



Published: 06.14.2007

NW Medical Center plans Marana site

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ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Northwest Medical Center recently bought 58 acres in north Marana where it plans to build the town's first hospital. The purchase price was \$13.2 million.

While many of the hospital's details — including size and completion date — are up in the air, the facility will serve the town and surrounding communities on the Northwest Side and southern Pinal County, said Kim Chimene, a hospital spokeswoman.

The site is on the southwest corner of West Moore Road and the Interstate 10 frontage road, near Tangerine Road. When completed, the hospital will be part of a corridor of homes, retail shops, car dealerships and a planned mall.

Northwest plans to build the hospital within six to eight years, but that could change depending on what officials learn about the needs of the community, Chimene said. Officials will determine the hospital's size and whether it will offer any specialized services by working with town officials and studying the area's demographics.

Chimene had no estimate on the number of beds or how many nurses, doctors and specialists the hospital would employ.

Town leaders have welcomed the addition of a hospital into the fast-growing community, which has doubled in size — to 30,000 residents — since 2001.

Having a hospital along I-10 and near planned residential and commercial developments will help both the town and communities in Pima and Pinal counties, Marana Town Manager Mike Reuwsaat has said.

"There are a lot of benefits to its location," he said.

The hospital bought the land from a subsidiary of Forest City Land Group, a national real estate firm based in Cleveland that is developing nearby Gladden Farms. When completed, the master-planned residential community will have 3,500 homes.

The Marana site will be Northwest Side's third hospital. The hospital's main campus is just outside the Tucson city limits, at 6200 N. La Cholla Blvd., near West River Road. An Oro Valley hospital is at 1551 E. Tangerine Road.

Northwest also operates urgent-care centers in Tucson, Marana and Oro Valley.

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