

County approves Berlin Library construction

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(March 23, 2017) On the recommendation of the Berlin Brach Library team, composed of county department heads, library officials and construction crews, the county commissioners endorsed a contract for construction of a new facility to begin in June and open to the public in July 2018 with a price not to exceed \$6.25 million.

"I really appreciate the cooperation of the county commissioners and staff. We worked a long time to get to this point," Ron Cascio, president of the Worcester County Library Board of Trustees, said.

The price, arrived at through a competitive bid process on 33 different subcontractor projects, is 5.4 percent above budget.

Salisbury contractor Whiting Turner will act as construction manager on the project.

There are three main sources of funding for the new library: local, state and county. Locally, the library foundation raised \$425,000 in donations, which paid for the architectural services and the balance will contribute toward construction costs.

The state, via the department of ed-

ucation, awarded the project a grant in excess of \$1.78 million, plus the current state budget includes a \$50,000 line item for the project.

County Engineer Bill Bradshaw said the permitting process at both the town and state levels has begun.

The county ponied up \$2 million, including \$430,000 for acquisition of a 6.4-acre parcel of land on Harrison Avenue next to the Waystead Inn.

Early last week the Berlin mayor and City Council approved more than \$26,700 in waivers associated with the project. The town also provided \$75,000 in matching grant money,

and the Humphries Foundation added a \$150,000 two-to-one matching grant.

During the bidding process, some changes to the facility were made.

According to Bradshaw's memo to the commissioners, more than \$39,000 was shaved from the project by selecting a different roofing material, installing abuse-resistant drywall in the multipurpose room, and integrating HVAC controls differently than the proposal.

Bradshaw said the changes would add to the building's durability and facilitate maintenance.

Remediation of Berlin Falls to start Monday

(March 23, 2017) The first step in remediating Berlin Falls park starts on Monday with sampling of the ponds.

"We are excited to be at this stage in the development of this unique asset," Mayor Gee Williams said. "The ponds are a focal point of the property. This process will enable us to determine the best way to use them."

"We've partnered with volunteer scientists from the Thriving Earth Exchange to determine the types of bacteria present in the sediment," Town Administrator Laura Allen said. "In addition, we have a contract with EA

Engineering, Science and Technology to perform a geotechnical analysis of the ponds to enable us to determine the best approach to remediation and how much it will cost."

Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX) is an organization that partners earth and space scientists with community leaders to use a combination of science and local knowledge to solve challenges related to natural hazards, natural resources and climate change.

Berlin reached out to TEX last year for assistance with the Park.

"We couldn't resist the opportunity

to get free, expert technical advice for our town," Allen said. "We've been working with Dr. Ellen Silbergeld, a professor of environmental health science at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research centers around environmental issues related to the poultry industry in Delmarva. Recently, Silbergeld reached out to Dr. Jennifer Nyland, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Salisbury University, for assistance with the sampling process.

"EA will handle most of the sam-

pling process, removing sediment from the ponds," Allen said. "Several samples will be extracted specifically for bacterial analysis using a method outlined by Silbergeld. Our wastewater treatment labs will be used for some of the testing as well."

"A solid plan and cost estimate for the remediation work will put us in a good position to compete for grant funding," Williams said. "The Thriving Earth Exchange is a significant partner in this effort. I want to thank the scientific community for having the foresight to put this program in place."

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Gina Maria Barnes

memory this month raising awareness for colon cancer screenings, collecting change, selling bracelets and raising funds to donate to the comfort fund.



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TACO NIGHT

Noche de tacos

Fundraiser

Recaudador de fondos



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BUFFET

MARCH 31, 2017

31 de marzo de 2017

6pm-8pm

\$10 all U can eat

\$6 Children under age 11

Beef, Chicken & Fish Tacos

Beans & Rice

Guacamole Dip

Salsa & Chips

Hard & Soft shells



Soda & Water sold separately

