

Jerseyville native hired, will help city plan for Mid-American business park

Jerseyville's decision to hire a city native lends some perspective to the significance of a planned business park at the city's outskirts.

Bob Manns was selected as the new public works director by the Jerseyville City Council. He officially stepped into the role June 1.

"This is a new position," Jerseyville Mayor Bill Russell said in a statement. "We had a city engineer and a supervisor of water and sewer departments in the past. Those positions were vacant, and we were looking at how to best fill them keeping our long-term vision for growth in mind. We decided to create a Public Works Director position, and we knew we wanted someone in that position that had a solid engineering and planning background as well as a working knowledge of local, state and federal funding sources for the projects we have coming."

Manns knows Jerseyville, and he knows how to advise the community as it continues to grow, the mayor said.

Mid-American International Gateway is a multi-million-dollar, 1,400-acre rail-served logistics park development underway east of the existing Kansas City Southern rail line that passes through rural Jerseyville on its southeast side near Crystal Lake Road.

Manns will be directly involved in the long-term planning of all the city's projects, including the continued rollout of the Mid-American International Gateway development, Russell said.

A 1989 Jersey Community High School graduate, Manns received his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering



Jerseyville Mayor Bill Russell and the city's new Public Works Director Bob Manns look over city infrastructure maps and talk about the pending Mid-American International Gateway logistics park. Photo courtesy Jerseyville Economic Development Council

in 1993 from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Acquiring his Illinois Professional Engineer license in 1998, Manns obtained his Missouri Professional Engineer license in 2017.

In late October 1996, Manns joined Heneghan and Associates, P.C. He assumed the role as the firm's president in June 2013, when founder Dean Heneghan retired.

He also serves as the president of Jersey School District 100's Foundation board, a role he has held since 2015. Manns is a long-standing member of the Jersey County Business Association as well, serving as its chair in 2013.

He and his wife Kelly have four children ranging from 17 to 24 years old.

New microscope builds capability of surgeries at HSHS St. Elizabeth's

By ALAN ORTBALS

HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon recently acquired a Leica OHX surgical microscope — commonly referred to as a blue light microscope — to improve its capabilities in brain and spinal surgeries.

This is a game changer, St. Elizabeth's executive director of surgical services Sue Holloway says, because, when teamed with the FL400 filter, it uses fluorescent light to differentiate between malignant and healthy tissue.

The goal in brain surgery, of course, is to remove every bit of malignancy without taking healthy tissue in the process. It can be hard, however, to tell healthy and malignant apart even with a standard surgical microscope. The Leica makes that task much easier.

"With the Leica microscope and FL400 filter, the normal tissue appears blue and the tumor tissue appears pink," Holloway said. "So, this new microscope makes it so much better to resect these tumors without damaging any adjacent normal tissue."

Standard procedure after these surgeries, Holloway said, is to take an MRI to see if all of the tumorous growth was successfully removed. If not, the skull must be opened to get what was missed. While the follow up MRI will still be performed, this new technology will make it much less likely that a second operation will be necessary, according to Holloway.

Such technology is expensive and when one of the hospital's neurosurgeons came to Holloway last year to seek the acquisition of the new microscope, she turned to the HSHS St. Elizabeth's Foundation for funding. The Foundation's board was quickly convinced of the importance of the



Neurosurgeons Dr. Nicholas Poulos, left, and Dr. Aziz Alali will be implementing use of the new equipment at the HSHS Medical Group Multispecialty Care - St. Elizabeth's in O'Fallon.

Leica and the benefits it would provide to St. Elizabeth's patients and agreed to the purchase. In fact, the Foundation, which conducts capital campaigns and receives donations from numerous individuals and businesses, has granted about \$700,000 to various departments for equipment purchases this year alone.

The Leica is not just useful for brain surgery but for spinal surgeries as well. St. Elizabeth's neurosurgeons will train on the new equipment and will go to New York to participate in Leica-aided surgeries before returning to O'Fallon to implement them here. Holloway said she expected the blue light-aided surgery to begin at St. Elizabeth's later this summer.

"We do quite a bit of neurosurgery here, but I don't think many people know that it is one of our more robust practices," Holloway said. "Many patients don't want to have to go over to St. Louis to have these complicated medical procedures. Now they won't have to. I think we're really fortunate that we're able to serve our patients for all of their neurosurgical needs."

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