

# St. Charles to Open La Pine Clinic in 2017

By Lynette Confer

Last year St. Charles Foundation completed a comprehensive feasibility study to explore the possible support for a St. Charles Health System (SCHS) clinic “to serve the community of La Pine and surrounding underserved areas. Through the community outreach and information gathering process, it was determined that, “In order to fully serve this growing population, expanded primary care services are needed.” (St. Charles Foundation Fact Sheet, 2015).

After the feasibility study was complete, the SCHS Board voted to approve the



Image Courtesy of St. Charles Foundation

The region to be served by the St. Charles La Pine Clinic, including areas in South Deschutes, Northern Klamath and Lake Counties.

project and move ahead with plans to build a clinic in La Pine. “We are really excited,” remarked John Jepson, Senior Philanthropy Officer for St. Charles Foundation.

The La Pine Community Clinic has been serving La Pine and the surrounding communities for many years. “It’s important to note that we are not trying to compete with La Pine Community Clinic,” Jepson added. “We’re partners in the goal of expanding access to healthcare to the community.”

Jepson went on to say that, “We identified an underserved area in the region with 25,000 people. Without La Pine Community Clinic, there would be a huge vacuum.”

Deschutes County donated the parcel of land for development of the St. Charles La Pine Clinic. “Deschutes County was approached by St. Charles regarding this 5.6 acre parcel,” stated Property Manager for Deschutes County James Lewis. “St. Charles is going through the application process with the City of La Pine and will partition that parcel and acquire two acres for development of the Clinic.” The property is located west of Huntington Road, north of Memorial

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Lane, and southwest of the Crescent Creek Subdivision. The lot is identified at Tax Lot 115 on the Deschutes County Tax Assessor’s Map 22-10-00.

At the City of La Pine Planning Commission meeting this past Wednesday, St. Charles Health System submitted their proposal and request for a Comprehensive Plan map amendment to convert the 5.6 acre parcel from a Public Facilities Comprehensive Designation to a Mixed Use Commercial (CMX) Comprehensive Plan Designation.

According to Assistant City Manager Cory Misley, “St. Charles submitted their application for zone change for this parcel at last week’s Planning Commission meeting. The application was approved, but now needs to go before the City Council on May 18.” The next step in the process for St. Charles is a Site Plan application.

During the planning and development process, St. Charles will be required by the City to provide water, sewer and infrastructure to the entire parcel. “Re-Zoning to Mixed Use Commercial will obviously add a lot of options for future development of the remainder of the parcel,” noted Deschutes County Property Manager Lewis. At this time there are no plans for development of the remainder of the parcel.

St. Charles Foundation is currently awaiting architectural plans for the project. The new clinic is slated to be a 12,000 square foot facility. “Plans are for 8-10 regular exam rooms and 4-5 rooms for Immediate Care,” said Jepson. The elements of the planned clinic include the following expanded services that were identified as necessary to address the healthcare needs of the region: Primary/Family Care; Immediate Care (7 a.m. To 7 p.m. 7 days a week); Radiology/Imaging; Lab Services and Space for Specialty Care.

It is estimated that the new St. Charles

Clinic in La Pine will cost \$5 million to build. “Our capital campaign fundraising goal for funds raised in the community is \$1.5 million,” said Jepson. “St. Charles Foundation will pay the remaining \$3.5 million to complete the project.” Jepson went on to explain that a Capital Campaign Leadership Committee has been established and community fundraising plans include small creative events aimed at securing 3-5 year pledges instead of one lump sum from contributors.

Local resident Corinne Martinez sits on the St. Charles Foundation Capital Campaign Leadership Board. “I am really excited about St. Charles building a clinic here in La Pine,” Martinez remarked. “Our La Pine Community Clinic does a wonderful job, but we identified a large area we serve and the need to expand access to healthcare services and options for residents beyond La Pine.” Martinez went on to explain the process by which the Capital Campaign Board will begin raising money for the St. Charles Clinic. “We had been awaiting input on the design of the facility,” said Martinez. “Once we have something to show as far as the planned development goes, we will begin to have small cultivation events to meet and inform the community and possible supporters about the project and the opportunity to support the project.”

“St. Charles Foundation works with the community to develop and steward philanthropic resources to fund programs and capital projects that improve health, prevent disease, enhance quality of life and provide the highest quality care possible for all St. Charles patients now and in the future.” (St. Charles Foundation Fact Sheet, 2015).

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