

Bangor to get new \$1.2 million health facility

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BANGOR — Work on a new \$1.2 million community medical facility is scheduled to begin here next spring, according to Bangor City Manager Royce Downey.

The city administrator told the Bangor City Council Tuesday night that the 8,600-square-foot, bi-level building will be financed through a federal grant to the Migrant and Rural Community Health Association (MARCHA).

The health service center will be constructed adjoining the present MARCHA site located at the intersection of Charles and Railroad streets. The remainder of the chosen property west of the MARCA building to Division Street

will be utilized for parking.

The center is expected to be have the capability of serving up to 36,000 visits from people in Van Buren, Berrien and Cass counties. Parts of Allegan and Ottawa counties will also be eligible for service.

The council adopted motions to transfer the deed of the property to the Bangor Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for \$10. The DDA will transfer the property's title to MARCHA before construction begins in April.

MARCHA also operates similar clinics in Eau Claire, Benton Harbor and Holland. It is a private non-profit corporation that was established in 1972 for the purpose of providing out-patient care and

extended medical service to migrants and area residents. Medical, dental and nutritional counseling is part of the program.

Support comes primarily from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the state of Michigan, and from a sliding scale of fees and charges to patients. Dental care is paid for on a service basis.

City Clerk Norma Sutherby announced that Bangor's next municipal election will be held April 2. On that ballot will be the three-year council terms of Richard Watkins and Willard Collier.

Nominating petitions are available at city hall through Jan. 16. Candidates must collect at least the signatures of 30 registered city

voters. Petitions must be filed for validation by 4 p.m. on Feb. 13.

In other business, the council appointed Dr. Chuil Chang to the unsalaried position of city public health officer. Dr. Chang, formerly of Taiwan, is an internist and has maintained a local practice at 130 W. Monroe for the last two years.

Ervin Krenn of E. Monroe Street was appointed as Bangor's representative on the newly constituted Community Airport Authority Board that will be overseeing the operation of the South Haven airport.

The city announced that crews will be canvassing the community on Jan. 6 to pick up this year's crop of Christmas trees that have provided holiday spirit in residents' homes.