

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE



Don Campbell / HP staff

Construction continues on the new student dorms at the Lake Michigan College campus in Benton Township. LMC trustees this week awarded nearly \$1 million in bids for the project.

LMC award bids in dorm project

By RALPH HEIBUTZKI
H-P Correspondent

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College is turning its attention to the infrastructure and amenities side of building student housing — now that project plans are on track.

LMC board members awarded five bids Tuesday for excavation and landscaping, plus building an outdoor activity area, concession stand and bathrooms for the college's first-ever student housing, Beckwith Hall — which should be wrapped up by July 1, President Bob Harrison said.

The total package of improvements will cost \$979,675, and will come out of the college's capital budget, he said.

"As we're doing the student housing, we're doing the grounds irrigation system, and student activities

center — so, not only the physical grounds, but also, putting in a concession stand and changing areas for the sports teams," Harrison said. "So it'll support soccer, as well as baseball, and softball."

LMC broke ground for the 200-unit building last summer, which is expected to be ready this fall.

The successful bidders include CPM Construction of St. Joseph, which will handle the concession stand (\$371,535), excavation and paving (\$98,300) and plaza improvements (\$32,500); Beaudoin Electric of Sodus for lighting and electrical work (\$333,400); and Landscape Design Services of Holland for landscaping (\$143,940).

A model dorm room is available for viewing on campus, with the next chance coming Thursday, April 24 — and inquiries continue to come in at a

steady clip, Harrison said. "We're right on schedule with students interested in housing, as well as students looking to Lake Michigan College as a choice for their education — so we're very pleased. We're very optimistic," he said.

In a related move, the board split 6-1 in hiring Progressive Architects and Engineers of Grand Rapids at a maximum cost of \$565,000 — as well as reimbursable expenses for design work and preparing bid documents.

"We're looking at the whole campus, and what improvements we might make here, as far as space is concerned," said Anne Erdman, LMC's vice president of administrative services. "So part of the process will be determining the project itself."

Board President Dr. David Maysick joined Vice Chairman Paul Bergan,

Treasurer Michael Lindley, Secretary Mary Jo Tomasi and Trustees Judy Truesdell and Renee Williams in voting to hire Progressive, with Trustee Stephen Small dissenting.

"It was originally proposed that it would all be done with monies saved from other projects, and this is 50 percent more than that. It's too much money," Small said.

Progressive's work coincides with the promise of a \$16.4 million capital outlay grant from the state, which will cover half the costs if the application succeeds, Harrison said.

"They've (Progressive) been the college's architect for 15 or 20 years, so we're retaining them to look at projects that we have in the pipeline as well as facilities changes that we want to make here (at Napier Avenue), as well as the other two campuses," he said.