



Health Pulse

## Reimagined Aurora hospital site housing seniors, special needs adults

By Jon Asplund



The former Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora

 Reprints  Print  Share

October 16, 2023 05:16 AM

Redevelopment of the former Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora into a residential development for seniors, memory care residents and independent living for people with special needs is continuing with a recent announcement that VNA Health Care will open a medical center on the site next summer.

VNA, which has several Aurora and DuPage County locations, is making a \$5 million investment in the buildout of about 26,000 square feet of medical exam rooms, procedure rooms, mental health counseling spaces, therapy centers, a pharmacy and a

laboratory, according to Paul Konrad, a partner in Fox Valley Developers who is redeveloping the overall site. VNA expects to serve about 15,000 patients a year by the end of year two at the new location, he said, providing some urgent care, family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry and counseling, podiatry, nutrition services, lab tests and vaccinations, doula support, health and wellness education, and more.

---

**More** →

---

**Advocate prevails in COVID-19 vaccine mandate lawsuit**

---

**Jury awards \$55.5M in case against ex-UI Health doctors**

---

**New Evanston Hospital president named in NorthShore leadership change-up**

---

The nearly \$77 million redevelopment project was the brainchild of a few Waubonsie Valley High School graduates and lifelong friends who just wanted to see something done with a dangerous eyesore, the hospital campus, Konrad says. Originally, the hospital opened in 1888 as the 25-bed City Hospital of Aurora, with additions to the campus in the 1920s, 1930s, 1950s and 1970s. In 1995, the hospital sold the property and moved to the new the Rush-Copley Medical Center.

Konrad, the longtime WGN-TV/Channel 9 weather anchor, and his brother Jason, who owns Konrad Construction, joined forces with Dr. Stathis Poulakids, a burn surgeon at Stroger Hospital, his brother Michael Poulakidas of JTE Real estate Services and Russ Woerman of KWCC Construction to rehabilitate the space.

With the development built out, tenants are filling in the 53-unit independent apartment community, Weston Bridges, designed as independent housing for adults with intellectual, cognitive and/or developmental disabilities. Tenants are also leasing at Bardwell Senior Living Residences with 99 units consisting of independent living, assisted living and memory care.

The unique idea to develop an independent living option for highly functioning adults with autism or other intellectual disabilities came out of one of the partners discussing a friend who had a child with autism, Konrad said.

"We did some research and found that there is a shortage of housing for adults with disabilities" who also have low support needs, he said.

"In developing the plan for this campus we decided that the two uses could co-exist with a great synergy," Konrad said. "A campus where both young adults and older adults can grow, enjoy new experiences and live their best lives. Both Weston Bridges and Bardwell Senior Living residents have their own clubs, dining options and amenities, but each community enjoys the option to mingle and enjoy activities together."

[In the award documentation](#), one of the Fox Valley Developers, Michael Poulakidas, said the site holds tremendous historical significance and most people from Aurora knows someone who was born or treated at the former hospital.

"This abandoned space plays a major role in Aurora's history. One of the most important aspects of the redevelopment was maintaining as many of the historic aspects as possible," Poulakidas said. "MacRostie Historic Advisors was hired to assist in the preservation."

"We were just trying to figure out a way to use it," Konrad said. "I'm just glad it is truly serving a purpose."

By Jon Asplund

Jon Asplund is a contributing reporter covering health care for Crain's Chicago Business.

---

◆ News, Health Care, Health Pulse

**More in Health Pulse** →

---

## **Local medical device maker sued over accuracy of at-home blood pressure monitors**

A lawsuit seeking class-action status claims a monitor made by Hoffman Estates-based Omron Healthcare doesn't work as promised.

---

## **Maternal mortality continues to disproportionately affect Black women in Illinois**

A new state report shows Black women are dying at higher rates primarily because of cardiovascular disease and other pre-existing chronic medical conditions.

---

## **Northwestern-born cancer therapeutics startup raises \$10 million**

Nanotech company Flashpoint Therapeutics, with tech from Chad Mirkin's lab in Northwestern, looks to develop first clinical candidate with new funding.

---

## **Most Popular**

**1**

Johnson taps real estate executive to run planning department

<b>2</b>	MacKenzie Scott breaks donation record at another Chicago nonprofit
<b>3</b>	One celebrity chef isn't afraid to open a new restaurant in the Loop
<b>4</b>	Pressure rises on both sides of anti-homelessness tax plan
<b>5</b>	Here's who bought the second-most expensive home of the year

---

## Get our newsletters

Staying current is easy with Crain's news delivered straight to your inbox, free of charge.

[SELECT NEWSLETTERS](#)

---

## Subscribe today

With a Crain's Chicago Subscription you get exclusive access, insights and experiences to help you succeed in business.

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



## Student Subscription

### Subscriptions

[About us](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Media kit](#)

[Staff](#)

[Crains Career](#)

[Post a job](#)

[Ad Choice](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Privacy Request](#)

[Terms of use](#)

[Sitemap](#)