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Elsie Quirk Library in Englewood to undergo renovations

The Sarasota County Commission today awarded a \$408,933 contract to Jon F. Swift Inc. of Sarasota for renovations to the Elsie Quirk Library in Englewood. The building will remain open during construction, which is scheduled to begin this month and be completed in August. The contractor will be doing on-site preparation work starting next week.

The project includes alterations and renovations of the existing library, located at 100 W. Dearborn St. Opened in 1962, the library has been expanded and renovated several times.

Slated for demolition during this project are some interior walls, interior finishes and structural components. Construction includes new structural components, drywall and metal frame partitioning with finishes, interior windows and doors, plumbing, electrical and mechanical work.

A new Friends of the Library bookstore will be constructed in an existing exterior area, which has a roof.

Also, the reference desk and circulation desk will be combined, providing more seating area for library patrons. A dedicated area for young adults will be created, and all the public computers, except for those in the children's library area, will be placed in one location. The manager's office will be moved to the main level of the library, leaving room upstairs for a larger conference room and the addition of two public restrooms. After construction, Elsie Quirk Library will get the first automated check-in system in the county library system.

The contractor will try to minimize impacts to library activities during construction. Funding is provided by the penny surtax (1-cent sales tax).

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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