



SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

August 8, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY VISION IS SET TO BECOME A REALITY

The Smithville Hospital Authority (SHA) is pleased to present the future Bastrop Medical Center (BMC) rendering, submitted by O'Connell Robertson, SHA selected architect, to create a new, state-of-the-art Hospital in Bastrop, Texas.

“One of the key factors in the decision was that, in the O'Connell Robertson drawings, the hospital did not take on an ‘institutional’ look,” said Dennis Jack, CEO of Smithville Regional Hospital. “The exterior will be a marriage of ‘native stone, historically inspired lines utilizing some modern materials’, a design that complements naturally with the surrounding landscape, while the internal design is sleek, open and accessible.”

The Bastrop Medical Center will be located on 25.65 acres tract at the intersection of Hassler and Old Highway 71.

The new hospital at BMC will house 12 inpatient medical beds, 6 post-partum/GYN recovery beds, 4 LDR beds, diagnostic and surgery facilities, 24-Hour Emergency Care Services, Women's Health Services, Labor & Delivery Care, Day Surgery, Diagnostic Imaging and a Laboratory. The hospital will be approximately 60,000 square feet and will provide for 100 parking spaces. It is expandable in numerous ways to accommodate future growth. Construction is expected to begin in 2003. The total project cost is an estimated \$10 million dollars.

Smithville Regional Hospital will be the headquarters for the SHA network of care, which currently includes: Smithville Medical & Professional Clinic, Bastrop Medical & Professional Clinic, Elgin Medical & Professional Clinic, Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Center and Towers Nursing Home.

“Our vision is to create a network, anchored by a team of hospitals, that will ensure that the families of this region have excellent health care available for the next 100 years,” said Tommy Higgins, member of the SHA board of directors. “The Bastrop Medical Center opportunity coupled with our own urgency to expand Smithville Regional Hospital to meet the needs of the community was absolutely compelling in the final analysis.”

The SHA's Board of Directors reached a crossroads a year ago in examining how the existing facilities were going to keep pace with the Hospital's success and the unprecedented growth of the region,” explained Earl Walborg, Vice President of the SHA board of directors. “One way or another, we needed to build a new Hospital. The BMC site offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a truly great Hospital as part of the community's most exciting medical campus.”

“Our predecessors worked very hard to make sure we had an excellent Hospital for the first 45 years,” Walborg continued. “Now, we must honor that tradition and make sure we do the same for our children, grandchildren and beyond. Doing nothing is not an option.”

In 2002, SRH saw 1203 inpatient admissions representing 5067 patient days; performed 359 inpatient surgeries and 730 outpatient surgeries and handled 11,013 ER visits.

Founded in 1958, The Smithville Hospital Authority is a not-for-profit health care network. SHA’s main hospital currently operates at 800 East Highway 71, Smithville, Texas.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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