

PANAMA CITY  
NEWS HERALD

## City Beach tor new health care campus

**Nathan Cobb** The News Herald

Published 5:06 a.m. ET Jan. 20, 2023

PANAMA CITY BEACH – The Beach celebrated a long-awaited milestone on Tuesday that will benefit local residents and tourists.

With about 200 people in attendance, local officials held a construction celebration for the FSU Health-Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Medical Campus, which is being built through a partnership between the St. Joe Company, Florida State University and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

The campus, which has been under construction since August, sits on about 87 acres along State 79 near Philip Griffitts Sr. Parkway.

"Today's celebration represents a very important step forward for our community," Jorge Gonzalez, president and CEO of St. Joe, said in a press release from the company. "This medical campus, backed by the expertise of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and Florida State University, is a crucial element for supporting the health and well-being of residents and visitors in every stage of life.

"It also has the potential to create synergistic opportunities between research, education and clinical delivery, to enhance quality of life throughout the region and beyond."

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The release notes a medical office building will be the first feature of the campus built. It is slated to cover about 80,000 square feet and be complete sometime next year. The building will house TMH Physician Partners – Primary Care, a Tallahassee Memorial Urgent Care Center and ambulatory surgery center and cardiology and orthopedic services.

A 100-bed hospital is expected to be complete by 2027. It will include an emergency center and inpatient services such as surgery, cardiology procedures and imaging, the release states.

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"Today's construction kickoff comes at a pivotal time for TMH as we celebrate our 75th anniversary this year," Mark O'Bryant, president and CEO of TMH, said in the release. "We have grown from a small, city-owned hospital into a comprehensive healthcare system. As the population in our region increases, TMH has identified a substantial need to expand healthcare services.

"Over the past seven and a half decades, we've built a reputation for excellent, compassionate and local care, and we are proud to now offer our services to the Panama City Beach communities."