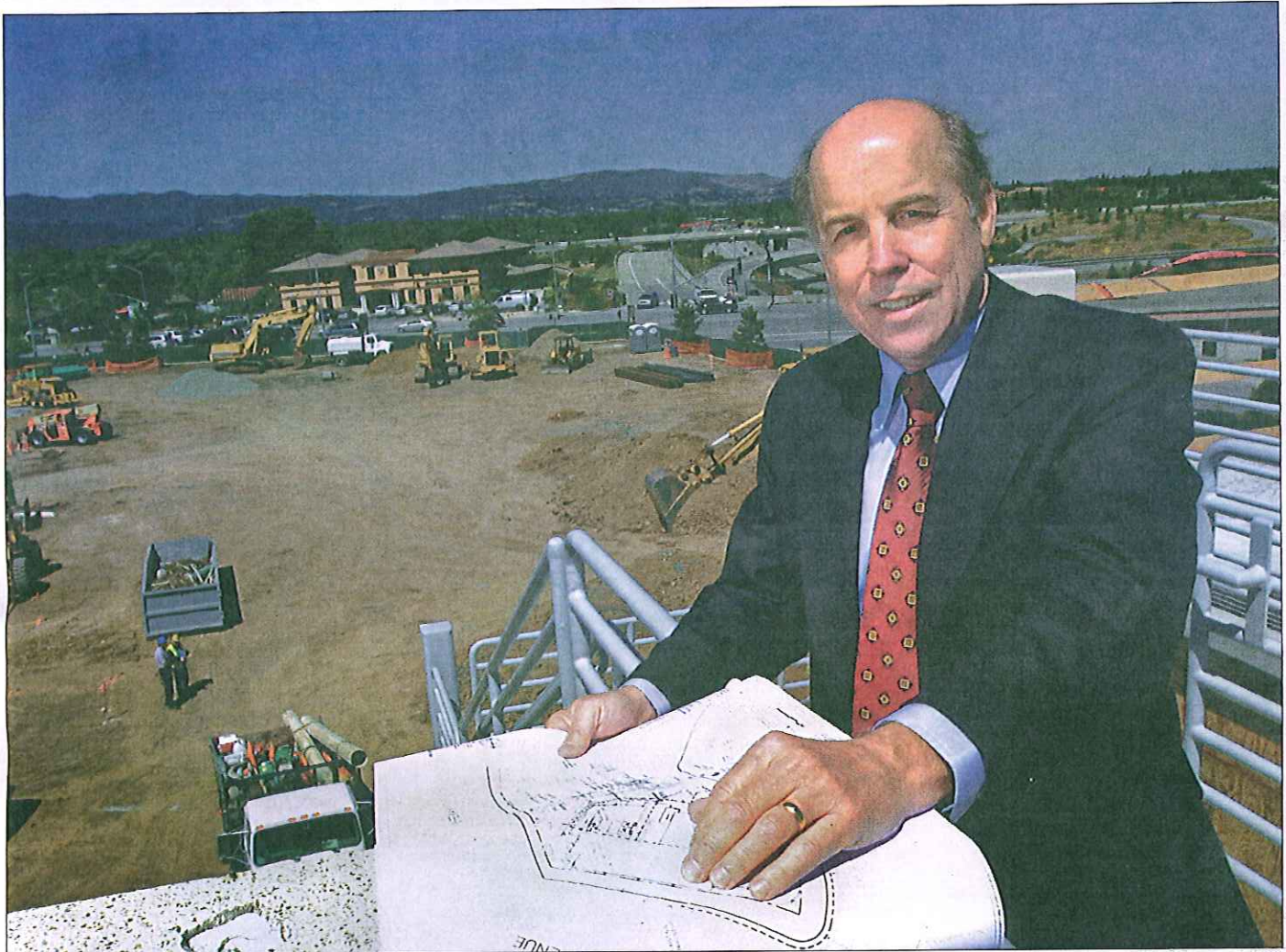


FOCUS: HEALTH CARE QUARTERLY



VIKI THOMPSON

COMBO CENTER: Dave Henderson, president of Samaritan Medical Center, said the new cancer center will house outpatient surgery, radiation therapy, a pharmacy, as well as patient services such as counseling and support.

\$22M cancer care center coordinates services

BY MARGARET STEEN

SAN JOSE — Along with the shock of a cancer diagnosis comes a barrage of questions — and often, patients don't know how to get them answered.

Samaritan Medical Center plans to solve that with the Samaritan Cancer Care Center, an all-in-one place for cancer care services. The location would house outpatient surgery, imaging, radiation therapy, a pharmacy and chemotherapy.

It would also link patients to services such as counseling and support groups, to "navigate the cancer experience in a different way," said Dave Henderson, president of Samaritan Medical Center.

The organization, which develops and manages medical office buildings, plans to construct a 75,000-square-foot,

Samaritan Cancer Care Center

Construction costs: \$22 million
Size: 75,000 square feet
Developer: Samaritan Medical Center
General contractor: Hensel Phelps Construction Co.
Architect: RBB Architects (medical office building);
International Parking Design (parking structure)
Expected completion: Spring 2011

four-story facility near the intersection of state Highways 17 and 85 in San Jose. The project will cost an estimated \$22 million, about 70 percent of which comes from a 20-year loan from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The mortgage company handling the deal is Barry Slatt Mortgage Co.

The center is scheduled to open in spring 2011.

In addition to a for-profit diagnostic and treatment side — where doctors will rent space — the organization is creating a foundation that will personalize cancer care for patients as well as family, offering care, language and advocacy help. Samaritan Cancer Foundation is still in development, although Henderson said it's close to filing 501(c)3 paperwork and would start formally fundraising in the next couple of months.

Gay Crawford, a former board member for the American Cancer Society who sits on the foundation's board, said physicians don't have as much time as they would like to help patients with needs beyond the medical ones. These needs will be addressed by the foundation. Patients will be able to receive nutrition advice, help with insurance and finances, spiritual counseling and

help researching treatment options. And patients who appear unlikely to win their cancer fights will learn what services are available to help them at the end of their lives.

"A foundation concept is an appropriate vehicle for doing that because unfortunately nobody pays for these kinds of humanistic services," said Bill Piche, a founding director of the Samaritan Cancer Foundation and retired CEO of Good Samaritan Hospital. (Good Samaritan Hospital is not part of Samaritan Medical Center).

"The idea is that you can come to a single point and not only get good clinical state-of-the-art care, but also there will be somebody there to coordinate your care" and support the patient and family, Piche said.

CANCER CENTER: Construction crews broke ground in April after about two years of planning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Henderson added that the foundation's services will be available to any cancer patient in the community. "These activities are not limited to only those patients utilizing the Samaritan Cancer Care Center. Service activities will be available to all cancer patients, including those who are economically disadvantaged."

Center expands services



Bill Piche

The center will be part of Samaritan Medical Center's existing medical offices, which currently have more than 200 doctors.

"What we're doing is really an extension of what we've been developing," Henderson said. "Only in this case, it's really focused on integrated, multidisciplinary services under one roof."

Regular meetings with pathologists, oncologists and other cancer specialists have been part of the planning process for the new center, Henderson said.

"What we've done is spend a lot of time talking with doctors and patients to understand what it is we should be trying to accomplish," he said.

The foundation's services will also need staffing. A key to providing all these services will be personal care managers. The exact range of their responsibilities is still being worked out, but there will be a need for trained professionals — not necessarily doctors or nurses — who help patients connect to needed services.

Thought turns into action

The cancer care center has been in the planning stages for two years, Henderson said. Crews broke ground at the construction site in April. The



general contractor for the project is Hensel Phelps Construction Co.

The individuals planning the center acknowledge there are still challenges to the development of a successful model.

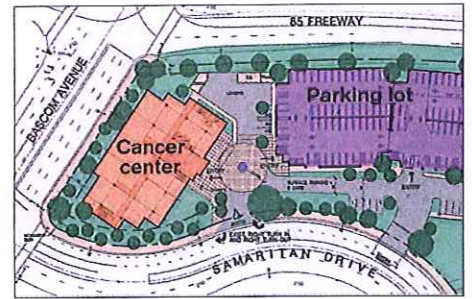
"How do you bring all the services together under one roof and work for a patient?" Henderson said.

The medical professionals housed in the center will still be independent. Coordination will be easier because their offices are near each other, but it may not automatically make patients' care run smoothly.

"That's still going to take a little bit of work," he said. The goal is to make a difficult time in the lives of patients and their families a little easier.

"It's hard enough to get cancer," said Crawford, a two-time cancer survivor. "It shouldn't be hard to find the services."

MARGARET STEEN is a freelance writer.



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER

PLANS MOVE FORWARD: The four-story building (rendering, top) will be constructed at the corner of Bascom Avenue and Samaritan Drive (map, above).

For more information on the Samaritan Cancer Care Center
and the Samaritan Cancer Foundation,
call 408-356-3103 or
visit the websites:

www.samaritancancercarecenter.com

www.samaritancancerfoundation.org