

Franklin County Building \$37M Forensic Sciences Center

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Franklin County Forensic Science Center will be a new \$37 million facility on the south side.

Franklin County is building a \$37 million morgue and forensic science center on the South Side.

The county will break ground Wednesday on the new 56,000-square-foot facility, which is being constructed at 2090 Frank Rd. The new facility will open in the first quarter of 2020 and replace the current morgue, which opened in 1975 near Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center.

The project is going up at the former Harmon Elementary School on an about-12-acre site near the intersection of Frank Road and Harrisburg Pike.

The new facility will have eight autopsy stations, expanded toxicology labs and conference space. It also will be built to LEED Silver certification, including electric vehicle plug-in spots and solar-ready rooftops.

The county is using Pizzuti Solutions – Pizzuti Cos.' public sector consultant – as a representative. Corna Kokosing and Elford are managing the construction, and Moody Nolan is the project architect.

Franklin County also is spending about \$175 million to construct a new jail at 2551 Fisher Rd. The first portion with 900 beds will be completed next year. It could be expanded to house as many as 2,000 beds.

The county is paying for both the morgue and the jail with proceeds from the quarter-cent sales tax it enacted in 2013.