urgicare facility in downtown Belleville. Despite what Ms. Gregory stated in her editorial, we have consistently stated since we announced our project on June 25 that we are committed to maintaining outpatient services on our current campus. This commitment is the result of looking at patient utilization data and doing what's best to meet the needs of all of our patients. While we enhance our outpatient services in Belleville, we are reducing the number of inpatient beds at our replacement hospital.

The residents of Belleville and the surrounding communities should know they will still have ample access to emergency services. Belleville Memorial currently has 10 more ER treatment bays than it needs, with capacity to treat an additional 20,000 ER patients annually. However, there is no reason to believe that the patients who need to visit the ER will not choose to go to the St. Elizabeth's ER along I-64 since the majority of our patients will live closer to that location than to our current campus. If a patient is traveling by ambulance, they are transferred to the closest ER.

Finally, St. Elizabeth's payer mix will not change. Mark Turner, CEO of Belleville Memorial, testified during their certificate of need hearing to redistribute their Emergency Department, inpatients beds, and outpatient services to Shiloh that their overall payer mix would not change. We agree with that statement and anticipate the payer mix of the population we serve to remain the same as well.

HSHS St. Elizabeth's plans for its replacement hospital were not based on our "wants." They were based on the needs of our patients in keeping with our mission to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry.

Amy Ballance is division vice president, Business Development & Strategy for the Hospital Sisters Health System, Southern Division.

11/16/14

**From the St. Louis Business Journal :http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2014/11/st-clair-county-health-department-concerned-about.html**

# St. Clair County Health Department 'concerned' about St. Elizabeth's new hospital

Nov 17, 2014, 6:29am CST

Angela Mueller
Reporter- *St. Louis Business Journal*
Email | Twitter | Facebook

Kevin Hutchison, executive director of the St. Clair County Health Department, has submitted a letter to the state of Illinois expressing concerns about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plan to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois.

In the letter sent to Courtney Avery, the administrator of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review board, Hutchison stated that the health department was "very concerned that the proposed replacement hospital location will adversely impact the safety net services currently provided by St. Elizabeth's hospital to residents of St. Clair County."

Representatives from St. Elizabeth's responded with a letter stating that the new hospital would better serve the entire region, the Belleville News-Democrat reports.

St. Elizabeth's plans to build a new $253.5 million hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, seven miles away from its current campus in downtown Belleville.

A second public hearing on the project, which was originally scheduled for Tuesday, has been canceled. The Health Facilities and Services Review Board said it will be rescheduled before the board considers the project at its Dec. 16 meeting.

News Democrat

Previous Story
Next Story

# Public hearing for St. E's rescheduled for fairgrounds

By Maria Hasenstab

News-DemocratNovember 17, 2014

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An artist's rendering showing St. Elizabeth's plans for the O'Fallon site.

PROVIDED/BND

- More information

  Written comments about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's request to build a replacement hospital can be mailed directly to Mike Constantino or Courtney Avery at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, 525 W. Jefferson St. (Second Floor), Springfield, Illinois 62761.

  The deadline for submission of all public comments related to this project is Nov. 26.

  The state board is scheduled to consider St. Elizabeth's application at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook.

The second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital will be back in Belleville.

The hearing will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 200 South Belt East, according to Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board administrator Courtney Avery.

That site pleases members of the group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville: "We're all very thrilled the review board thought through the process and moved this crucial meeting to a neutral site," said Patty Gregory, one of the group's organizers.

It's the third location for the hearing, which had been scheduled for Nov. 18 at Belleville West High School but was moved after concerns arose because District 201 had passed a resolution opposing St. Elizabeth's plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

The second location selected by the state board was Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis. However, some members of Oppose the Move expressed concern because the pastor of Mount Zion had written a letter in favor of St. Elizabeth's application to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

On Friday, Avery said the hearing was canceled due to "circumstances beyond our control." When asked Monday to elaborate on those circumstances, Avery said, "There is nothing to elaborate on."

The hearing is a chance for members of the public to voice their opinions about St. Elizabeth's plans to close its hospital in downtown Belleville and build a new build a new 144-bed hospital just off Interstate 64 at Green Mount Road.

About 600 people attended the first public hearing Oct. 2 at Lindenwood University in Belleville, but dozens of people were not able to comment due to time constraints.

Those opposing the hospital's plans have said St. Elizabeth's is abandoning Belleville, where it has operated for nearly 140 years. The hospital has said it plans to maintain medical services in Belleville, including an Urgent Care, but that the hospital building is so outdated that it would not be cost effective to remodel or rebuild a hospital at the existing site.

Gregory said she is glad the hearing will be back in Belleville and thinks the location, just off Illinois 15, will be easy for residents south of Belleville to attend.

If St. Elizabeth's moves to O'Fallon, only 51 hospital beds will remain at two hospitals in the 50 miles south of Belleville, Gregory and other group members have pointed out. In the opposite direction, there will be more than 1,500 hospital beds at 11 hospitals in the 50 miles north of Belleville.

The state board is scheduled to consider St. Elizabeth's application at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook. The deadline for submission of all public comments related to the application is Nov. 26.

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## Join The Conversation

Belleville News-Democrat is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

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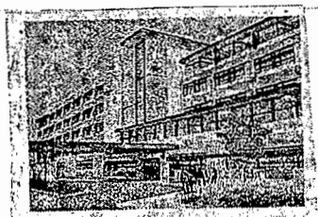

## Move makes sense

Patty Gregory, an organizer of Stop the Move, knows nothing about St. Elizabeth's Hosptial's moving because she hasn't sat down with anyone from St. E's. If the hospital moves, it will be better able to help people in Madison and St. Clair counties. If it is forced to stay in Belleville, it will close and help no one. 11/17/04

## Stop money chase

Take a good look at the map on A5 of the News-Democrat on Nov. 8, and anyone can see the move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon is a money chase. Only 51 beds left south of Illinois 15. St. E's should tear down its old building and rebuild in Belleville.

## Neutral site needed

I agree with your editorial, the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board should move the location of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital's hearing to a neutral site; it is necessary. Since Belleville is most impacted, it should be a neutral site in Belleville, not one that is in an area that's dangerous.

## For the poor? Really?

There is a way for St. Elizabeth's Hospital to move its operation to O'Fallon and still prove its commitment to the poor. Just turn over the facility in Belleville to use of a homeless shelter. I'm sure the good Christian residents of Belleville will advocate for this because of their religious beliefs. Hospital administrators only care about the money and most Christians are hypocrites. 11/17/04

**From the St. Louis Business Journal**
**:http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2014/11/second-public-hearing-for-st-elizabeths.html**

# Second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's rescheduled

Nov 18, 2014, 6:47am CST

Angela Mueller
Reporter- *St. Louis Business Journal*
Email | Twitter | Facebook

The second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plan to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, has been rescheduled for Dec. 2.

The hearing, which was originally scheduled for Nov. 18, will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Belle-Clair Fairgounds and Expo Center in Belleville, the Belleville News-Democrat reports.

St. Elizabeth's plan to build a new $253.5 million hospital in O'Fallon, seven miles away from its current campus in downtown Belleville.

This is the third scheduled location for the hearing, which initially was slated to be held at Belleville West High School but was moved due to concerns because the school district had passed a resolution opposing St. Elizabeth's plan. The hearing was then moved to Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis, but those opposed to the project expressed concern because the pastor of the church had written a letter supporting the project.

"We're all very thrilled the review board thought through the process and moved this crucial meeting to a neutral site," Patty Gregory, one of the organizers of the Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville group, told the News-Democrat.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board decided to hold a second hearing on the project since dozens of people did not get a chance to speak at the first Oct. 2 hearing.

# Hearing on hospital plan will be Dec. 2

## Location is back in Belleville after other sites rejected

By Maria Hasenstab
*News-Democrat*

The second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital will be back in Belleville.

The hearing will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 200 South Belt East, according to Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board administrator Courtney Avery.

That site pleases members of the group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville. "We're all very thrilled the review board thought through the process and moved this crucial meeting to a neutral site," said Patty Gregory, one of the group's organizers.

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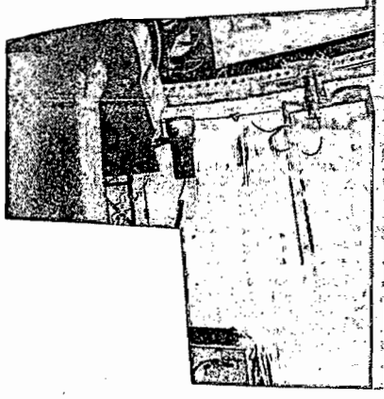
BND.com
Read more about the plan
See previous stories online

On Friday, Avery said the hearing was canceled due to "circumstances beyond our control." When asked Monday to elaborate on those circumstances, Avery said, "There is nothing to elaborate on."

The hearing is a chance

*Please see* ST. E'S, A2

11/18/14



# Opinions differ on police among Illinois residents

## Many whites give cops high marks,

tered voters was taken Sept. 23 through Oct. 15, amid ongoing headlines

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"I want to see my future NASA engineer at work," Shawn Corrill said.

Belle Valley District 119 Superintendent Louis Obernuefemann said the observatory was added to the construction plans for the new school by the school board when it came in under budget. The cost was $18,500 — $2,000 for the observatory dome and $16,500 for the telescope and other equipment.

Belle Valley opened its new school, located at

# ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

for members of the public to voice their opinions about St. Elizabeth's plans to close its hospital in downtown Belleville and build a new build a new 144-bed hospital just off Interstate 64 at Green Mount Road.

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Gregory said the location, just off Illinois 15, will be easy for residents south of Belleville to attend.

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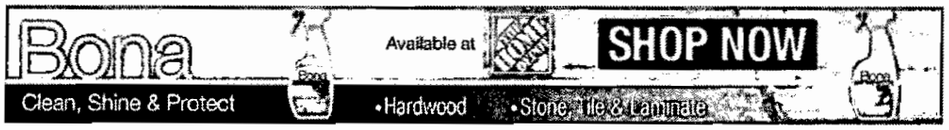


*Local*

# Second Public Hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital Set

November 18, 2014 3:43 PM

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St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois (Courtesy of the Belleville Historical Society)

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**BELLEVILLE, Mo. (KMOX)** – The second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plan to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, has been rescheduled for Dec. 2.

The hearing, which was originally scheduled for Nov. 18, will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Belle-Clair Fairgounds and Expo Center in Belleville, the Belleville News-Democrat reports.

St. Elizabeth's plan to build a new $253.5 million hospital in O'Fallon, seven miles away from its current campus in downtown Belleville.

This is the third scheduled location for the hearing, which initially was slated to be held at Belleville West High School but was moved due to concerns because the school district had passed a resolution opposing St. Elizabeth's plan.

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The hearing was then moved to Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis, but those opposed to the project expressed concern because the pastor of the church had written a letter supporting the project.

"We're all very thrilled the review board thought through the process and moved this crucial meeting to a neutral site," Patty Gregory, one of the organizers of the group Oppose the Move: Save St. E's Belleville, told the News-Democrat.

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The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board decided to hold a second hearing on the project since dozens of people did not get a chance to speak at the first Oct. 2 hearing.

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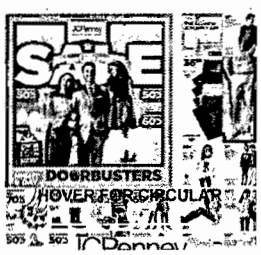

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GUEST VIEW

# Trust and respect St. E's decision

A wise man once said, "Never talk when you can listen." I have been listening to the debate regarding St. Elizabeth's Hospital and its proposed replacement project, and I now feel compelled to speak.

I grew up in Belleville, attending Belle Valley and Belleville East, as did my wife. Our parents still live in Belleville. We live on the Belleville-Shiloh border. Two of our children were delivered at St. E's and I had my appendix removed there in eighth grade. I decided to become a doctor during my recovery at St. E's. I have had the privilege to practice medicine in the surrounding communities of O'Fallon and New Baden since 1998, admitting patients to both Belleville hospitals. I am proud to call Belleville my hometown, but my pride must yield to the economic realities of modern healthcare delivery.

BOB FARMER

Questions have arisen as to the motivation for St. E's to relocate its primary campus to O'Fallon. Many have alleged St. E's is doing so strictly for financial purposes and is abandoning its mission. It is certainly no secret that St. E's has endured substantial operating losses for the last decade. Do financial implications play a role in the decision to relocate the hospital? Absolutely. When a business model is failing, one must change the model. In order to sustain the mission to care for the poor and vulnerable, it is imperative to operate in the black. If St. E's cannot operate with a margin, it will have less ability to serve those who most need it. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are America's most generous philanthropists. Only by virtue of their business successes have they been able to pursue their altruistic endeavors. It takes money to help those in need. It takes money to fund the mission.

St. Elizabeth's and the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis have determined that the best approach to long term sustainability is to relocate to the O'Fallon I-64 corridor. St. E's, Memorial, and Barnes all own property here and all recognize the benefits of a larger patient base realized in this "medical mile." Even Memorial stated in their own certificate of need testimony in 2011 that the payor mix does not change, as a hospital based in this corridor would serve a region of patients, not just one community.

Will a new St. E's find success at a new location off of Interstate 64? I do not know, but my best guess is "yes." I do know that in order to sustain the mission that a new model must be found. Parties can argue incessantly as to whether a new hospital at a new location is the solution, but this is the path the Hospital Sisters have chosen as the best route to fulfill their ministry. With a track record of serving those most in need that dates back to 1875, I think we should trust and respect their decision. Perhaps we should grant them a little bit of latitude. I think they have earned that courtesy.

Dr. Bob Farmer is the HSHS medical director of the Southern Division.

## Hospital needs to stay

I'm writing in opposition of the proposed move by St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon. There is plenty space in the vicinity of the current building should the hospital choose to expand and/or reconfigure the current facility. It is always more responsible to both the community and the environment to reuse existing infrastructure rather than starting from scratch.

It is also clear from a recent editorial in the Belleville News-Democrat that the proposed move would leave the southern part of the metro east underserved. This, too, seems irresponsible on the part of St. Elizabeth's.

I have the impression from conversations with staff that the hospital has forgotten its mission of service to our community and is focused solely on generating revenue. This is not only immoral but potentially harmful to the many people the hospital currently serves.

I urge St. Elizabeth's to seek a more balanced and responsible position — one that better serves the needs of the community to whom they have been charged to provide care.

11/21/14

Lyri Merrill
Belleville

News Democrat

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# Belleville leaders offered more land, street closure to keep St. E's in downtown

By Maria Hasenstab

News-DemocratNovember 22, 2014

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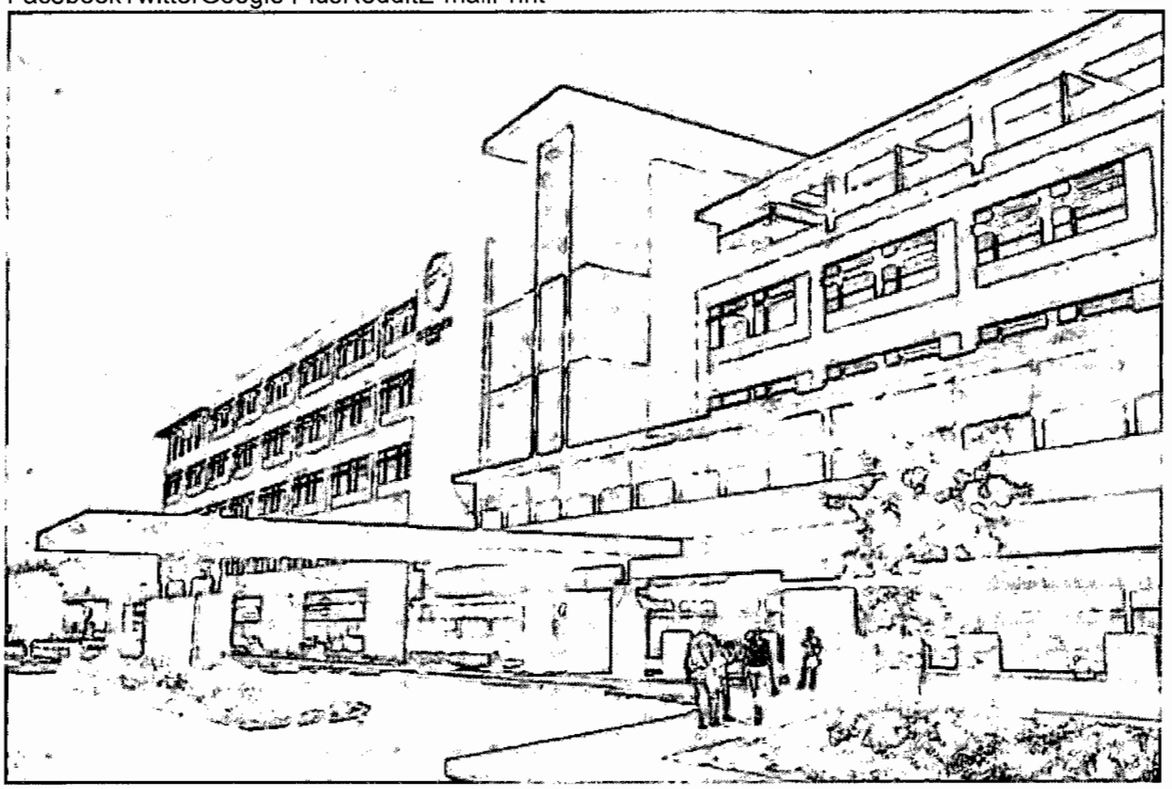

An artist's rendering of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans for the O'Fallon site.

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- More information

  The second public hearing for St. Elizabeth's Hospital will be 5-6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 200 South Belt East.

  Written comments about St. Elizabeth's Hospital's request to build a replacement hospital may be mailed directly to Mike Constantino or Courtney Avery at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, 525 W. Jefferson St. (Second Floor), Springfield, Illinois 62761. All comments must be submitted by Nov. 26.

The state board is scheduled to consider St. Elizabeth's application at its Dec. 16 meeting in Bolingbrook.

BELLEVILLE — City leaders have offered to close a street and help St. Elizabeth's Hospital acquire additional land as an incentive to keep the hospital in the city it has called home for about 140 years.

But even with additional land, hospital officials said the costs and time to remodel the existing hospital or rebuild on the Belleville campus don't make sense.

Back in 2005, when St. Elizabeth's leadership first looked into the idea of remodeling, Mayor Mark Eckert said the city was had "verbal conversations" offering to close West Lincoln Street from Third Street to Centreville Avenue to give the hospital more land.

"We were very willing to discuss that, very open to it," Eckert said during a recent interview.

Amy Ballance, the vice president of strategy and planning for the Southern Illinois division of Hospital Sisters Health Systems, St. Elizabeth's parent company, said the offer was never a "formal proposal" and it was made when architects hired by the hospital were investigating ways to revamp the Belleville hospital.

"That was during very early discussions," Ballance said.

She said hospital architects noted that if the hospital were to remodel the current facility, it would be necessary for the hospital to have more land.

"The mayor nodded that he could shut down streets," Ballance said.

In addition, Eckert said he has offered other parcels the city owns or parcels the city believes are attainable, to give the hospital almost twice as much land as its current 17 acres.

"We believe we could help them assemble close to 32 acres," Eckert said.

Nine years later, Eckert said the offer "absolutely" is still on the table. He also believes that the City Council and other Belleville leadership would be in favor of such an offer if it were to keep the hospital in downtown.

Eckert said he would be surprised "if anyone opposed that partnership to build a new facility here."

St. Elizabeth's leaders announced in June their plans to build a $253 million replacement hospital about seven miles from its present location. Partnered with a nearby ambulatory care center, it would cost about $300 million to construct the project on 114 acres north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

Hospital leaders said an urgent care center, along with other medical offices, would remain in downtown Belleville. St. Elizabeth's will raze the hospital building if no tenant can be found.

Before St. Elizabeth's can proceed, it needs approval by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. The 493-page application to the state for a certificate of need listed several alternatives hospital leaders studied prior to planning to move to O'Fallon: remodeling the Belleville hospital building, rebuilding in downtown Belleville or closing all together.

A construction manager looked at the options for modernizing or replacing the existing hospital. Each alternative hospital suggestion was priced at the same 144 beds, according to Susan Beeler, project manager with St. Elizabeth's, but ended up costing more than building at a new site.

"Typically when you remodel, you try to use a lot of your existing structure ... there are automatic inefficiencies built into that," Beeler explained. "Using the same footprint, which this footprint is way too

large ... you get some inefficiencies built into your costs. Also, demolition causes you to have to phase the project over time, which causes increase in expenses."

The cost to replace the hospital at the existing site was estimated at $365 million and the cost to upgrade the current building was estimated at $353 million, according to the hospital's certificate of need application.

Time also factored into the decision to build new. Building at the site in O'Fallon will take about 24 to 30 months, according to the hospital's construction estimates. However, a replacement hospital on site or modernizing the existing hospital would take between five and eight years, Beeler said.

"That's mainly due to all the phasing that you would have to do and the demolition," Beeler said.

In addition, containing the dust and other possible issues that could cause infection increases the time and costs of the projects, she said.

"When you've got construction going on, you have dust. When you have dust, you have germs," she said. "A lot of patients would not go to a hospital that is under construction."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

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# St. E's officials considered all options

## Belleville leaders offered more land to keep St. E's in downtown

BY MARIA HASENSTAB
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE – City leaders have offered to close a street and help St. Elizabeth's Hospital acquire additional land as an incentive to keep the hospital in the city it has called home for about 140 years.

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See previous stories about St. E's online at bnd.com/hospitals.

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11/23/04

*Please see* ST. E'S, A2

## ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

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## Politics at play

It appears that Kevin Hutchinson, St. Clair County Health Department director, weighed in on the St. E's move for political reasons. He wrote that more than 5,000 households in East St. Louis and west Belleville don't have transportation to get health care. If that's his concern, why did he and the St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern allow Southern Illinois Healthcare to close the former St. Mary's Hospital and its emergency room? They didn't say one word to stop that closure. The only concern now is because both Kern and Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert have ties to the board of Memorial Hospital. Memorial has always tried to limit the number of Medicaid patients they receive yet Hutchinson has never taken a leadership role to correct that health care gap before. Building a new regional medical facility in the O'Fallon area would be in the best interest for the entire region. I wonder where Eckert, Kern and Hutchinson get their health care? I bet it's not St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

## Not an expert

I read the guest column by Patty Gregory, "St. E's plan is about wants not needs." I wonder where Gregory gets her knowledge. Has she ever rehabbed an old building? Afterward, it still has the same old problems. Gregory writes: St. Elizabeth's will leave Belleville because it's unprofitable, and by law they can't do that. How can the state make a company stay open if it can't pay its bills? She writes that the city is willing to work with St. E's. Is that working with them so the city can collect from the parking meters out front when people visit patients? 11/24/14

## Preference is to leave

The initial reasons for St. Elizabeth's Hospital leaving Belleville was that it is hard for people to get there and the hospital was landlocked. Then it was exposed that HSHS owns property around the hospital that they forgot or chose to ignore. So Belleville offered land near Southwestern Illinois College near MetroLink and Scott Air Force Base, with easy access to Green Mount Road. But then St. E's officials said they prefer to move to O'Fallon, where they will be in a residential neighborhood with poor travel access, so they can call themselves a regional hospital. I believe they purchased land before state consideration of their application to use as leverage in the decision-making process. I hope the state rejects this request and continues to protect the majority of the people.

## Moving isn't answer

St. E's continues to demonstrate a self-serving perspective on the metro-east health care system; the spokesperson seems locked into a few agreements. Where are the numerous St. E's planning documents that have made this decision so necessary? Do theses individuals have credentials and experience away from St. E's with health facility planning? I suspect from the rhetoric provided thus far, we have an organization with little objectivity. Maybe the state will look past the bureaucracy and remember the health needs of all. This move reminds me of the bishops' strategies regarding the sex-abusing priests: Everything will be better with a move.

## Late to be concerned

Where were all of these up-in-arms people in worrying about the lack of health care when both St. Mary's and Christian Welfare closed in East St. Louis? Nowhere, that's where they were. Belleville residents have to face it, their day in the sun is done. Time to move on. Put St. E's in O'Fallon, where the growth of the area is, and forget about it. 11/24/14

## Compelling reasoning

I applaud Hospital Sisters Heath System's Amy Ballance for her balanced (no pun intended) and insightful guest column in the Nov. 16 BND on the proposed St. Elizabeth's Hospital relocation. Her detailed health care analysis of the region made a compelling case for St. Elizabeth's exit from Belleville in favor of a more effective and efficient location in O'Fallon. 11/24/14

## Survival instinct

The real reason that St. Elizabeth's Hospital needs to move from Belleville is for its survival. Rentals have greatly increased, home ownership has decreased, the crime rate has increased, housing starts have deteriorated, and vacant and abandon buildings sit for years. Also the number of people on welfare has increased dramatically. Does this sound familiar? Think East St. Louis. Then hospitals cannot sustain themselves for lack of paying patients; think of the two hospitals that closed in East St. Louis. St. E's has no choice but to relocate or they will simply close their doors and abandon Belleville. 11/24/14

# O'Fallon creates medical campus TIF, Central alleges tax incentive illegal

O'Fallon Progress A7

Central District 104 filed a lawsuit against the City of O'Fallon in November claiming the city's creation of a 106-acre tax increment financing (TIF) district to spur the construction of a hospital was "illegal" and violates state law. City officials dispute the claims and cite a recent decision from the state Supreme Court as legal justification for the TIF.

The school district filed the lawsuit on Nov. 22 — the day after city aldermen gave final approval to create the $22.5 million TIF. The tax incentive solidified plans for St. Elizabeth's Hospital to pursue building a 144-bed, $300 million medical campus on the site. The TIF district will reimburse St. Elizabeth's for the remediation of an underground coal mine and other infrastructure costs through property tax revenue generated on the site, located north of Interstate 64 and west of Green Mount Road.

The lawsuit alleges the city's claim the property is a blighted area as required by the state's TIF Act is "improper, clearly erroneous and without substantial support in fact," according to court documents.

Central's suit also disputes the city's claim the land would not develop without the use of the tax incentive. As evidence, the district points to a previously planned TIF development upon the site in 2008 and the development of adjacent property.

O'Fallon Mayor Gary Graham said the lawsuit has no legal merit and cited the Illinois Supreme Court's decision in June to deny a Belleville man's appeal in a similar case. Stephen Malec filed a lawsuit in 2006 seeking to invalidate a TIF district that compensated developers for mine remediation costs in the construction of a shopping center at the corner of Green Mount Road and Carlyle Avenue in Belleville.

Two of three judges in the Fifth District Appellate Court had struck down an earlier appeal in the case. Writing within the judgment of the court, Appellate Judge James Wexstten said the abandoned mine beneath the Belleville development had "impaired the sound growth of the redevelopment project area."

"I look at this as one of those defining moments for the city," Graham said. "When Belleville passed up the interstate it never came back. When O'Fallon passed up the mall to Fairview Heights it never came back. If we pass up the hospital, it is gone forever. You cannot expect any business or hospital to build upon underground mines and not have it taken care of."

Central Attorney Kurt Schroeder said the TIF does not pass the commonly referred to "but-for" test of state law. Schroeder said he believes the city and St. Elizabeth's should have looked into the liability of the mine's owner, Peabody Coal company, for compensation instead of funneling tax revenue away from school districts and other taxing bodies.

Central asks the court to void the ordinances creating the TIF district because the diversion of tax dollars from Central schools will negatively impact its ability to provide an appropriate education for its students, maintain staff and non-instructional programs, and meet infrastructure needs necessary to accommodate projected growth in student population in the next 23 years.

Graham said the TIF would not add additional students nor otherwise strain the finances of the Central School District, adding the district's collection of property taxes had increased from $809,000 in 1994 compared to $5 million in 2010.

"I really feel bad because we've done about everything we can do and up to two weeks ago we were working on a compromise," Graham said. "They've asked us before if we would pay them and not the other school districts, and we would never do that to OTHS (O'Fallon Township High School) or any other school in O'Fallon. They haven't been mistreated and I'm proud of every nickel they get."

In a prepared statement, Central Superintendent Pat Anderson said the loss of $9.5 million in tax revenue over the next 23 years would have been enough to pay the district's teacher salaries for more than four years. Anderson added the property could have been developed without the use of a TIF, and cites as an example the construction of the three-story Green Mount Corporate Center at the corner of Regency Park Drive and Green Mount Road.

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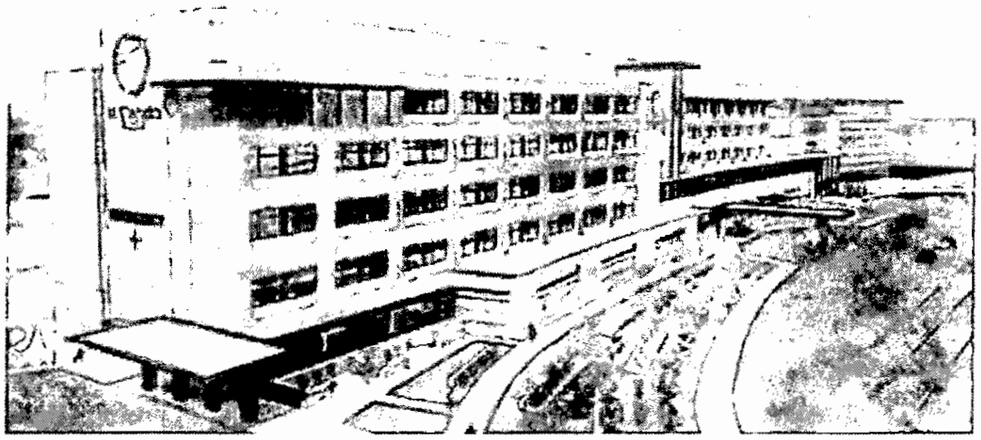
See St. Elizabeth's renderings of the O'Fallon site ... http://ow.ly/yroUg



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www.bnd.com

Officials from St. Elizabeth's Hospital and its owner, Hospital Sisters Health System, announced Wednesday morning they would pursue plans to...

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**Paul Czerniejewski** Hmm....I wonder if they will have ANY security at the new building???
20 hours ago · Like · 1

**Mike Hayes** Belleville is a good place to be from...going downhill....like their neighbor.
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**Sue Knepper** My experience at St E's was horrible - hope it isn't like that for everyone. Know many good and caring people work there but I didn't get any
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**Bruce Posey** But they couldn't keep the one between Columbia and Waterloo going! Mostly cause they couldn't wouldn't provide any significant service. Locals referred to it as the band aid hospital!! Couldn't even get an hydrating IV drip there. Not sure what they actually did but it wasn't much!
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**Amy J Iverson** The Waterloo location didn't make money, & with the new CEO its all abt making money..Hence paying Touchette 10M to take Behavioral health care services off their hands..& dropping half their security..if a dept. doesn't make money its living on the edge to survive
9 hours ago · Like

**Zach Morton** Dare I say, R.I.P. Belleville, this was the final nail in your coffin.
7 hours ago · Like · 1

**Philski Phil George** I grew up in Belleville a now live in Alton we had a hospital in Alton close St Claire's the sisters didn't let it be vacant they reinvented it as Acute Rehabilitation Unit
a senior living center a put cancer center in the medical building St Elizabeth's could do the same it may done as a hospital but it still viable asset if used the right way.
about an hour ago · Like

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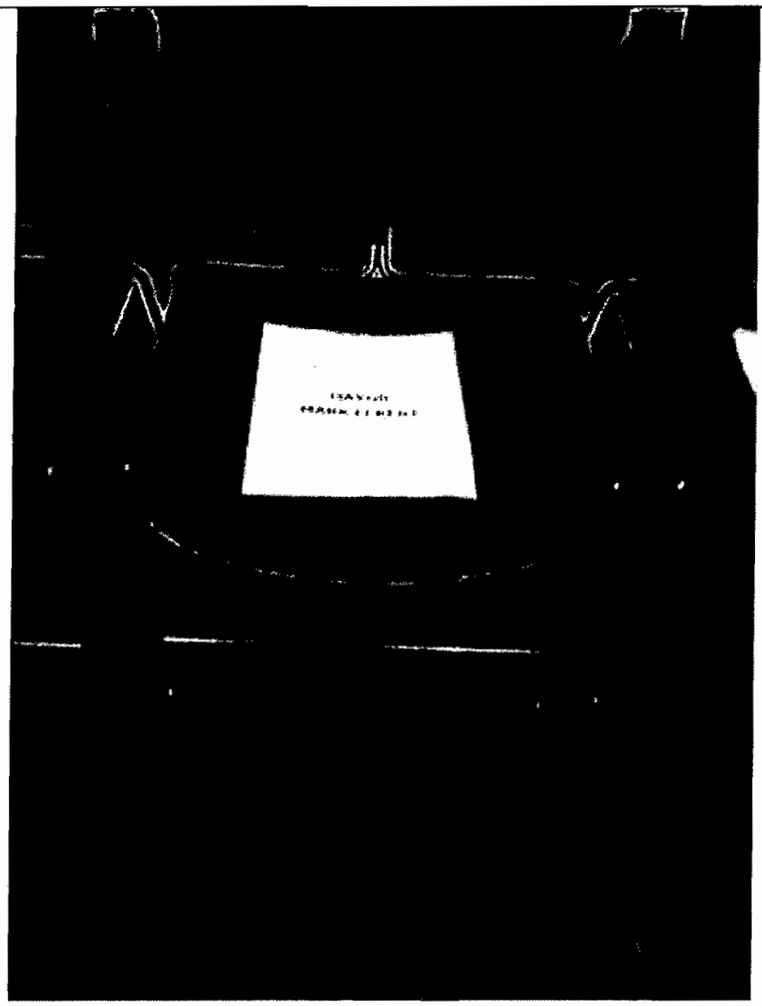

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Tomeko Travis, Betty Fulton, Donna Sympson and 18 others like this.

**Scott Martin** Oh boo-whoo....
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**Lizabeth Bailey Marty Homa** Well heck Belleville Illinois is turning into East Saint Louis . St. Elizabeth hospital wants to get away from the crazy people Hey Mayor why don't they use the Building for the homeless or Projects or Drug Rehabilitation There are so many ideas or whatever else is next
14 hours ago · Like · 12

**Michael Karwoski** More Business`s Need To Leave Belleville Every Year It`s Get Worse !!!!!!!!!!!
14 hours ago · Like

**Mike McGough** Belleville is turning into ESL that is why businesses are leaving, too many corrupt demoRATS running the town.
14 hours ago · Like · 2

**Kathy Gomric** This is horrible, its all political and about money, its a sad day for Belleville, I so agree with the above comment, Belleville is turning into E St Louis, how sad. All the capitol that will leave the city, so sad.
14 hours ago · Like

**Bob Nugent** Belleville is facing the same fate EStL experienced 40 yrs ago. I hope it is not too late for Belleville, But I think they may have already passed the point of no return and worse yet it appears that No One is doing anything about it!
14 hours ago · Like · 2

**Mike Hayes** Mayor Eckert...businesses are tired of your politics and the decline of the city....understand? Take your TIF fund and stuff it where the sun don't shine.
14 hours ago · Edited · Like · 9

**Scott Martin** Ya know I've heard for the last 30 years Belleville is turning into the next EStL and it still hasn't. So thats old, get over it. I still visit there often and I see more businesses opening then closing. Now as for Eckert, this democrat wouldn't live anywhere him and his cronies are in charge. They defiantly give democrats a bad name. So don't throw us all under the bus because of them, I can rattle off as many republicans that are just corrupt.
14 hours ago · Edited · Like · 9

**Ashley Bennett** I agree with mark I have known him my whole life. Ofallon is full with money being so close to safb and all. I wish we could keep the hospital still open in Belleville as well as ofallon. St E's has the urgi care too which helps a lot for people who live in ofallon area.
14 hours ago · Like

**Lance Wood** Scott Martin, you need to really look at Belleville. It HAS turned into ESL.
13 hours ago · Like · 4

**Char Granda** St Elizabeth's needs a LOT. Of work done to it. It needs a major update .....
13 hours ago · Like · 1

**Billy Barrow** I lived in E. St. Louis during the good times and watched the decline as if it was a wildfire. Belleville is like an instant replay of E.St Louis. Belleville is done and the West end is the shape of things to come. Only the square area may survive
13 hours ago · Like · 3

**David Brightwell** I'm sure Lindenwood University would not spend millions of dollars in ESL. Belleville is far from the next ESL. I don't see IL State Police building a crime lab in ESL either. You naysayers can move on if you don't like it. But I choose to make this town my home and the home of my business. I choose to make it a better place.
13 hours ago · Like · 13

**Brenda Janda Stout** Loved the Belleville Black Knights drum Corp back in the day!
13 hours ago · Like · 1

**Michael Wright** Ofallon is new, Belleville by name alone is old... Why spend money on old when easier on new? St Elizabeths also is a maze of hallways that even the best employee can't manage....
13 hours ago · Like · 3

**Jason Tyson** Belleville was a nice place to live when I was growing up. It's wasn't until I graduated High School in 1997 that I felt that it was changing. I agree with Scott Martin there are bad Democrat's and Republican's. The main problem is that both sides will not compromise on almost anything. I can see moving because of the Highway issue. But all in all Belleville is dying a slow death. I visit every year and it's not getting better. Yes business's have opened up but haven't brought enough high paying jobs or enough taxes. The comment about Belleville not being close to SAFB is dumb Belleville East is less then 10 miles from SAFB Mascoutah gate. That side of Belleville has grown so much. But for the longest time it was the in the County not the Belleville city limits. I understand things change but the West side of Belleville has had more crime increases in the past 25-20 years then pretty much anywhere else in St. Clair county.

13 hours ago · Like · 2

**Erin Settles** Get over it. I work downtown and there is nothing there worth celebrating. Main Street used to be the place to be now people don't want to deal with what walks around down there at night. And Mark Eckert is the worst thing for Belleville, he is as crooked as they come. He would fit into the Chicago political world just fine.

13 hours ago · Like · 2

**Amber Foye** I'm not sure y it has to b called estl is everyone racist??? There's plenty of all races that help bring this city down.. If people would keep their money in their own cities the businesses wouldn't close but everyone goes to ofallon and FH.. Instead of complaining about how terrible the city build committees and build the city back up like they did w dwntwn bville.. And w the hospital they want to include a trauma center to the hospital and there isn't any room at the hospital or at the location..

13 hours ago · Like · 7

**Scott Martin** Jason Tyson the west end actually has the lowest crime rate in the city last time I saw the PD's zones.

Erin I'll agree with ya on Eckert and throw in Kern too. As for Main Street being bad, I didn't see it last weekend and nor anytime I visit. I see plenty of men/women in blue.

13 hours ago · Edited · Like · 3

**Scott Martin** Jobs are jobs are they not? Making something is better then nothing, right? An open business is better then a empty business, right?

13 hours ago · Like · 1

**Scott Martin** I lived off N 60th St for over 30 years and that zone that includes everything between 57th (now Frank Scott) and 74th St was the lowest crime rate for decades. Followed by 74th to 82nd.

13 hours ago · Edited · Like · 1

**Jason Tyson** True but on a larger scale of economics lower paying jobs, taxes & incoming money affects it on a greater scale.

13 hours ago · Like

**Billy Barrow** FYI US Highway 64 first route choice was straight down route 15. Would have been cheaper to construct and would have been the most logical route to take because there was already an existing highway. However the Belleville leaders and people of the time did not want the traffic or congestion that would go along with it. In short, St Clair square would have been built at the intersection of 159 and 15.

13 hours ago · Like · 3

13 hours ago · Like · 3

**Scott Martin** Yep Billy
13 hours ago · Like

**Dana Dickey McDonald** I work there. Trust me it needs a lot of work. It's real fun trying to fit the beds thru the small doorways. New hospital desperately needed
13 hours ago · Like · 4

**Scott Tyler** Actually, the reason both hospitals cited in their applications to the state for moving where they have is I-64. They are trying to stop many of the S. Illinois residents from going to hospitals in St.Louis... And they think that building next to 64, they can accomplish this. The exact reason all the car dealers have moved to the same general area.
13 hours ago · Like · 5

**Scott Martin** Kern should be kneed in the nuts for every dollar spent keeping that airport open. Want that airport to make money, open it up for us gear heads to come and race on the runway.
13 hours ago · Like · 3

**Scott Martin** Memorial isn't closing anytime soon. They are just c-blocking St E's.
13 hours ago · Like · 1

**Debbie Taylor Fohne** Its sad that St Elizabeth is leaving Belleville. And why in the world would anyone want to build a hospital in an area with mine subsidence that has already had concert pumped in the ground to help stabilize it.
13 hours ago · Like · 1

**Pamela Ponder BeQuette** If he's so disappointed why didnt he do something about it. Just sayin.
13 hours ago · Like

**Nikki Griffin** Smh...appalled at the comments on this thread. Basically... another reason why Belleville cannot grow...😕
13 hours ago · Like · 3

**Amber Foye** St. Louis is where the people that live south of bville will go Ik I won't drive to ofallon for a hospital when it's a hop over the river to the bigger and better hospitals well better than memorial.. And Nikki I agree
12 hours ago · Like · 1

**Renee Junker** Memorial is building a new hospital strictly because they have outgrown the previous one! Both hospitals will be used and only private rooms will be available for all the patients at both locations.St. Elizabeth is building strictly to follow suit there's always been a competition between the two places. I have worked at both and am currently employed by Memorial. If you feel you will receive better care in St. Louis you are mistaken. Memorial is a MAGNET hospital and the only other one in St. Louis is Barnes. For neuro surgery and cancer yes I may go to Barnes but other than that support the community in which you live. Shiloh is considerable closer and the care is superior.
12 hours ago · Like · 9

**Scott Martin** St Lukes!!!
12 hours ago · Like · 1

**Erin DeVore** I lived on the west end of Belleville off of 74th st for almost 20 years and before that over by memorial hospital. I still have family that live in both areas. I agree with Scott Martin on a lot of his comments about Belleville and the corrupt politicians. If you don't like Belleville, move! If you've moved....then move on. Ever stop and think that you're part of the problem when you "flee" what you think is becoming the next ESTL? Belleville doesn't have shootings and robberies and murders every day or week or let alone month! Yes it has it's issues but NOTHING like what you closed minded people think. Smdh!!

12 hours ago · Like · 6

**Holly Linton** Memorial is not closing or building a 'new' hospital...they are building an 'additional' facility to supplement the existing one. Fact.

12 hours ago · Like

**Tammy Hardesty** I will never use memorial hospital again. My last experience in the Mammography dept the staff at the front desk was rude and did not try to be discrete at all. I will never go back..

12 hours ago · Like

**Conni Markham-Tilley** I agree to a certain extent. I have personally worked very hard to help revive the downtown and I believe that our hard work has made a difference. Everyone that wants a better Belleville should give their time to make their neighborhood better. But that just isn't happening in all neighborhoods. Because of various reasons, the good residents are giving up. They feel like they are not getting the support they need to keep their neighborhoods cleaned up and safe. There comes a point where you have to make a choice, will I stay and risk my savings or do I throw in the towel and be safe? We are seeing and influx of people at these hospitals that cannot pay and the state does not pay much if at all. So they need to do what they need to do to stay afloat. To say that there is no economic factors is just not true. Every business has economic factors whether they are profit or not-for-profit. As a resident and business owner, it is something that I consider everyday in Belleville.

12 hours ago · Like

**Emilie Knollhoff Martini** Old building and better paying clients in the Ofallon area. What are you going to do?

11 hours ago · Like

**Beth Carril** I wouldn't go to St. E's even if it were free!

11 hours ago · Like · 3

**Jason Tyson** @ Erin DeVore I'm from Belleville, Illinois. I was born and raised there. I "moved on" because I joined the US Army and was stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. I didn't "flee" Belleville. I chose to serve my country in a time of war. I served three combat tours. One in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. I have every right to comment on the town I was born in, raised in and grew up in. The Belleville I remember isn't there anymore. Things change, people change. Yes there is the revitalization of Downtown Belleville, the new Belleville West, the addition onto Belleville East and the new buildings for current business's across from SWIC. I have been gone since 2005 and other then that not much has changed for the better. Like stated above business's and corporations move because of many different reasons. St. E. Hospital maybe moving some of their departments to O'Fallon, if people can't pay their medical bills and the state can't afford to pay it completely what is a Hospital to do? They can't do it for free. If they did they couldn't pay their employee's or pay for their supplies.

10 hours ago · Like

YOUR VOICE. YOUR CHOICE. SINCE 1858.

# 'The sisters are committed to Belleville'

## St. Elizabeth's will stay downtown, is hoping to expand through region

By Will Buss
*News-Democrat*

BELLEVILLE — An administrator has confirmed that expansion plans for St. Elizabeth's Hospital will not include leaving downtown Belleville.

"There are no plans to stop providing health care in downtown Belleville," said Jim Burke, vice president of business development and administration for the Southern Illinois Division of the Hospital Sisters Health System of Springfield.

"I can say that with confidence. We are looking at expansion opportunities regionally in the metro east."

Hospital Sisters owns the hospital.

Last month, hospital spokeswoman Kelly Barbeau disclosed that initial discussions are under way about expanding the 135-year-old hospital's services in St. Clair County and confirmed that hospital leaders have been looking at sites in east Belleville and O'Fallon.

O'Fallon city finance director Dean Rich had also confirmed last month that St. Elizabeth's Hospital administrators had inquired and visited property at Regency Park in O'Fallon as recently as a year ago.

Burke also said that HSHS is investing $16 million this fiscal year in the Belleville hospital as it looks to grow its services. But he said the planning is in response to the changing landscape of the health care industry and the recent health care reform.

He said the industry is shifting from inpatient care and toward more outpatient care, health clinics and preventative health.

"The sisters are committed to Belleville and the region," Burke said. "We're simply making plans for the next two years or providing health care in the region."

Earlier this week, Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said that he was talking with HSHS about scheduling a meeting with local hospital executives by next month about the expansion plans.

"I told them that it's very important that we pay attention to this and that we all do what we can to remind administrators and hospital staff and their board and everyone that we want them here," Eckert said.

*Please see* HOSPITAL, A2

**BND.COM**

**St. Elizabeth's and other local hospitals are ranked in a new study.**

See previous stories.

# HOSPITAL

*Continued from Page A1*

Hospital Sisters Health System's group of hospitals also includes St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland and St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese. In August, the Highland hospital announced that it is going to build a new hospital after having made improvements to the current hospital's front lobby and adding the Medical Arts Building within the past 12 years. Administrators argued that the current building lacks the physical structure to meet future needs and evolving technologies. Site selection is still ongoing and cost of construction has yet to be determined, but hospital administrators say a new building will open to patients by early 2013.

According to its recent list, Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois recorded St. Elizabeth's as the ninth-largest employer in the metro-east with 1,591 employees.

*Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 239-2526.*

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND TALKING POINTS**

**ADDRESS TO:**

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**REFERENCE:**

Letter of Support
Memorial Hospital - East
Project # 11-017

**OTHER:**

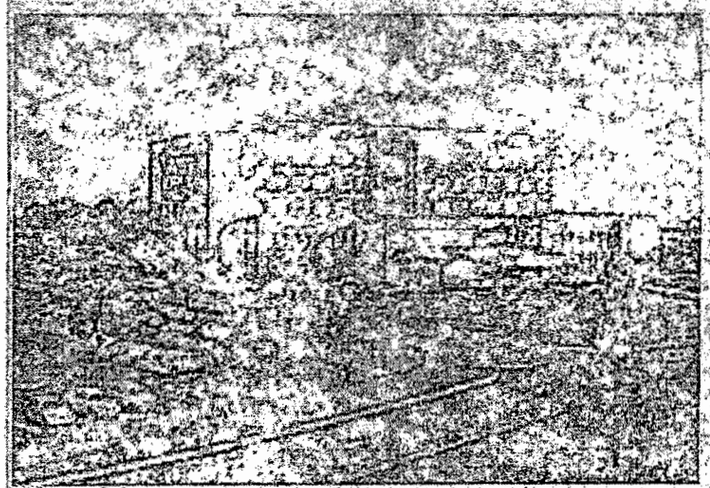
Please copy letters to:
Mark Turner, President and CEO
Memorial Hospital
4500 Memorial Drive
Belleville, Illinois 62226

Please make sure your letter is on your letterhead and is kept to one page in length

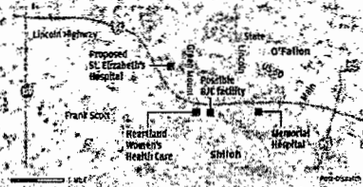
- Result of a three-year evaluation and planning process; the 94-acres was acquired by Memorial in 2008
- Create an all private bed facility providing increased efficiency, improved patient satisfaction and lower infection rates
- Building a new patient tower on Belleville's existing site was significantly more expensive than locating on the Shiloh site; the Shiloh site is a more economical option
- Memorial has a long history of providing charity care to those unable to pay for services as well as provides medical services to a significant number of Medicare and Medicaid patients
- Memorial is rooted in Belleville – no services will be leaving the Belleville campus as a result of the satellite hospital in Shiloh
  - Memorial reinvests $10-$20 million annually back into the organization for facility and program improvements
- Helps address outmigration issues and helps keep patients in Illinois for their healthcare services
- As a result of population growth and demand for convenient care with the communities we serve, especially in the O'Fallon/Shiloh area, there is a need for expanded services and facilities.
  - Memorial has had a presence in the O'Fallon/Shiloh area since 1998 with outpatient facilities on Highway 50 as well as on Seven Hills Road

# HOSPITAL FROM D1

## Land now owned by heath care-related business could support $1 billion in developments, executive says



An artist's rendering of the planned Memorial Hospital-East at Shiloh, in St. Clair County.




next year.

And on his own, Miles also is redeveloping a 37,000-square-foot commercial building into a medical office building in O'Fallon, next to a 105-acre site that St. Elizabeth's purchased for a future hospital.

Miles said that even if St. Elizabeth's doesn't move soon to develop a new O'Fallon hospital he believes his medical office building would have no major problems attracting physicians and patients.

"I've been working on health-care projects in the Metro East for the last 15 or 16 years," Miles said. "It was something we needed and still need."

He noted that St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare also has purchased 111 acres near the St. Elizabeth's site at O'Fallon. While BJC has yet to announce plans for that site, Miles believed it was only a matter of time before BJC joined the trend to build more medical facilities in the Metro East.

Miles said it was possible that the more than 300 acres now owned by hospitals and health-care businesses along I-64 at O'Fallon and Shiloh could support more than $1 billion in new developments in the next few years.

### BELLEVILLE WORRIED

Ellen Krohne, executive director of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois, said she believed that any new medical facilities coming to the O'Fallon-Shiloh area would be "good for southwestern Illinois overall and would help expand the whole area's economy."

The Leadership Council is a member-based economic development organization that seeks to unite the Metro East and the rest of southwestern Illinois for business growth.

Krohne discounted concerns that had been expressed by Belleville officials that St. Elizabeth's and some medical offices there would be lost if the medical expansion continues in O'Fallon and Shiloh.

"My understanding is that there would still be facilities (at and near the current St. Elizabeth's) that would meet the needs of those in Belleville," she said.

Still, St. Elizabeth's officials have indicated that any new hospital they would build at O'Fallon would replace its aging hospital in downtown Belleville. That building could be converted into medical offices and clinics for outpatient services, they noted. But St. Elizabeth's final plans have yet to be announced.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said that he and other local officials would adamantly oppose St. Elizabeth's ending its hospital operations there.

St. Elizabeth's had been a vital part of downtown Belleville's economy for more than 140 years and still provided important jobs while supporting other local retail and commercial businesses, he said.

"We're certainly not just going to stand there and wave goodbye to that hospital if that's in its plans," the mayor said.

Eckert said Belleville would work with St. Elizabeth's to allow it to make improvements and expand at its current location. He noted that the hospital is already in a TIF district and Enterprise Zone. And Belleville would consider closing a street or streets and clearing more land near the hospital for any expansion needs, he added.

Miles and Schifano both noted that hospitals on the Missouri side of the St. Louis area had done an excellent job of attracting patients from the Illinois side. They said they hoped to reverse that trend.

Schifano's Heartland Women's Healthcare has been conducting a marketing campaign aimed at Metro East residents, stating, "A traffic jam on a bridge is not where you want to be when you go into labor."

Several years ago, Schifano's medical practice was based only in Southern Illinois communities away from the Metro East, including Marion, Mount Vernon, Anna, Centralia and Harrisburg. Heartland still maintains those offices but recently has moved aggressively into the Belleville and O'Fallon areas.

Hospital projects in Illinois have to be approved by a state planning review board, which has historically been conservative. Memorial Hospital-East received that approval more than two years ago.

The board's mathematical models showed an excess of hospital beds in the Metro East. But Memorial's argument for new facilities included an estimate that more than 8,000 Southern Illinois residents had been traveling to receive care at hospitals in Missouri each year.

For Belleville's mayor, the new Memorial Hospital-East should be sufficient for the O'Fallon-Shiloh area.

"I don't think there is a need for two hospitals in that [I-64] corridor when right now there is none," Eckert said.

ly feasible." The applicant "will have to show need and reasons for opening or closing," said board administrator Courtney Avery. "That is up to hospital to provide that and make the case that this is the best possible use of that space and there is a need in the area."

**How long does it take to receive a certificate of need?**

St. Elizabeth's Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Maryann Reese said the hospital plans to file for the certificate of need later this summer and expects the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve it in the fall. In April 2011, Memorial Hospital in Belleville announced it was seeking a certificate of need to build a satellite hospital in Shiloh and received its permit at the board's meeting held two months later.

**How are the board meetings conducted?**

Applicants are invited to speak before the board and present their arguments for their request. Board members can then ask questions of the applicant to help determine the board's decision. In June 2011, when Memorial Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Mark Turner formally presented a request to build a satellite hospital in Shiloh during a board meeting in Joliet, board member Dr. James Burden questioned Turner and fellow presenters from Memorial Hospital over the comment?

Yes. The board has designated a maximum of 30 minutes for public participation on the day of each board meeting. Anyone who wants to comment must pre-register at least seven days prior to the scheduled board meeting. Pre-registration forms are available on the board's website: www.hfsrb.illinois.gov. Each speaker is allotted a maximum of two minutes.

Contact reporter Will Buss at wbuss@bnd.com or 618-239-2526.

# ST. E'S

*Continued from Page A1*

Mark Silberman, an attorney hired by Belleville to help keep the hospital in town, also was at the meeting. "The consensus they've reached is that continuing in Belleville is 'not survivable,'" he said, quoting hospital leaders.

Reese said Thursday afternoon, "We respectfully disagree with the mayor that he'd like us to keep a hospital in Belleville and we plan to build a regional medical center seven miles from here."

Leaders from Belleville and St. Elizabeth's both have said they want to have an open dialogue. Belleville leaders said they want to talk about potentially reinvesting in the hospital building, which has been in the heart of downtown for 140 years. St. Elizabeth's leaders said they want to talk with city leaders about how to reimagine its Belleville campus, which will continue to house medical, business and other services in buildings surrounding the hospital.

"We have some money that we would like to invest in this (Belleville) campus," Reese said. "We've been trying to get the mayor to engage with us."

Eckert said that he is sad and disappointed that St. Elizabeth's Hospital wants to leave Belleville.

"We would do our best to try to partner in any rebuilding here in Belleville," he said.

Eckert said that he had attempted several times to meet with St. Elizabeth's leadership. "We value them," Eckert said. "We don't want to lose them."

In two other letters sent to Reese, both dated in June, Eckert said hospital leaders have been "unwilling" to meet and explore modernizing St. Elizabeth's current hospital.

In a June 18 letter, Eckert mentioned potential tax breaks, land acquisition and street closures and other incentives to try to sway the hospital from pursuing building a replacement facility outside of Belleville.

Now, Eckert is rallying the Belleville Chamber of Commerce and encouraging a grassroots letter-writing campaign to fight the hospital's application of need.

John Lengerman, the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, said, "St. Elizabeth's has been a wonderful member of the chamber for a long time. We hope that relationship continues."

He declined to comment further until the certificate of need has been filed. "We need to hear both sides."

Of the city's efforts to fight the certificate of need, Reese said, "We understand that the mayor is just doing his job."

But she restated that it didn't make sense to attempt to update the Belleville hospital building for modern-day medicine. "It would take twice as long and twice as much money," she said.

Eckert also said that financial reasons have motivated St. Elizabeth's plans to move.

Larry Schumacher, chief operating officer of the hospitals' parent company Hospital Sisters Health System, said, "It's true we have been losing money at St. Elizabeth's for a number of years. There's a lot of reasons for that."

But he said the proposed O'Fallon medical center would allow St. Elizabeth's to serve a larger patient population and prevent patients from traveling to St. Louis for medical services.

Reese said the "payer mix" of patients would be no different from today in Belleville. The same percentage of Medicare, Medicaid and charity care patients would be treated at the new facilty.

"We're not moving for financial reasons," Reese said. "We're moving because we want to be a regional medical center. We want to be accessible to our regional hospitals in Highland and Breese."

Belleville leaders did not oppose Memorial Hospital's certificate of need for its satellite hospital now under construction in Shiloh because that hospital continued to invest $15 million to $18 million per year in its Belleville facility, Eckert said.

"Belleville doesn't oppose progress," Silberman said. "What they do oppose is the notion of abandoning downtown Belleville."

Contact reporter Maria Hasenstab at mhasenstab@bnd.com or 618-239-2460.

## Seven miles is far too long

I THINK IT IS WRONG of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to close the Belleville location when they move to O'Fallon. (Do hospital leaders really think Scott Air Force Base personnel will go there if they are closer?)

Memorial Hospital built a second building in Shiloh and they are not closing their Belleville building.

Traffic on Frank Scott Parkway and Greenmount (the roads we Belleville people would have to use) is heavier for those of us who go to St. E's in Belleville. Traveling time for those seven additional miles is going to take far longer than "just" seven miles.

It took me 15 minutes last year when I was driven to St. E's with an emergency. If I had to go to O'Fallon, it would be a 40-minute ride. Heaven help us Belleville patients having an emergency.

And think about how this area will suffer. Business at the stores on Greenmount/Frank Scott Parkway always will be great, but poor downtown Belleville businesses won't be able to survive with the loss of customers (visitors to the hospital, patients, etc.)

My doctors are all affiliated with St. E's. Am I going to have to change doctors so in case of another emergency I can go to Memorial?

It makes more sense to have both locations available. If St. E's can afford to spend millions for O'Fallon property, it can afford to work out a deal allowing it to have full services available here, too.

**Sharron A. Lindsey**
Belleville

## No need for new hospital

I SEE NO NEED to have a new hospital and close St. Elizabeth's in Belleville. The hospital has been here for many years. No one has complained and it is wrong to move or build a new one because richer people live in O'Fallon and it would be closer to Scott Air Force Base. Scott has an empty hospital it could use.

I am older, as are most downtown old-timers still in their homes, and have heart trouble. There is no way I can travel seven miles and stay alive.

There is no need for a new hospital unless they leave the one downtown as well. Tell the state the need is not there.

**Al Meinen Sr.**
Belleville

## New hospital is bad idea

I ALMOST THOUGHT I would hear the words "Don't cry for me, Argentina", coming from the mouth of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital CEO. I don't think she gets it. It's not the building, it's the staff that make St. E's the choice for many.

The staff has tried valiantly to maintain quality and skills through the multiple CEOs since 1998. But I think the problem is endogenous to the good sisters. This is most certainly a bad idea for the greater Belleville area. But the sisters will learn again if the doctors on staff simply start referring their patients to Memorial.

You know, St. E's has done this before. St. Elizabeth's tried to move into the Monroe County area with a huge medical office building that cost a lot. But its time was brief and the building has been vacant for about four years and counting. The consensus in Monroe County is that there were not enough doctors.

O'Fallon may be only seven miles away but, thanks to the traffic on every corridor from Frank Scott Parkway to Shiloh Road, it is an added 20-30 minutes to get there.

If you were worried about keeping your doctor under Obamacare, I would switch to worrying about whether your doctor will choose to remain on the staff. Right now they can be on the staff of both St. E's and Memorial, but they might not like trying to treat patients in both locations with this new disincentive in place.

I will wait to see but this certainly does not seem an act of charity.

**Joseph M. Reichert**
Belleville