

JMHCC

Lifelines



Family Nurse Practitioner Carey Rivinius is one of four providers at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center and its affiliated clinics in Elgin and Glen Ullin. Approval of the formation of a hospital district will allow for renovation of the Elgin Community Clinic to better serve the approximate 5,000 patients who visit each year.

Hospital district vital to future services

Voters in the June election will be asked to approve the formation of a Grant County Hospital District to support Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC), Grant County's local hospital.

This is vital in continuing to offer quality health care in Grant County.

"We understand that most people

automatically check 'no' when it comes to an increase in taxes," says Administrator Theo Stoller. "But we really need residents to seriously consider the importance of this hospital and its clinics in their lives. Can we put a price on saving lives? I don't think so. Imagine being without this hospital and clinic when you need it.

Please support this facility as it has supported you and your family over the years."

Here, we answer your questions:

Q. What is a hospital district?

A hospital district means a "district" is formed for the purpose of support-

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ing the hospital. Through a petition process, the request to form a proposed hospital district was placed on the ballot.

North Dakota Century Code details the formation of hospital districts.

Q. What area will the hospital district cover?

This hospital district would include all of Grant County.

Q. How many votes are needed?

Sixty percent of the qualified voters must vote in favor of the proposed hospital district.

Q. What will it cost me?

JMHCC is requesting up to a maximum of 5 mills through the hospital district, to be utilized for capital improvements and equipment purchases.

Based on 2013 taxation values, this would result in an increase of only \$9 a year for a home assessed at \$40,000 in Grant County. A quarter



to form a hospital district to support Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center

A Grant County Hospital District would:

- Encompass all of Grant County
- Levy up to 5 mills to support JMHCC
- Allow JMHCC to leverage funding for capital improvements, including an update of the Elgin Community Clinic to streamline patient services

section of land assessed at \$38,500 would be taxed \$9.63 more, based on the average value of land in Grant County in 2013.

So, the owner of a home assessed at \$40,000 will pay \$9 a year to support the hospital district. One of the

larger landowners in Grant County will pay approximately \$350-\$400 a year to support the hospital district.

Q. How many total mills can the district obtain?

As stated on the ballot, JMHCC is requesting only up to a maximum of 5 mills.

Q. How will the funds be used?

Funds will be a major source of revenue for capital improvements, to afford expensive equipment and to continue to provide vital services to Grant County and the surrounding area.

The hospital district maximum 5 mill levy, which will raise approximately \$55,000 a year based on 2013 valuations, will be used to leverage funding for capital improvements, including an update to the Elgin Community Clinic to streamline patient services.

The district will allow JMHCC to leverage funding for capital improvements. First on the project list will be

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Welcome!

Welcome to Lifelines, a newsletter which is published quarterly by the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center and the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation, serving Grant County and the surrounding area.

The mission of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center:

To advance the health of patients and the communities we serve through a culture of leadership, continuous improvement, and accountability. Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center understands the relationship that exists between body, mind, and the human spirit. We believe that respect, integrity, quality, commitment, and accountability are the foundation by which a health care provider should practice in accordance with respect of this relationship.

The mission of the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation:

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation, in support of Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, is to engage and foster health care philanthropy, and provide funds, support and programs to enhance continuous health care excellence for our region.

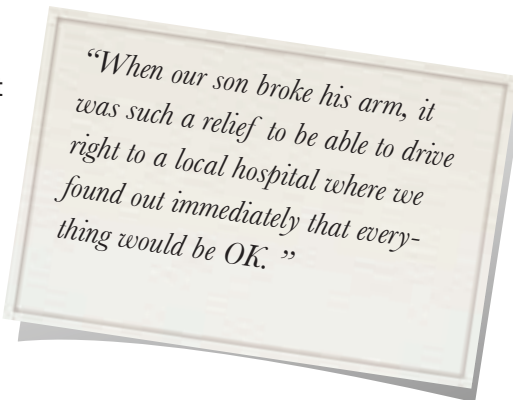
a renovation of the Elgin Community Clinic to provide better services to the approximately 5,000 patients who visit each year.

The renovation will include more exam rooms and a more functional waiting room and lab/X-ray area.

Second on the project list will be updating the emergency room so it's more patient-centered. This will include an indoor area for the ambulance so patients don't have to be unloaded in the elements. JMHCC has 600 emergency room visits each year.

Q. Is this a new concept in North Dakota?

No, health care facilities in Divide, Emmons and Griggs counties have successfully adopted hospital districts in recent years. Other facilities are proposing hospital districts this year also, as more rural hospitals require



outside funding to survive.

Q. What's the financial situation at the hospital?

A critical issue facing JMHCC, as well as other health care organizations serving rural/frontier communities, is financial sustainability. Due to a number of factors, many outside of JMHCC's control, it has and will continue to be challenged to generate adequate operating revenues to sustain not only the organization, but

also its critical social and economic role throughout Grant County.

While we continue to find ways to operate more effectively and efficiently, we will continually be challenged by an ever-changing, demanding and uncertain health care and financial environment. To maintain, strengthen and grow, it will be increasingly necessary for JMHCC to generate additional revenues. Experts suggest non-operating revenues should be around \$200,000-\$300,000 a year to sustain a health care facility.

Q. What's the impact of JMHCC on my community?

In 2009, the University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health conducted a study of the economic importance of JMHCC to Grant County.

The \$2.2 million in wages and
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Additional cost of five-mill levy for Grant County property

\$4⁵⁰ → \$20,000 home

\$9 → \$40,000 home

\$12⁵⁰ → \$50,000 commercial property

\$9⁶³ → Quarter section of land valued at approximately \$38,500*

*Based on the average value of an acre of land at approximately \$245. Statistics from 2013.

Economic Impact of JMHCC

Direct impact

Total employees.....	90
Total direct economic impact ...	\$2,172,026.57 (wages, benefits)

Secondary impact

Employment.....	17
Labor income	\$345,504

Total impact

Employment.....	107
Labor income	\$2,517,531

benefits that JMHCC provides its employees generates another \$345,504 in secondary income in the county, providing Grant County with a total impact of \$2,517,531 in labor income in one year.

Q. Why is JMHCC vital? There's another hospital an hour away.

Survival rates fall dramatically for trauma patients after an hour. Life-saving medications given within a certain period of heart attack symptoms reduce the risk of irreversible damage to the heart muscle. Asthma attacks and allergic reactions can turn deadly without immediate care. Precious moments save lives – that's the role of a critical access hospital.

Q. Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Administrator Theo Stoller welcomes any questions. He can be reached by telephone at 584-7233 or by email at tastoller@primecare.org.



We serve

- The Elgin Community Clinic schedules approximately 5,000 visits per year, while Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center has 600 emergency room visits each year.

We impact

- The \$2.1 million in wages and benefits that JMHCC provides its employees generates another \$345,504 in secondary income in the county, providing Grant County with a total impact of \$2,517,531 in labor income in one year.

We need your support

- Funds generated through the Grant County Hospital District will be a major source of revenue to leverage funding for capital improvements, to afford expensive equipment and to continue to provide vital services in Grant County and the surrounding area.



"Imagine what our communities would be like without local health care," Stoller says. "Imagine needing emergency health care without a local hospital. For decades, Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center has served Grant County and the surrounding area with an unwavering commitment."

"The most significant and consistent driving force in maintaining local health care services in our area is commitment and community pride," Stoller says. "From the moment the idea materialized to build a local hospital, the county has committed to keeping it viable. In return, the hospital has assured personalized medical services that make us proud. Our providers care for you. When that emergency arises, we're here. Now, JMHCC is asking for your support in forming a hospital district."

To learn more, visit the website at www.jacobsonhospital.org. ■

Digital mammograms now available

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center and the Elgin Community Clinic now offer digital mammography through a mobile imaging unit. The unit visits the clinic monthly for digital mammography services, with better quality and faster results.

Using digital mammography, an electronic image of the breast is stored as a computer file. This digital information can be enhanced, magnified or manipulated for further

evaluation more easily than information stored on film.

The American Cancer Society and other organizations recommend mammography screening begin at 40 and continue annually. In addition, the American Cancer Society suggests:

- Clinical breast exam about every three years for women in their 20s and 30s, and every year for women ages 40 and over.
- Women should know how their

breasts normally look and feel and report any breast change promptly to their health care provider. Breast self-exam is an option for women starting in their 20s. ■

Because we care...
Schedule your mammogram today
by calling the Elgin Community Clinic
at 584-3338.

The heart of health care

Nursing staff has more than 600 years of experience

Newly wed and newly graduated in 1971, Marcy Haase started her nursing career at Lorenzen Memorial Hospital in Elgin, where the young LPN was mentored by a soft-spoken and well-respected RN, Margaret Boyer.

“She was awesome,” Haase shares. “She had the ability to make each patient feel like they were the only one there. I learned a lot from her.”

Forty-three years later, Haase shares her own expertise and caring attitude as she mentors new nurses at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC), including one of the newest – Rebecca Henning, an RN who arrived at JMHCC from California just last fall.

With more than 600 combined years of experience, the nursing staff at Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center continues a long tradition of cooperation and caring that focuses on the patient.

Meeting the challenge

With a wide range of experience – from the emergency room to long-term care – JMHCC’s nurses are prepared for any patient who walks through the door. And the nursing



Marcy Haase

staff meets those daily challenges with expertise and experience that puts JMHCC in the forefront of quality care.

The nursing staff includes 27 certified nursing assistants (CNAs), who, among other duties, assist long-term care patients with daily living tasks and communicate any issues to the nurses. Seven licensed practical nurses (LPNs) help with patient assessments, manage tasks delegated by the RNs and handle certain medications. Seventeen registered nurses (RNs) delegate the daily work flow, and manage the emergency room and

patient care. One doctor and three mid-level providers oversee the nursing staff.

The nurses and providers work together to stabilize and treat patients as quickly as possible, falling within the benchmarks of quality care.

Emergency care benchmarks require a critical access hospital to transport patients requiring further care within two hours. JMHCC can typically complete all tests, X-rays and stabilization within 30 to 45 minutes, so there is little delay in getting patients to trauma surgeons or cardiac surgeons for further care.

Coming from afar

When Rebecca Henning became an RN, she wanted a position that included a variety of patients, but her native California was lacking in jobs.

“The state of California is so inundated with new graduates and the hospitals only have so many positions, so I decided to go out of town,” she says.

During a cross-country trip, she saw nursing positions advertised at JMHCC and in October 2013, she

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started her new job, just missing the October snowstorm that welcomed winter to the area.

“Everyone here has been really, really friendly and nice,” she says, pointing to mentors like Marcy Haase. “Everybody’s been very accepting and welcoming. I like the small community and how everyone is so nice to each other and helpful. You don’t find that in California, you really don’t.”

“The weather, however...,” she says with a laugh.

She’s following nursing footsteps left by her mother and grandmother, caring for patients.



Rebecca Henning

“Everyone helps you and it’s about the patient here. A lot of times, especially in bigger cities, it’s not so much

about the patient as it is about politics and money and that’s not the philosophy here,” she says. “Here, you take care of the patients first.”

That’s a philosophy passed along the generations of nurses at JMHCC, Haase points out.

“There’s such a positive feeling with the staff we have in place,” she says. Everyone - from Dr. Deepak Goyal to the nursing staff - live in the area and are involved in their communities, too, she adds. ■

JMHCC joins health information network

Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center is now part of an information network which allows its providers to share information for better patient care.

The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee, which is made up of health care stakeholders, is implementing a statewide, secure health information network known as the North Dakota Health Information Network (NDHIN). The NDHIN is a simplified and robust infrastructure allowing providers to securely exchange health information. Providers using the NDHIN will be able to share information through a secure simplified process known as NDHIN Direct and through the Clinical Portal which is a more robust query exchange of health information.

NDHIN Direct allows a provider to send information to another provider

Improving health care.
Empowering you.

To learn more, call JMHCC
at 584-2792.



through a secure electronic system. It allows providers to exchange unstructured documents or structured files with other providers through a secure email service, essentially pushing protected health information to another provider securely.

The Clinical Portal, which is a more robust exchange of health information, also known as query technology, includes the capability to find information on a patient needed to provide

good quality health care. Information that may be obtained includes, but is not limited to, medications, allergies, lab results, and advance directives. Essentially, the query technology is another tool that a provider can use to push information to another provider, or if necessary, pull information from other providers as they are providing medical services to the patient.

Some 150 health care organizations, including Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center, have signed participation agreements to be a part of the network, thus far, and approximately 800 users have been enrolled in NDHIN Direct. ■

Medicaid expansion coverage available

The North Dakota Legislature authorized expanding Medicaid to cover North Dakota residents under age 65 with incomes up to 138 percent of poverty - especially adults without dependent children. That's an annual income of about \$16,000 for a household of one and \$21,000 for a household of two.

For more information, visit the website at www.nd.gov/dhs/medicaid expansion. You can apply online at <http://apply.dhs.nd.gov>, by phone at 1-855-794-7308, or by submitting a paper application to the N.D. Department of Human Services or call the Grant County Social Services at 622-3706. There is no deadline to apply. ■

JMHCC offers online payment

To offer another convenient method of payment for its patients, Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) can now accept debit or credit card payments online.

JMHCC has established a secure payment form on its website at www.jacobsonhospital.org which customers can access 24/7. On the home page of the website, click on the link, "Credit Card Payment," complete the form and submit the payment online.

Through this service, patients can make payments at their convenience anytime of the day. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards are accepted.

"We are offering these services to our patients so payments can be made as easily as possible," says Scott Ostenson, JMHCC's chief financial officer. "Everyone has a busy life these days, and the secure website will let our customers make payments at their convenience."

For further convenience, state-

ments will still be mailed to patients. Enter an email address on the online form, and a receipt will also be emailed.

In addition, JMHCC offers an automatic payment plan utilizing a credit or debit card. Payment plans can be established to automatically deduct a payment at set intervals, such as weekly or monthly.

To enroll in the automatic payment plan, complete and return a customer authorization form available from the JMHCC business office in Elgin. Then payments will be charged to a credit or debit card account in the frequency and amount listed.

This also allows patients to conveniently pay bills without the hassle of remembering to mail a payment each month.

For more information or to request a customer authorization form for the automatic payment plan, please contact the billing office at JMHCC at 584-2792. ■

Yes!

I want to donate to the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation to help continue the important work of the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center.

I wish to make a cash contribution of \$ _____



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

_____ Please contact me to visit about other ways I can donate.

_____ Please send me information about the Gifts of Grain _____ or Gifts of Livestock _____

Please send completed form with check to: JMHF, PO Box 367, Elgin, ND 58533. Thank you!



VOTE YES!

on the formation
of a hospital district to support
Jacobson Memorial Hospital
Care Center
and its vital services.

JMHCC

JACOBSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CARE CENTER



We're here when you need us.
Now we need your support!