



WORKERS demolish the former conference room and kitchen of the Rockbridge Area Health Center last week in preparation for the start of the center's expansion project. (Matt Paxton photo)

# It's Go Time For RAHC Project

The Rockbridge Area Health Center's \$6.6 million expansion project officially gets under way this week with a ceremonial ground-breaking Friday, May 4, at 9 a.m.

Preparation for the construction project has actually been ongoing for several weeks. Last week, a section on the north side of the building was razed. This area, originally a garage when the building housed a funeral

home, was the location for a conference room and kitchen for the health center.

A two-story section of the expanded/renovated facility is to be constructed on the west and north sides of the building. A new entrance

on the north side is to have a covered, handicapped accessible drop-off area for patients.

The construction project is to double the floor space

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of the center – from 10,000 to 23,000 square feet. The center will remain open during construction, which is expected to be completed in June of 2019. Administrative offices are operating in a trailer behind the building.

The expansion is a response to a dramatic increase in the number of patients being seen at the center. More than 5,100 patients made nearly 16,000 visits to the center last year – an increase of 35 percent over the preceding year.