

# Downtown hospital tops City Council's 2004 goals

Councilor Bonny Bettman says individual priorities were waived for unanimity in goal selection this year

By Nika Carlson  
News Reporter

With Peace Health Medical Group on the verge of moving to Springfield, Eugene city councilors agreed that persuading a hospital to locate in the city center is their top priority for the coming year.

That goal was one of eight that the Council made for the year 2004 in Feb. 20 and 21 priority-setting sessions.

By making a hospital site a priority, councilors will dedicate staff efforts to the project above all others.

"It is a very important development decision that is likely going to be made this year, so we're going to have to put some focus on it if we want a hospital in the city center," said Ward 3 Councilor David Kelly, who represents the University area.

The councilors' decision echoes a resolution they made in September 2003

giving support to landing a hospital for central Eugene, within 2.25 miles of Second Avenue and Chambers Street, as well as south and west of the Willamette River.

A downtown hospital would not only provide convenient medical care, it would also be a major economic development project for the city that would likely bring new jobs and new taxes to the cash-poor city.

Though no specific plans for a new hospital are in place right now, Springfield's McKenzie-Willamette Hospital will be the likely provider. The hospital is examining a site at the Eugene Water and Electric Board's headquarters on East Fourth Avenue.

Kelly said councilors would support any site within the area defined in the resolution they adopted last year.

The city has set aside \$500,000 to assist with a hospital project.

The City Council will also offer hospital developers incentives to build in the area, such as reducing any fees that might arise if streets need to be changed for the hospital or waiving staging fees for starting construction. They might also assign a staff person to

help developers through the process of applying to and actually building within the city.

"There's all kinds of things that we're going to make available that we won't necessarily do for sites outside that area," Ward 4 City Councilor George Poling said.

Councilors also covered other issues at the two-day sessions. They discussed the possibilities of a civic center, giving more money to public safety, setting steps to carry out downtown development, giving more protection to trees, finding new sources of revenue and creating a stable transportation funding system.

Each member brought two possible priorities to the session this year and was able to veto the options other councilors proposed, city spokeswoman Jan Bohman said. Getting a central hospital was the only option all councilors supported, she said.

Councilors set specific work priorities yearly, although these are made within the framework of a general vision the city councilors outline every two years.

"We had a goal-setting session last year, but it failed because we didn't

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Civic Center — Police, City Hall
- Allocate more resources for public safety
- Central city hospital
- Concrete implementation steps in downtown plan
- Finalized economic development plan that addresses economy and environment, with implementation steps
- Complete economic development strategy with action items and timelines and begin implementation
- Implement tree protection
- New source of revenue (i.e. business license)
- Create and implement a stable transportation funding program for maintenance and prevention

SOURCE: Eugene City Hall

come out with any goals," Poling said.

He said the diversity of political views on the City Council impeded its progress last year.

Council President Bonny Bettman said by focusing on consensus as opposed to individual goals this year, the councilors were able to come up with

a priority they all shared.

"This wasn't about any city councilor's personal priorities, it was about what we have consensus on," she said. "This is a very unique process."

Contact the city/state politics reporter at [nikacarlson@dailyemerald.com](mailto:nikacarlson@dailyemerald.com).

## Nation & World News

# Kerry eyes sweep in Super Tuesday, Edwards struggles

Crowds to see underdog Sen. John Edwards were thin before Super Tuesday in the two closest states

By Kirsten Scharnberg  
and Jill Zuckman  
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

TOLEDO, Ohio — In the waning hours before coast-to-coast election contests on Super Tuesday, the rhythm of the top two Democratic presidential campaigns couldn't have been more telling.

Before boisterous crowds on college campuses and in a Southern concert hall, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts talked about the general election as though the presidential nomination had been decided, promising, "We're going to go right at George Bush."

In contrast, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina made a frenzied dash through Ohio and Georgia, drawing sparse crowds and spending more time answering questions about whether he would drop out of the race than talking about his would-be presidential vision.

Ignoring his fading rival, Kerry

sought to sweep all 10 states, which include Democratic strongholds New York and California and swing-state Ohio, and vowed to wage a general election fight against President Bush that would highlight the differences between the increasingly polarized parties.

"This isn't going to be some kind of 'We're like them, they're like us, wishy-washy, mealy-mouth, you can't tell the difference' deal," Kerry said. "This is going to be something where we're giving America a real choice."

As Edwards crossed Ohio, meanwhile, there were clear indications of a diminishing campaign.

At a rally in downtown Cleveland, against a backdrop of Lake Erie, a few dozen people arrived to hear Edwards speak on the eve of this critical primary. The room remained so vacant that campaign aides repeatedly moved forward a large American flag, hoping to make the venue seem smaller and more crowded.

Even Bush's election team, not wanting to cede the political oxygen to Democrats in this key battleground state, added to the sense that the race was largely over by focusing sharp criticism

solely on Kerry. Edwards, when asked later why all the attention was paid to Kerry, said: "He's ahead, he's ahead."

Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, a Bush surrogate, told reporters in a conference call that Ohio's economy was turning around, thanks in large part to Bush's tax cuts, and that Kerry's "negative sound bites ... just don't add up to an economic plan." Edwards went unmentioned.

But Kerry, making his second visit to the state in less than a week, told voters that Ohio has lost 150,000 manufacturing jobs during the Bush presidency and that many people were struggling to hold down two or three jobs at a time.

"It's not mission accomplished, it's mission not even attempted, it's mission abandoned," Kerry told the crowd, which greeted him with chants of "Impeach W."

Across Ohio, in the same University of Toledo room where Kerry drew more than 1,000 people a few days earlier, Edwards attracted a considerably smaller and more sedate crowd.

Dozens of empty chairs sat within the circle of about 300 people who surrounded Edwards. On the sidewalk out-

side the student union, where Republicans had protested Kerry's visit, not a soul stood to shout down Edwards.

The candidate was decidedly less animated than he had been during the heady days of his campaign through Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. Just one measure: his speech — once nearly 30 minutes long — had been scaled back to just over 13 minutes. Edwards declined to tell reporters how many states — if any — he would have to win to remain a viable candidate.

In contrast to other states where Edwards saw a last-minute surge after securing the endorsement of key state newspapers, one of Ohio's largest papers, Cleveland's Plain Dealer, threw its support behind Kerry on Monday. The endorsement was pointed in explaining its rationale for choosing the more experienced politician over the charismatic upstart.

"The conventional wisdom is true: Edwards is warmer, more charming," the paper wrote. "If you were organizing a backyard barbecue, you'd call Edwards first. He speaks eloquently of those left behind even when the economy was roaring. But he strikes

us as a work in progress. He calls for bold solutions, but offers few."

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Questions: Donna Chittenden, 346-3044,  
Office of Resource Management

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PPPM 410  
CRN: 33997  
4:00-5:50 U

**Business**  
BA 410  
CRN: 30698  
2:00-3:50 U

**English**  
ENG 408  
CRN: 31755  
2:00-3:50 H

**Environmental Studies**  
ENVS 407  
CRN: 31808  
10:00-11:50 F

**International Studies**  
INTL 407  
CRN: 35962  
4:00-5:50 M

**Journalism**  
J 399  
CRN: 35588  
4:00-5:50 W

**Psychology**  
PSY 410  
CRN: 34194  
10:00-11:50 M

**Sciences**  
BI 407  
CRN: 30843  
CH 408  
CRN: 31017

EMS 408  
CRN: 31665  
PHYS 408  
CRN: 33947

10:00-11:50 H  
**Sociology**  
SOC 410  
CRN: 34358  
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