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## Hospital has an interest in Buckeye site

**Kelly Carr**

The Arizona Republic

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Buckeye residents are getting closer to having a hospital in their town.

Almost a month after officials at Banner Health said they are "very interested in building a medical facility" near the future Buckeye Town Center, leaders of Gilbert Hospital have expressed an interest in placing a facility in Buckeye.

Tim Johns, Gilbert Hospital's medical director, recently held a workshop with Buckeye's Town Council to explain the practices of their hospital and why he believes the town is a good candidate for one of their facilities.

Gilbert Hospital was created to serve a need in the high-growth areas of Gilbert and Queen Creek, two locations that at one time lacked a hospital, Johns said. Without a hospital in their area, residents sometimes traveled far distances for emergency services, increasing the wait in nearby hospitals.

A group of physicians and investors decided to serve the need in the southeast Valley and built Gilbert Hospital, a business that prides itself on low wait times and a community feel.

Johns said Gilbert Hospital has a commitment to its patients that they will see an emergency-room doctor within 31 minutes of arriving.

The growing populations and other similarities between Gilbert and Buckeye prompted owners of Gilbert Hospital to approach the Town Council with the possibility of building a site in the area.

**A version of this story may have appeared in your community Republic.**