



SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Breaking Ground for Smithville Regional Hospital Expansion

It was a celebration long awaited for the Smithville community and Bastrop County as hospital and government officials put the shovel in the ground on July 23 to launch the site preparation works for Smithville Regional Hospital's \$7 million expansion/remodel.

"We have completely outgrown our current space and the need to expand is essential," said Dennis Jack, Hospital CEO. "This project will enable the hospital to grow 65% over the current 44,000 sq. ft., giving it a total of about 73,000 sq. ft."

Current plans for the expansion include renovating/increasing the size of the Emergency Room, Outpatient Treatment area, Radiology Department, Cardiopulmonary Department and Administration. One new exciting addition to the Cardiopulmonary Department will include a Sleep Disorder Center.

Jack was joined by the Smithville Hospital Authority Board of Directors including: Bobby Hennesey, President; Dr. Earl Walborg, Vice President; Marcia McClure, Secretary/Treasurer; Tommy Higgins; Pat Donnelly; Dr. Steven Yount and Margaret Klarerner. In addition, Tex Middlebrook, Smithville City Manager; Gary Sage, Smithville ISD Superintendent; and Richard Pruitt of the Smithville Church of Christ participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Early site preparations included connections to the sanitary and domestic water systems and the creation of two new parking lots that will accommodate 125 vehicles. These services had to be completed before construction could begin on the expansion/remodel. Getting the site prepared for construction is parallel to the output specifications being completed and the ongoing procurement process helps to accelerate the timeline for completion of the Hospital.

“Our current hospital, after many years of service to Bastrop county and surrounding communities, has reached its capacity in dealing with increasing patient volumes,” said Jack. “The new expansion/remodel will be able to offer more modern and efficient healthcare to residents in our region.”

The expansion will be complete in the Summer of 2004.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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