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Dr. Robert Peters

by Kathryn Eakens January 8, 2010

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ROUND ROCK — With the recent influx of new hospitals and higher education institutions that offer health education programs, Round Rock is quickly emerging as a center for health care.

But when Dr. Robert Peters founded his local practice in 1972, his office was the only healthcare option in Round Rock.

"When I came to Round Rock there was no other physician in town, and I was the only doctor in the city for three years," Peters said. "There was the clinic in Georgetown, and then everyone else had to go into Austin."

Born in Austin in 1933, Peters was exposed early to the field of medicine by his father, Dr. Robert Peters Sr. As a doctor of osteopathic medicine, like his father, Peters received extra training in the musculoskeletal system, which allows physicians to have a better understanding of the ways an illness or injury in one part of the body can affect another.

"We believe that the body is a unit, and we try to coordinate all the services to promote overall wellness," Peters said.

Over the past 37 years, Peters has seen Round Rock's population and healthcare reputation grow—the city had fewer than 3,000 residents in 1972—and he played an instrumental role in bringing Round Rock its first hospital.

"You grow with the town, and after not too long, the need for more acute medical care became evident, so we started actively campaigning for a hospital," Peters said. "The hospital opened in 1983 and has since developed from a community hospital to a first-class institution. Beginning in January, St. David's Round Rock Medical Center will be a Level II trauma hospital."

Since RRMCC's establishment, Peters has served many roles at the hospital—including chief of staff, vice chief of staff and chairman of the department of medicine—and currently serves on the board of trustees.

Since 1972, Peters has also spent most of his Friday nights in the fall walking the sidelines as the Round Rock High School football team physician, for which he was awarded Round Rock ISD's first Lifetime Partnership Award in 2008.

"Because there was no other doctor in town, I felt a responsibility to provide medical care in case there were any injuries," Peters said. "Being on the sidelines is kind of like family practice—you never know what you're going to see next."

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 **Local Impacts**

Relocations: El Pollo Rico

El Pollo Rico will relocate to 981 E. Palm Valley Blvd. from 1702 N. Mays St. in December. El Pollo Rico sells charcoal-grilled chicken as well as tacos, tortas and quesadillas. Hours of operation are 8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily. [more »](#)

Dec 26, 2014 Round Rock | Pflugerville | Hutto Impacts

Coming Soon: Fire & Ice - Pizza Bar

Fire & Ice - Pizza Bar will open at 2601 S. I-35. Ste. B300, in the Boardwalk Shopping Center by the end of December. Fire & Ice will be a fast-casual concept offering pizza, salads and wings as well as a full bar featuring custom cocktails. [more »](#)

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Coming Soon: Fuzzy's Tacos

Fuzzy's Tacos will open at 1310 Round Rock Ave. in March. The business will offer fast-casual Baja-style tacos and burritos as well as offer a full bar. This will be the restaurant's fourth location in the Central Texas area. [more »](#)

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Peters also faces down the unexpected in his personal life. An avid big-game hunter, he has been on eight African safaris, as well as hunting trips to New Zealand, Fiji and Alaska in the past 10 years.

"The hardest hunt I ever made was the brown bear hunt in Alaska. I was 74 years old, climbing a mountain in the snow and wondering, 'What am I doing here?'" Peters said.

Some of the animals on display in his 1,000-sq. ft. trophy room are a cape buffalo, an elephant, a brown bear and Peters' most prized trophy—a leopard.

"I got my leopard three years ago—it took me six years to find one," he said. "They are very elusive."

One animal Peters has a special spot in his heart for is his dog, Honey Bear, who accompanies him to the office each day.

Peters has no plans to retire from his many jobs any time soon.

"One of my biggest problems is that I can't say no," he said.

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