

Plans for new Agricola center near completion

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The planning phase for a new community center in Agricola is just about complete and construction bids will be solicited later this fall, according to Dist. Two supervisor Kelly Wright.

“We are still working on the community centers final layout with the designers and engineers. I want the building to handle both big and small community events along with along with serving the elementary school for future educational and civic programs.

“Parking is a very important element on this project to me; we are designing a parking layout for current and future demands,” Wright said. “There is still some tweaking for the overall site plan, but we are making real progress.

“After the survey and geo-tech work is complete, the next step will be meeting again with the superintendent and the school district staff to get their thoughts on the building’s exact footprint on the property. This is real teamwork between the School District, the County, and the State Legislature.

“Every time I mention this new community center, there is a real excitement with residents and business owners in the Agricola community.”

Wright collaborated with the George County school board and superintendent to put together a proposal for a community center, built on school district property at the Agricola Elementary School. He then gave that proposal to State Representative Manley Barton, who promised to work it into the state budget appropriations for funding.

Barton made good on his promise and legislature appropriated \$1.6 million for the project.

Ken Flanagan, county Community Development Director, reports the Agricola Community Center’s current design plans call for a 6,600 to 7,000 total sq. ft. building with a large assembly room of 3,900 square feet. This room will be designed so it may be portioned off into smaller rooms to suit event requirements. It will also have a full kitchen with commercial ice machine, a conference room/meeting room, a covered front entrance (porte cohere), full restrooms, an office/ Small meeting room, storage and mechanical rooms, as well as 65 parking spaces.

Flanagan added the final land survey and Geo-tech work will conclude next week, weather permitting.

The building will be available for business conferences, wedding receptions, birthday, anniversary and graduation parties, political rallies and other events important to the life of a vibrant community, according to Flanagan.

It is also being designed in mind with the school being able to use it for school assemblies and other events.

“The George County School District is so very excited about the construction of the new community center in Agricola,” School Superintendent Wade Whitney said. “Not only will this new facility attempt to meet the many needs if the Agricola community, but the partnerships developed among the county, the community of Agricola and the school district will be beneficial to all involved.”