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Washington-Centerville Library

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Work Continues at Woodbourne Library

Washington-Centerville Public Library officials recently announced that some exterior panels, installed during the Woodbourne Library renovation and expansion, have failed. Replacement panels, provided by the manufacturer at no cost, will be installed in the coming weeks.

“In the fall of 2018, a small bulge began forming in one of the newly installed exterior metals panels. Eventually the issue expanded to include all new panels at the south elevation of the Woodbourne Library and a limited number at the east elevation,” said Kevin McCurdy, Senior Associate at LWC Inc. Since that time, the Library Board of Trustees has been working with LWC Inc., Staffco Construction and Mapes, the panel manufacturer, to understand the issue and determine a corrective solution.

To date, Mapes has been unable to explain why the panels failed but suspects the failure relates to the thermal expansion and contraction of the panels. Mapes acknowledged the issue had occurred on other recent projects, and is providing free replacement panels to remedy the situation. The replacement panels are thicker and more rigid than the original panel. More importantly, Mapes has not had any instances where the thicker panels have failed in conditions similar to the installation at Woodbourne Library or anywhere else.

Staffco will remove the failed panels, add support structure for the new, heavier panels and install the replacement panels. The installation work will cost the Library approximately \$9,500. Work to replace the panels could begin later this month and will take approximately four weeks to complete. Staffco and the Library will work to minimize disruptions to Library business.

“The panel failure has in no way jeopardized the exterior of the building. The metal panels serve to provide a second layer of defense against water infiltration, so while the failed metal panels do not look great, there is no harm being done to the Library,” adds Mr. McCurdy.

For more information on Washington-Centerville Public Library, visit www.wclibrary.info.

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