

Date set to break ground for Poinciana emergency center



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Submitted image

The above image is an artist's rendering of the Poinciana Medical Center for which there will be a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 11 a.m. The emergency department, shown at right in the drawing, will be built first. The new facility will be affiliated with the Osceola Regional Medical Center in Kissimmee.

Regional Medical Center, which is operated by the Hospital Corporation of America, or HCA, based in Nashville, Tenn.

In addition, the facility will include a 16-slice CT, radiography and fluoroscopy room, ultrasound facility, a laboratory, and a pharmacy. The structure will include an EMS entrance and helicopter pad for rapid transport of critically ill patients to Osceola Regional Medical Center in Kissimmee.

"Poinciana Medical Center will be a milestone in the development of our community," Keith Laytham, spokesman for Poinciana Residents For Smart Change, said. "We especially appreciate the efforts of the Friends of Poinciana Hospital, Osceola Regional Medical Center and our government officials who worked so hard to make this happen.

Fernando Valverde, founder of Friends of the Poinciana Hospital, a group that disbanded last year once hospital plans were finalized, in an email said that on Jan. 3 Osceola Regional Medical Center's COO David Cashwell, along with Vanessa Guevara, center marketing director, met with him, Annette Brown-Best, co-founder of the friends group, and Cindy Rogers, group board member, to confirm the groundbreaking.

Valverde also said recruitment and hiring for the Poinciana emergency facility would likely begin in the summer through the Osceola Regional Medical Center website.

"A meeting is also scheduled with Poinciana Economic Development Alliance officers Nick Murdock and Wendy Farrell and HCA to discuss local hiring for construction," Valverde said.

In an email, Brown-Best said the groundbreaking is exciting news for the Poinciana community.

"It was truly a labor of love and is a dream come true," she said.

HCA will make a total investment in Poinciana Medical Center of approximately \$65 million. Once fully operational, the center will employ approximately 200 full-time employees.

The architect for the project is Earl Swenson Associates, of Nashville, Tenn.; the civil engineering consultant is Hanson, Walter & Associates, of Kissimmee; and the general contractor is Robins & Morton, of Orlando.

More on the medical center

The Poinciana Medical Center, according to the press release, will be a two-story, 90,000-square-foot building with 24 private medical-surgical beds and a six-bed intensive care unit. In support of both inpatient and outpatient care, the facility will provide a full range of acute care services including diagnostic imaging, inpatient and outpatient surgery, cardiac catheterization, laboratory, pharmacy and a full range of support services.

"We are eager to commence the anticipated phased hospital for the Poinciana community" Kathryn J. Gillette, Osceola Regional Medical Center CEO, said. "The opening of the first phase with its freestanding emergency department will greatly

By **Marvin G. Cortner**

Editor

SHARE

A "dream come true" and "a milestone" for the community" is how local Poinciana officials see the recent announcement about the groundbreaking for the new Poinciana Medical Center on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 11 a.m.

The new facility in this community of about 84,000 people that stretches into both Osceola and Polk counties will be built at the corner of Cypress Parkway and Solivita Boulevard in Poinciana. The first phase of the center, a freestanding emergency department, is expected to open in early 2013, according to an Osceola Regional Medical Center press release. The emergency department will be 11,000 square feet and house 12 exam rooms.

The facility will be affiliated with the Osceola

enhance access to quality medical care for the community and provide a positive economic impact to the surrounding communities.”

The campus of the medical center also will house a freestanding medical office building with leasable space for physicians and other healthcare providers. Approximate square footage and lease rates are to be determined, according to hospital officials.

Founded in 1968, Nashville-based HCA (Hospital Corporation of America) is a company comprised of locally managed facilities that includes about 163 hospitals and 109 freestanding surgery centers in 20 states and Great Britain and employing approximately 183,000 people.