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Dr. Tom Kim hosting 9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Tourney proceeds to benefit The Free Medical Clinic of America

Dr. Tom Kim invites Knoxville area golfers to join him Wednesday, Sept. 20, for a round at Egwani Farms Golf Course. That's the venue for the ninth installment of the tournament that bears his name.

The Dr. Tom Kim Charity Golf Tournament was launched in 2009 and has become the main fund-raising event each

year for The Free Medical Clinic of America, which Dr. Kim founded 24 years ago. The clinic provides health care for uninsured working adults in Knox and surrounding counties. Eligible patients pay nothing for the treatment they receive. To cover its operating costs, the clinic depends on tournament proceeds and

donations from individuals, businesses and other charitable organizations.

Participants in the tournament, a best-ball event, will receive breakfast, lunch (from Buddy's Bar-B-Q and McAlister's Deli), beverages and snacks, along with a gift bag of valuable merchandise and a quality embroidered golf shirt. They can also compete for prizes, including the \$25,000 grand prize, a 2017 Kia Sportage SUV from Rusty Wallace Via, for making a hole-in-one on the designated Par 3. Lesser prizes will go to players making a

hole-in-one on any other Par 3.

Other prizes will be awarded to members of the top three teams and winners of several contests - longest-drive, putting and closest-to-the-pin on at least three of the Par 3s.

The tournament planning committee has added a new contest this year, the Point Blank Challenge. For \$5, players will get three shots at a target. If they hit any part of the target area, they win a prize, with the top prize going to the player who

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Ambulance service contract renewed in split vote

By Mike Steely
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Although many were predicting that ambulance service in Knox County would go up for bids instead of renewing AMR-Rural/Metro's five-year contract, the Knox County Commission voted to continue with the company in a split 7-4.

The vote came last week following the August 21 work session when it appeared the majority of commissioners wanted to postpone a renewal decision or open the service contract up for bids. In the week between meetings the commissioners began receiving correspondence in support of AMR-Rural/Metro from the Knox County and Farragut mayors, the sheriff, hospitals and others.

The pressure to renew apparently changed some minds.

Behind the scenes there were rumors of rewards for votes including positions such as chairman and vice chairman when the commission reorganizes in September. One commissioner told The Focus that he would not take one of the positions even if nominated. Chairman Dave Wright mentioned "pressure from PR people" in the letters of endorsements and said that he arrived home "irritated" following the work session renewal discussions. He said he began asking private citizens about their opinions.

"Every citizen I talked to asked me to look at it," he said of the contract and renewal request.

AMR-Rural/Metro officials mentioned the company's response to Hurricane Harvey by saying that 16

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Ground broken for new Morning Pointe Assisted Living



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Morning Pointe officials are joined by Knox County and Knoxville City officials in breaking ground for a new 80 resident Assisted Living and Memory Care facility 9649 Westland in West Knoxville. The new facility of two buildings should open in the fall of next year. The company operates seventeen elderly living locations in Tennessee including one in Lenoir City and in north Knoxville near the Tennova Hospital on Emory Road.

By Mike Steely
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About 100 people attended the groundbreaking last Tuesday for the new Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care Center on Westland Drive near the Pellissippi Parkway. The West Knoxville facility began Phase One of the project and is the fifth such facility by the company in East Tennessee.

Construction on the 18-acre site will bring 200 jobs and, when completed, the center will employ 125 healthcare staff when it opens in the fall of 2018.

Co-founders Franklin Farrow and Greg A. Vital welcomed guests and described the expanding company's 28 facilities in five southeastern states. The Morning Pointe facility will be a one-story building of 58,000 square feet with 80 assisted living apartments with various floor plans. Later, in Phase 2, a separate Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of

Excellence will feature 60 apartments.

Morning Pointe currently has nearby locations in Clinton, Lenoir City and in Powell near the Tennova Hospital.

Also speaking during the groundbreaking were Patricia Robledo, Business Support Liaison for Knoxville's Mayor Madeline Rogers; Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett; Mark Field, senior vice president of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce; and Janice Wade-Whitehead, executive director of Alzheimer's Tennessee.

"Everyday 10,000 people turn 65," Vital told the crowd. He went on to say that Morning Pointe Centers are "almost as important to the families as to the residents."

The center will feature physical and occupational therapies, life enrichment programming and Alzheimer's memory care services. Residents will enjoy premier amenities, fine dining with local, farm-fresh ingredients and the highest quality of



The new Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care Center will provide 80 residential units and is expected to open on Westland Drive in the fall of next year. Rendering courtesy of Amy Clark.

care. The Morning Pointe Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the company, was founded in 2014 and connects educational and wellness initiatives, creates community partnerships and supports caregivers in its mission to advance the care of seniors.

The new Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care location is adjacent

to Shoreline Community Church. Anyone wanting more information may contact Amy Clark, Corporate Communications Director for Independent Healthcare Properties, LLC, at (423) 208-9684.

Additional information is available online at www.morningpointe.com.

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