

McLaren to Raze Two Buildings

Demolition part of expansion preparations

- Steve Foley(231) 439-9397 - sfoley@petoskeynews.com Sep 19, 2017



Steve Foley/News-Review The Blum Hospitality Building, shown at right, is one of two buildings set to be razed at the McLaren Northern Michigan campus.

.Two buildings owned by McLaren Northern Michigan and located near the Burns Professional Building are expected to be demolished Wednesday.

Both the Conway House and Blum House, also referred to as the Blum Building, will come down as part of the hospital's ongoing \$120-\$170 million expansion project which began this summer.

The expansion and renovation of the hospital is expected to be completed in summer 2022. The razing of both buildings Wednesday will provide more parking for both McLaren visitors and patients.

Greg Potter, facilities director at McLaren Northern Michigan, said both buildings had been affiliated with health care for more than 20 years.

“The buildings only had three tenants left,” Potter said. “The largest was Power IT and the other two were health care administrative support services and storage.”

Potter said the area where both buildings are located will be the site of a visitor parking lot for the new south wing main entrance.

“For everyone’s safety, the area will be fenced in during demolition and site preparation,” Potter said. “Sidewalks and crosswalks are available for safe commuting to and from parking lots and buildings surrounding the area.”

Team Elmer’s, based in Traverse City, is the demolition contractor. Demolition and cleanup are expected to be completed by the end of November, when Potter said the hospital expects the new parking lot to open.

McLaren will remain fully operational during the expansion and renovation, which will include more than 170,000-square feet of additional space and 92 additional private patient rooms

The Conway House was named after William S. Conway, M.D., a well-known ophthalmologist in Northern Michigan who began practicing in the 1930s, while the Blum House was named in honor of Benjamin Blum, M.D., who joined the Burns Clinic staff in 1938.

On Monday, a new west colleague parking lot opened on campus at McLaren, as did shuttle service for staff which will run from 5 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The medical staff parking lot next to the Conway and Blum buildings closed, while parking spots within the hospital parking structure were reallocated along with new sign postings. ***Follow Steve Foley on Twitter @SteveFoley8.***

McLaren officials also noted that motorists should expect single lane closures on Jackson Street on Wednesday as the Blum and Conway buildings come down. Jackson Street will not close during the demolition process.

From Wednesday through Tuesday, Sept. 26, the existing parking structure will be resurfaced. The hospital expects several levels of the parking structure to be closed. Also, the Lake Street entrance to the parking structure will be the only one available during that time frame.

The hospital recommends colleagues use the new west lot and medical staff park in the former emergency department parking lot. McLaren colleagues were also asked to refrain from parking on city streets beginning Monday.