

News

Lorain County Community College planning satellite campus

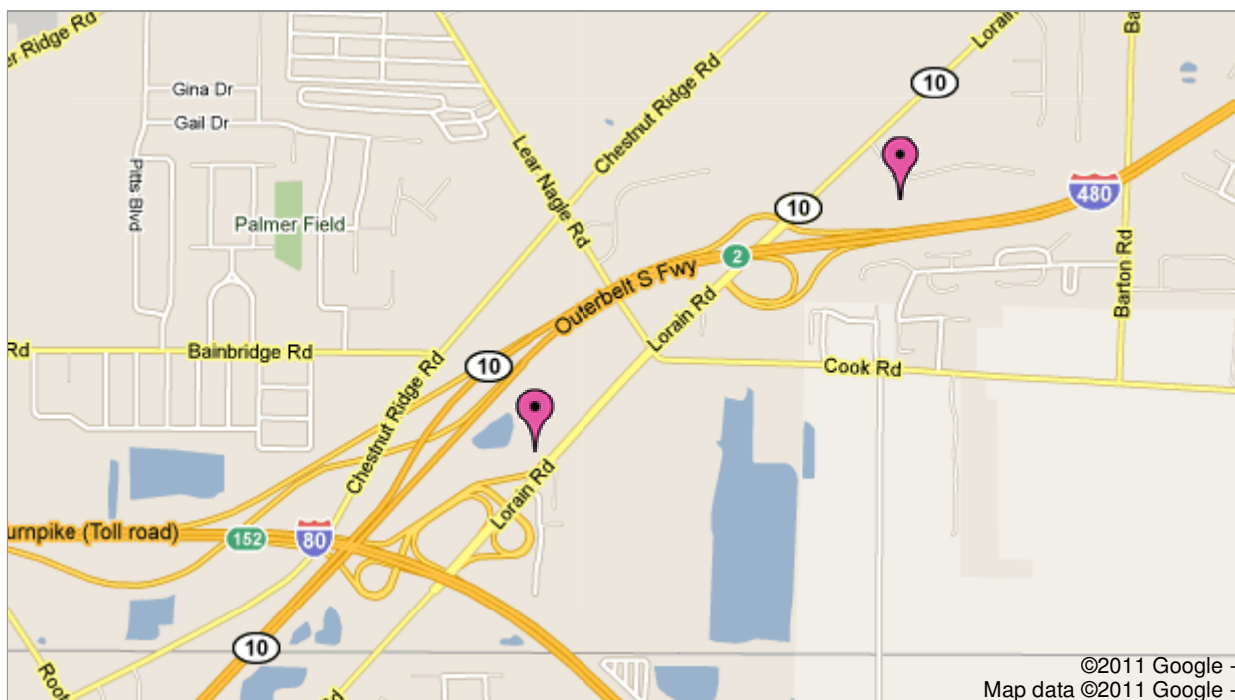
Thursday, January 27, 2011

By MEGAN ROZSA
mrozsa@MorningJournal.com

ELYRIA — Students in the eastern portion of Lorain County will soon have the ability to attend a Lorain County Community College campus closer to home.

Pending an approval vote from the state controlling board, the college plans to build a new facility in North Ridgeville in the 2012-13 school year, college Vice President Marcia Ballinger said.

After the board of trustees approve the project, it goes to the controlling board for approval. The money to build a new facility and the \$1.8 million to buy the land comes from capital funds from the state, not operating dollars, Ballinger said. There is no estimate yet for building costs.



View [New LCCC Campus in North Ridgeville](#) in a larger map

The facility will be built on 7 acres at the intersection of Interstate 480 and Lorain Road.

The plan to build the North Ridgeville facility has been in the college's Vision 2015 plan since 2007.

"Research showed that that's one of our most under served areas with regard to the college," Ballinger said. "We opened the Wellington campus a couple years ago. That was our first priority because the residents in the south had difficult time gaining access to the college. Then the most eastern part of the county was our second priority."

Another reason LCCC wants to build this facility is because the main campus on Abbe Road in Elyria has experienced a 120 percent increase in enrollment in the past decade, Ballinger said. The main Elyria campus was meant to accommodate 6,600 students and is now serving more than 16,000 students per semester.

The North Ridgeville facility will offer credit and non-credit courses via live and distance-learning instruction, provide complete enrollment, registration and financial aide services and provide career and employment services workshops.

"One thing we find is that there are those who go to college part time and work part time and have a family," Ballinger said. "We're working to create opportunities for higher education closer to where they are because that's important to them."

North Ridgeville Mayor David Gillock said LCCC will make a great addition to the community.

"We're real excited about it," Gillock said. "LCCC is such a significant part of Lorain County and we're glad to have them here. It makes it very convenient for our students to do some distance learning while staying in the community."

The eastern edge of North Ridgeville has also attracted EMH Healthcare System. The hospital purchased property in the area a couple years ago, EMH spokeswoman Kristen Davis said. However, the project has been put on hold.

"We have no plans to start building, but we do own the property," Davis said. "When we are ready, we will definitely announce it."

The college board of trustees will make a final vote on building the facility at today's meeting. They hope final approval will come from the controlling board by late next week.

URL: <http://www.morningjournal.com/articles/2011/01/27/news/mj4020792.prt>

© 2011 morningjournal.com, a **Journal Register** Property