

Florence closer to getting a hospital

by *Lynh Bui* - Aug. 29, 2008 02:16 PM
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A **healthcare** group planning to develop a hospital in Florence has closed escrow on the purchase of a 10-acre site in Anthem at Merrill Ranch.

The hospital is expected to break ground by December 2008 and will serve an area where emergency **health care** services are in great demand.

"This makes our plans official," Gilbert Hospital CEO David Wanger said in a press release. "We are very excited to start development of a full service, general acute care hospital for the greater Florence communities."

Wanger is also head of FHAD Property, the healthcare development group behind the future "Florence Hospital at Anthem."

The 10-acre site on the southwest corner of Franklin Road and Hunt Highway will be the first phase of a planned 40-acre medical campus.

The hospital will be similar to Gilbert Hospital in Gilbert and will join Banner Ironwood Medical Center as one of the

newest emergency care facilities in Pinal County. Casa Grande Regional Medical Center is currently the only acute care hospital in Pinal County, which spans more than 5,300 square miles.

Banner Ironwood Medical Center is currently under construction and is scheduled to open in late 2009.

Florence Hospital at Anthem is expected house about 36 inpatient beds, 20 emergency department rooms and two operating rooms.

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