DeGraff Memorial ED expansion set to begin this summer
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With approvals this week from the North Tonawanda planning board, DeGraff Memorial Hospital is being prepped for a major renovation this summer.

Kaleida Health announced this week it expects to break ground in August on the project, including a $7.8 million expansion of the emergency department, a new waiting room area, more family space and renovations to the front lobby and gift shop. It’s the first major renovation at DeGraff since 1975.

With 70 beds, DeGraff reported volume growth of 8 percent in its emergency department. It’s the smallest among four hospitals in the $1.4 billion Kaleida system.

Additional plans call for updating the Tremont Street entrance to comply with disabilities regulations.

By June, planning firm Wendel should be done with construction documents for bidding out the project. The Pike Co. was named in March as construction manager.

In late July, the hospital will be relocating its clinics in preparation, with the WNY Geriatric Center and physician space to move to the third floor.

A groundbreaking is planned for August, with completion of the new ED expected in 12 to 14 months.