

Construction visible at new medical center site

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Staff Writer

CHESTER — Kent Island residents almost certainly have noticed the tall machine at the construction site of the new Anne Arundel Medical Center Health Services and Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department buildings.

The machine is a pile driver being used at the future site of AAMC Health Services-Eastern Shore on Kent Island. According to Steve Clark, vice president of business development for Anne Arundel Health Systems, Willow Construction Company is installing footer pilings into the ground. When the pilings are all in place, workers will pour the foundation of the new building.

AAMC Health Services broke ground on the site in November. When completed, the building will be 55,000 square feet and will be classi-

fied as an ambulatory care facility.

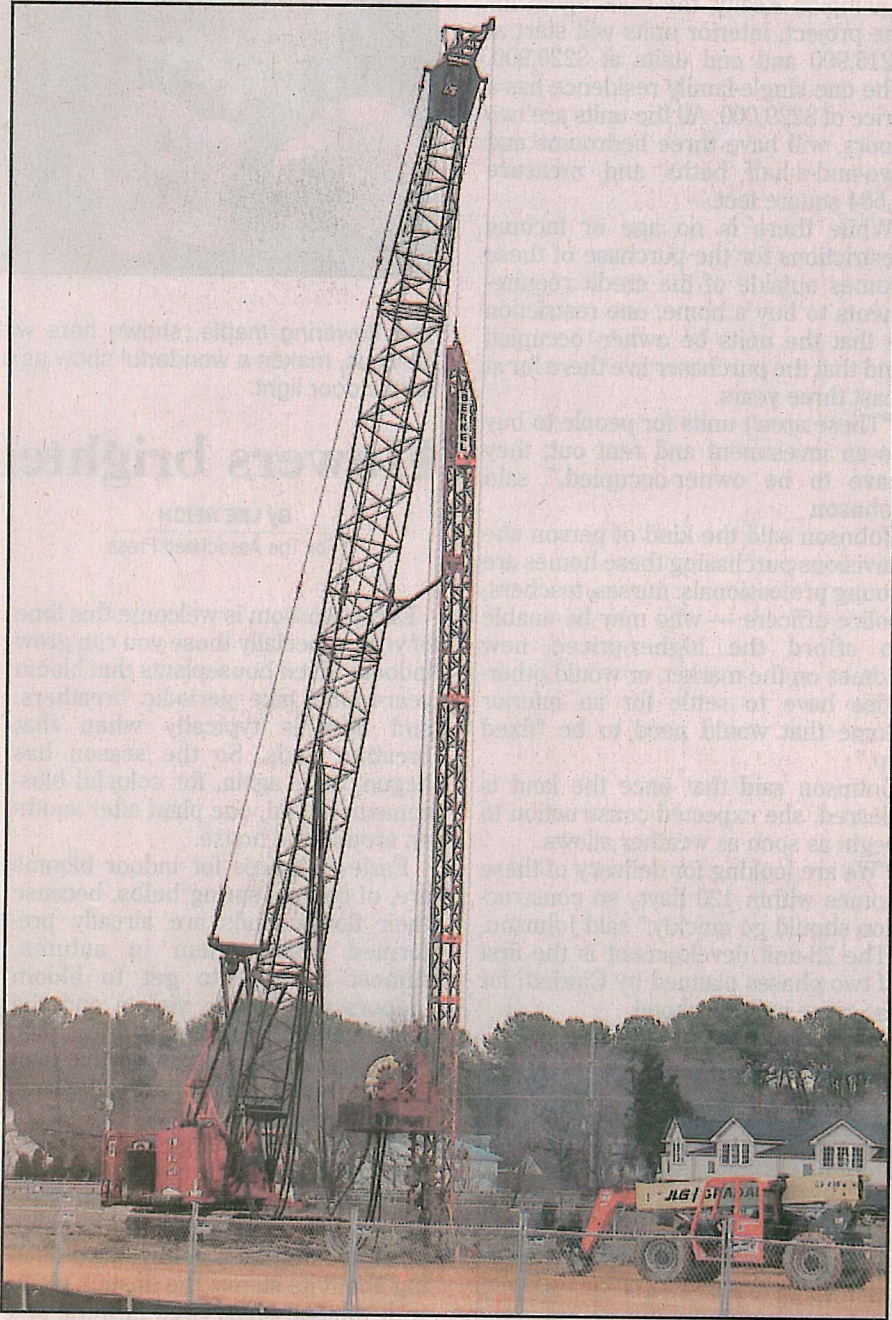
Clark said due to legal terminology, the building will not be called a hospital, nor will it have an emergency room, but it will have a walk-in clinic for "immediate care." The building is expected to open in January 2008.

"The construction is under way and it is on schedule," said Clark.

The new facility may one day have an emergency room, but for now, the state has placed a two-year moratorium on new emergency rooms.

When completed, the new facility will offer full service radiology with MRI and CT diagnostics, lab services, ambulatory surgery, primary care, pediatric, cardiology, OB/GYN, pain management, perinatology, neurosurgery, orthopedic offices, wellness

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A pile driver is laying the foundation at the future site of Anne Arundel Medical Center's new facility on Kent Island. Construction is slated to be completed later this year.

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and birthing classes and community outreach events.

If you need an ambulance, you will be taken to one of the existing hospitals, but if the medical care you need does not require an ambulance, you will most likely be able to find it at the new facility, Clark said.

Clark said there will also be office space for private practices, but the details as to which

practices will be going in and what services they will offer is yet undetermined.

AAMC Health Services will share a parking lot with the new firehouse for KIVFD, which is also now under construction. The two projects are being developed on the same site and went through the Queen Anne's County Planning Commission as two faces of the same project.

The two projects worked very close together when in the planning stages.

"This has been a great relationship with the fire department," Clark said.