

Baptist Health to build Nocatee comprehensive facility

Acquires 12-acre tract for facility

By Teresa Stepzinski
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Baptist Health plans to build a comprehensive health campus on 12 acres of land it's acquired in Nocatee – a master-planned community in Ponte Vedra Beach recently named the second fastest growing suburb in the United States.

Groundbreaking is slated for early 2019.

“The new health campus will provide Nocatee residents and adjacent communities access to expanded clinical services, tailored programming and state-of-the-art facilities,” said Keith Tickell, vice president of strategic assets/real estate at Baptist Health. “Our goal is to design and plan based on the active, high-quality lifestyle already embodied by local residents.”

Citing a non-disclosure agreement, Baptist declined to reveal how much it paid for the Nocatee property near the Duval-St. Johns County line. Property records of the Oct. 29 transaction were unclear Friday.

The total projected cost hasn't been finalized, said Cindy Hamilton, director of public relations for Baptist Health.

“The site renderings are still being developed and thus the total projected cost is still in the works,” Hamilton said.

Baptist Health with five hospitals in Northeast Florida including Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville – the region's only children's hospital – is committed, officials said, to bringing comprehensive health care to Nocatee and surrounding community.

In early 2015, Baptist Primary Care opened in Nocatee Town Center between Nocatee Village Drive and Capital Green Drive in ST. Johns County. That facility will relocate into the new building when it opens about two miles away between Nocatee Parkway and Preservation Trail. It will offer extended service hours and expanded team of medical personnel, as well as an increased variety of health care services.

“Our vision is to create a highly convenient, innovative center for health care and wellness services for the whole family,” said Matt Zuino, president of physician integration at Baptist Health.

The facility, located just west of Nocatee Town Center and the Lakeside neighborhood facing Nocatee Parkway, will utilize the space to its fullest potential. The building will face a lake and be accessible via walking paths and golf cart paths in the community.

Healthcare providers and educators at the facility will focus on delivering interactive experiences and events designed for residents of all ages, including health and safety programming provided by THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

"Convenience is key," said Johns Wilbanks, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Baptist Health, who is credentialed by the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). "So we're bringing together comprehensive services tailored to the needs of this vibrant community."

The goal will be to serve beyond just primary-care patients and to extend wellness programming, services and events to residents of all ages in the Nocatee community and surrounding areas, Hamilton said.

Hamilton said the current Baptist Primary Care location in Nocatee Town Center has about 4,700 patients. Baptist recently extended its service hours and expanded its team of caregivers at that location, she said.

"We will construct an addition to the current building while the new health campus is being developed," Hamilton said. "When the new health campus opens, all services will be moved to the new facility."

The goal will be to add capacity for 8,000 patients, at minimum, in addition to those we currently serve to meet the health-care needs, she said.

Baptist is part of Coastal Community Health, a regional hospital network focused on enhancing the quality of care provided to its communities. For more information baptistjax.com.