

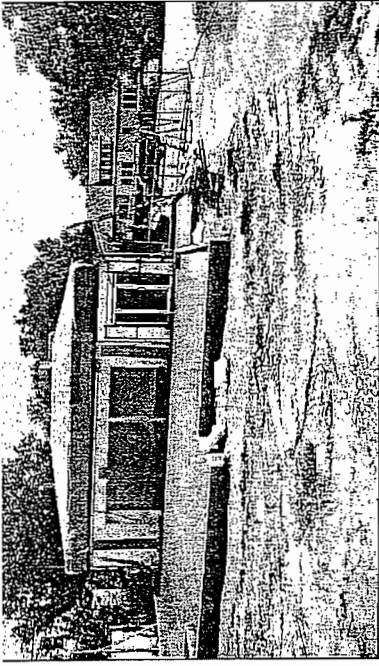
Early stages of construction on the library expansion here continue, while borough struggles with building permits have caused a bit of a delay.

Administrator William J. Bittner Jr. said the \$360,000 project, for which construction started in late June, will be done by mid-October, and the outstanding permits should be shored up by Tuesday.

Bob Kunkle of Woodbury City's construction department, which administers permits for this project, said he received papers Monday afternoon from the library's architect that will "hopefully be right."

"If it's correct, we'll issue a full permit," he said.

With foundation and footing permits previously granted for



AL SCHELL/Courier-Post
The library is closed during the construction project. The interior of the existing building will be renovated.

the project, contractors worked Monday on the foundation of the approximately 1,000-square-foot addition.

But they cannot yet renovate the existing 1,356-square-foot library's interior or build any more of the addition until plumbing and other structural permits are granted, Bittner

her attorney, Clifford Van Syoc, could not be reached Monday.

According to the county, Kirwan-Patterson was suspended for accepting an overnight stay in an Atlantic City hotel from a firm that does business with the county. Kirwan-Patterson's lawyers said she ultimately paid for the room with her own credit card.

In a court transcription of the Aug. 1 ruling, Kassel is quoted as saying there were no connections from the alleged harassments, which dated back to the early 1990s, to the 2006 suspension.

Kassel described the suit as a "prototypical frivolous lawsuit."

The claims in the lawsuit, See **LAWSUIT**, Page 4B

have been handicapped-accessible, he said.

Inside the closed library on Monday, shelves were covered in plastic and library employees, who are excited the expansion is finally coming to fruition, said they were somewhat stressed about the permit problems that have delayed the project two weeks.

"We haven't been able to do the shelf weeding and database cleanup we've needed to while it's closed," librarian Mary Ward said.

Ward said library board members have been meeting to decide about how to designate storage inside the expanded library, which was a major reason the project had been fought

See **LIBRARY**, Page 4B

The checkout is in the mail: Library adds to reach

By KRISTY DAVIES
 Courier-Post Staff

Gloucester County residents no longer have to trek to the library for the books they need or want to read.

The MailLit program, funded by a grant from the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative and the Gloucester County Library System, was launched June 16.

Library-card-holding residents can now have books, CDs, audiobooks and DVDs mailed to them at no charge. They can then drop the items off at the nearest branch of the GCCLS or pay the postage to mail them back in a provided envelope.

"We are always looking at innovative ways to provide library services," said Nancy Polhamus,

spokeswoman for the GCCLS. As of Friday, they have mailed out 626 packages to residents.

The MailLit program is available to residents who hold a card from any of the Gloucester County Library System branches or affiliated libraries — Mullica Hill, Glassboro, Greenwich, Logan, Swedesboro, East Greenwich and Newfield. It also includes communities that don't have libraries, such as Clayton and Elk, Polhamus said.

The Burlington County Library System launched a similar program, "Library in a Bag," at the same time after receiving the same grant from the SJRLC.

The Camden County Library currently does not offer the program, but is considering it after the results are released from the

MORE INFORMATION

Use MailLit by following these steps:

- You must be a cardholder of Gloucester County Library System
- Go to any of the branches to place the item on hold or visit www.gccls.org
- For any additional information or questions about MailLit, call (856) 223-6015 or e-mail maillit@gccls.org.

pilot program offered by the other two counties. The Cherry Hill library, serving one of the largest communities in Camden County, does not see a need for such a program.

"Cherry Hill members love to come to the library," said Katie Hardesty, spokeswoman for the Cherry Hill Library. "We're real-

ly a destination for people because we have so much going on at our location. We really haven't received any requests for a mailing program."

To use the MailLit program, residents can go online and when placing a book on hold, they can select which library branch to pick it up at or "mail."

"When the item is placed on hold, it is mailed by the end of the next day and usually arrives the following day," Polhamus said.

The MailLit program has many advantages, Polhamus said.

"If you're waiting for one of the latest best sellers instead of having it sit and wait for you, we can just mail it," she said. "This eliminates the problem of having books waiting on hold for

people to pick up. At this time or year, there are a lot of kids going back to school in September and have reading requirements that are requesting books."

Since Gloucester County has rural areas, the MailLit program can prove to be a great asset to residents who have to drive any distance to their nearest library branch.

"The feedback is very positive," Polhamus added. "We've had a couple of people comment that it saves them a trip and a couple of people have mentioned the high price of gas. It's a couple more miles they don't have to drive when trying to consolidate."

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