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## Focus on local business AssureRx



AssureRx CEO Jim Burns announced Wednesday the Mason-based company will move into 10,000-square feet of office space at the Mason Community Center on Mason-Montgomery Road. STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL PITMAN

# 'High-paying jobs' coming to Mason

Business partnership to create up to 100 jobs in next two years.

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MASON — AssureRx will expand into the heart of Mason when it moves into the Mason Community Center later this year, and it will add new “high-paying jobs,” company officials said Wednesday morning.

Company and city officials announced the move into a 10,000-square-foot office space in the community center that already has tenants such as Tri-Health, Group Health Associates and Bethesda Physical Therapy. AssureRx is a personalized medicine company that specializes in pharmacogenetics.

“We’ve been able to quadruple our work force over the past year, and we’re going to grow significantly over the next couple of years — and this space is going to allow us to do that,” said Don Wright, AssureRx executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Company officials said they expect to add 30 new jobs in its first year at the community center, and by 2014 will have more than 100 employees, with at least 80 working at the community center.

At the beginning of the year, the Mason-based company had 11 employees and now they are up to between 40 and 45, Burns said.

The partnership with the city is important to “nurture a young, innovative health care company,” said AssureRx CEO Jim Burns.

“It’s our goal here is to work with the community and to not only inspire our employees and customers, but to inspire a community,” he said.

The partnership with AssureRx is unique to the city, said Mason Vice Mayor David Nichols, who chairs the council’s economic development committee.

“This economic environment requires some new economic development tools to attract and retain businesses,” Nichols said. “Mason Community Center coupled with a leadership team that understands the dynamic needs of high-tech, entrepreneurial companies has propelled Mason to a new class of business attraction

and retention.”

He said the ability to “recognize an opportunity when it comes knocking” is important, “but it also takes a lot of hard work.”

The move from AssureRx’s Columbia Road location to the community center is expected to be made in December, and is possible because of a \$1.2 million loan through the Innovation Ohio Loan Fund. The fund is part of Ohio’s Third Frontier, which is the state’s commitment to create new technology-based products, companies, industries and jobs.

Wright said successes of companies like his needs to happen for the region to be successful.

“We need to build that critical mass of successful companies because then what happens is it all feeds on itself and everybody is brought up by that community success,” Wright said. “If you think of other regions, like Silicon Valley, those places started with a lot of little companies, like AssureRx, that all became big companies like we’re becoming.”

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