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Palm City vet takes his services to next level with new facility

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PALM CITY — For veterinarian Rex Sentell, one of his favorite daily activities is to walk from his Palm City Animal Clinic to the new construction site taking place next door.

As Sentell walks through the mass of steel, concrete and wood, he envisions the many services that the future site of the Palm City Animal Medical Center will be able to provide throughout the community.

Construction on the 13,700-square-foot facility is expected to be completed in December. Sentell hopes the medical center can open by the end of December or early in 2012.

The state-of-the-art center will offer intensive care, grooming, boarding, a pharmacy and other services.

Sentell, 58, has been practicing veterinary medicine in Palm City since the early 1980s. His goal with the medical center is to expand services offered to animals and their owners.

"My biggest focus has been to try to improve on (our services)," he said. "The thing I want to offer is to be able to help out the animals even more."

The Knoxville, Tenn. native, who now lives in Palm City, said working with animals is an interest he developed at a young age.

"What brings satisfaction to me is being able to help the animals out and their (owners)," Sentell said. "It's nice to work around people that also care for the animals, too."

In addition to his veterinary work, Sentell has also been involved in a number of community projects. His involvement includes presenting local students with the Amy Sentell Character Award, named in honor of his late wife.

Sentell is now happily married to his second wife, Susan.

Although it's still a few months away, Sentell said he is eagerly anticipating the medical center's opening.

"When you see your dream come to reality," he said, "it really gets you going."

What's one thing people don't know about you that would surprise them?

Flying, diving and kayaking are some of his favorite activities. 'I guess I'm a little bit of an adrenaline junkie.'

What's the best advice you've been given?

'From my dad. Work hard, keep learning, do your best.'

Who is your hero or someone who has inspired you?

'My dad. He got a seventh-grade education. But he pushed all four boys to get educated and (be successful).'

What's your favorite childhood memory?

'Probably camping in the Smoky Mountains every year and being around the water. I really enjoy the water wherever I'm at.'

Who is your favorite musical artist?

'Simon and Garfunkel from my era is one of my favorites.'

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