

Staying in the spotlight

LMC invests in Mendel lighting overhaul

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**
H-P Correspondent

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Visitors will find Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center a safer place with more reliable lighting after nearly \$400,000 worth of work.

LMC's Board of Trustees on Tuesday approved a \$392,000 contract with Hoekstra Electrical Services of Hamilton. The college had budgeted and identified both projects as priorities in its five-year capital improvement plan, President Bob Harrison said.

Both projects will be funded from cash reserves.

"We did the roofs first, so now, we're upgrading some of the (related) features. It's at that point where some infrastructure needs attention," he said after Tuesday's meeting.

Board members awarded bids for replacing the center's stage lighting, dimming rack and associated controls.

Excel Electric Inc. of Grandville submitted the only other bid, which came in at \$469,200.

The current system dates to about 1994 and is no longer reliable, a memo in Tuesday's board packet states.

"Systems failures have occurred (in) mid-performance, requiring one or

more system reboots to re-establish lighting controls," the memo said.

For that reason, the college asked vendors to submit an alternate bid — adding a front section of theater lighting — that's included in the final figure.

LMC Board Chairman David Maysick said he wasn't sure how often the lights have gone out this season, but said the problem has persisted enough to get the college's attention.

"If it happens once, it's a lot — if it's your play," he said.

The board awarded a bid for replacing an alarm panel in the center. The current panel is the original, but is now obsolete because the college can no longer get

spare parts for it, a memo in Tuesday's board packet said.

Beaudoin Electrical Construction Inc. of Sodus won the job with a bid of \$165,140, figures show.

The board authorized redesigning and renovating an unused space adjacent to the center's telecommunications area — which is on the building's north side, Harrison said.

"We have a distance learning classroom there as well as the TV production area, TV studio and storage space. We want to rework the storage space, so we're able to use it for classes," Harrison said.

The board fixed the project's cost at \$540,000, with a goal of finishing it by fall



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LMC Board Chairman

semester, and will work with its architectural firm, Progressive AE of Grand Rapids on the design.

What types of classes will fit into the renovated area remains to be seen, but the college will address that situation in due time, Harrison said.

"I'm not even sure what the instructional people have got in mind yet," he said.