Moving should be complete by Jan. 1 if all goes well

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entrance and a firewall separating the court area from classrooms, will likely cost more than \$250,000. But until the City Council approves hiring an architect, a firm figure won't be available.

Public Works Director Walter Veselka said the changes needed in the building would be necessary for any sort of office use. When they're done, he said, any office could be put there.

The city's Building Committee said it the former school later. might eventually want to move the court

as part of an effort to bring together a number of functions under its roof.

City Councilor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu said the former school would be a perfect spot for the court, which serves Bristol, Plainville and Plymouth. It's more centrally located than the senior center, she said.

Another councilor, Henri Martin, said officials can explore putting the court in

"It's really

WHIT BETTS

coming down to

crunch time,"

into the old Memorial Boulevard School leasing by providing a price for enough space to house a courtroom, a reception area, two conference rooms, bathrooms, private office space for the judge and his assistant as well as room for up to nine support personnel, equipment and

Rousseau said the price of renting for five years came out to about the same as renovating the city-owned space. After consulting with Cockayne, Finance Chairwoman Cheryl Thibeault and oth-The city asked landlords to bid on ers, he dropped the idea of leasing space. com.

Thibeault said it was more cost-effective to move the court to city-owned space. "It made fiscal sense," she said.

Probate Court Judge Andre Dorval and others have pushed to move the court somewhere that would offer more privacy for people who are sometimes struggling in estate and child custody

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Debate continues on hospital bill

By JUSTIN MUSZYNSKI

STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL — The fear that legislation concerning new rules on nonprofit hospital conversions to for-profit entities will come down to the final moments of the current General Assembly session appears to be coming to fruition.

The proposed bill, which made it through the Public Health Committee last month by a vote of 16-9, made it to the Senate before it was referred to the committee on judiciary Tuesday.

"It's really coming down to crunch time," said Bristol state Rep. Whit Betts. "This is one of those bills that could come down to the final day. We haven't even taken the budget up yet and I'm sure the budget will have to get done before this."

The judiciary committee, Betts said, will likely be addressing any sort of penalties or fines associated with the current language of the bill.

"Normally when a bill is referred to a committee this late in the session it goes there

to die," Betts said, "but I can here.'

Hospita1 officials have repeatedly said the bill will dictate whether or not a deal can go through that would see State Representative Bristol Hospital, Waterbury Hospital,

Manchester Memorial Hospital the hospital conversion bill and Rockville General Hospital acquired by Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare Corp. As a result of health care systems to create the deal these institutes would become for-profit.

The bill, as it reads now, puts a number of provisions on hospitals looking to make this conversion. It also forbids any conversions that aren't applied for prior to Oct. 1 of this year.

Trip Pilgrim, senior vice president of Acquisition and Development for Tenet, has previously said the language in the bill would prevent the Justin Muszynski can be reached transaction that Tenet hopes to carry out.

Bristol Hospital officials assure you this is not the case are still hopeful, however, that the finalized version of this

bill won't preclude Tenet from investing millions of much-needed dollars into various hospitals.

"We are optimistic that the final version of

that moves through the legislature will allow hospitals and strategic partners that allow them to adapt and grow in this rapidly changing health care environment," said Bristol Hospital spokesman Chris Bovle.

"We have been working closely with the legislative leadership to craft a bill that will hopefully meet all our collective needs."

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DEEP offers advice on ways to protect small family pets

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where they were treated for serious neck injuries, The coyotes' teeth left holes in the dogs' necks. Chewy got a rabies booster shot.

Both small dogs, Burgess said, required surgical drainage tubes in their necks. Scruffy also suffered injuries to his belly and shoulder.

Burgess said Lilly, a 10-pound bichon frise, and Scruffy, a 20-pound terrier mix, are lucky to be alive.

"If their (throat) wounds had been a quarter-inch more either way the bites would have severed their jugulars and they would have bled to death," he said. "Now they're healing with drain tubes in their throats."

According to information from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website, Scruffy and Lilly are just the right size to be the target of coyotes, which now roam Connecticut's woods in large numbers.

Covotes will attack and kill pets, especially cats and small dogs. The agency advises that cats be kept indoors, especially at night, and that small dogs be kept on a leash and

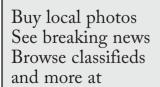
under close supervision when taken outside. The website suggests installing a kennel or coyote-proof fencing to protect pets that can roam a yard.

It also stresses that people should never feed coyotes and should never leave food or pet food outside.

DEEP recommends frightening coyotes away by making loud noises — shouting, using an airhorn, banging pots and pans — and acting aggressively — waving arms, throwing sticks, spraying with a garden

The animals are most active at night, the DEEP website says, but can be active during the day, particularly if they are rearing young and during the longer days of summer. Daytime activity alone is not indicative of rabies, and coyotes have low susceptibility to the raccoon, or mid-Atlantic, strain of rabies found in Connecticut.

It's rare for coyotes to attack people, the DEEP website says.



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