

Trident Health buys land at Cane Bay

Company to build facility in 5,000-home Berkeley subdivision
[FINAL Edition]

The Post and Courier - Charleston, S.C.

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Date: Apr 1, 2006

Start Page: B.7

Section: BUSINESS

Text Word Count: 323

Document Text

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Trident Health System said Friday that it has bought 20 acres at Cane Bay Plantation, a 5,000-home community under construction in Berkeley County near Summerville.

The company plans to build health care facilities there that would serve the residents of Cane Bay and nearby neighborhoods. Likely offerings would include rehabilitation services such as physical and occupational therapy; diagnostic services such as X-rays and lab work; and primary- and specialty-care physician services.

Specifics will be worked out once the company has a better idea of the community's demographics. "We're going to assess the needs of residents," Trident spokeswoman Nicole DeMarco said.

The company does not yet have a timeline for the project.

Trident Health System is a for-profit operation owned by Nashville, Tenn.-based HCA. The system runs hospitals in North Charleston, Summerville and Walterboro, as well as seven diagnostic centers in the region.

The company decided to open a facility in Cane Bay to keep pace with rapid growth in Berkeley County. When the company entered the market in 1983, it served about 4,000 residents. Today, that number has grown to more than 24,000.

"There's definitely going to be a need for health care, and we want to be sure that it's convenient for the residents," DeMarco said.

Cane Bay is among several large residential developments planned for the county. Nearby neighborhoods in the works include The Parks of Berkeley, a 13,000-home project, and Harmon Crossing, where several thousand residences are planned.

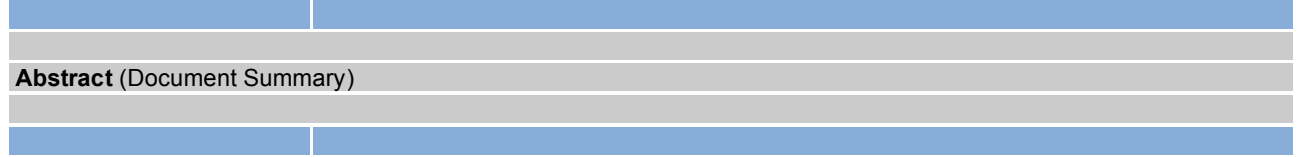
Charleston developer Ben Gramling of Gramling Brothers Real Estate and Development Co. is developing the 2,000-acre Cane Bay, which will include homes, apartments, businesses and amenities such as walking trails.

"Our vision for Cane Bay has always been to make it a place where people will live, work, play and worship," Gramling said in a statement. Trident's health care facility will provide needed services in the area, he said.

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