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[< PREV ARTICLE](#) Baptist Health to build \$200 million hospital in Clay County, create 700 jobs

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Groundbreaking is set this spring for the 300,000-square-foot medical center in Fleming Island.

by: [Katie Garwood](#) | Staff Writer

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square-foot hospital at its Baptist Clay Medical Campus in Fleming Island.

Groundbreaking for the 100-bed hospital will be in spring 2020, with an anticipated opening date in early 2022.

Baptist Health expands Clay County presence with plans for \$200 million hospital

By **Beth Reese Cravey**

Posted Jan 24, 2020 at 2:48 PM

The new hospital on Fleming Island will mean 700 jobs.

Baptist Health plans to build a \$200 million, 100-bed full-service hospital on Fleming Island to serve Clay County's growing population.

The 300,000-square-foot facility, which will create about 700 jobs, is to open in early 2022 at the existing Baptist Clay Medical Campus at U.S. 17 and Village Square Parkway. Groundbreaking is scheduled for this spring.

The new hospital's full-service menu will include women's services and enhanced cardiology services, in addition to what has been provided at the Clay campus that opened in 2013: an adult emergency room, Wolfson Children's Hospital emergency room, ambulatory surgery center, specialty services and and imaging.

"Clay County residents tell us they need more hospital-based health care services close to where they live and work," said Darin Roark, vice president of ambulatory campuses and emergency services, who will be new hospital's president and

lives on Fleming Island. "Having a full-service hospital nearby will eliminate the need for travel, while providing the medical expertise that Baptist Health is known for."

Clay County had a population of 190,865 in the 2010 U.S. Census. The 2018 estimated population was 216,072, showing growth of 13.2 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In response, both of the county's two existing full-service hospitals, Orange Park Medical Center and Ascension St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County, also have ongoing expansion projects.

The new Baptist hospital will have "modern features," including diagnostic equipment near the intensive care unit, "calming" LED lighting in corridors and centralized staff services. Also planned are large private patient rooms, outdoor dining area, onsite amenities such as Starbucks and a large community meeting room that accommodates up to 125 people.

The community room "will be a place of health and wellness for the community," Roark said. "We will host a variety of health-related events, such as 'Talk with a Doc' discussions on a variety of health topics."

The campus will include an outdoor jogging path connected to Black Creek Trail, an 8-mile paved path that winds along U.S. 17. Baptist also will preserve the large "Oak Grove" on the southern end of the campus.

Roark joined Baptist Health in 2012 as an assistant administrator overseeing all emergency centers in the health system. He has served as administrator of the Baptist Clay

Medical Campus since October 2013 and as the Baptist Health liaison in Clay County.

He also is active in the community, currently serving as board chairman of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce and board member of the Clay County Utility Authority.

“As a Clay County resident for many years, I am excited and humbled by the opportunity to bring world-class, patient-focused health care to Clay County,” he said.

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