

# Princeton library deal inked

By GREG JORDAN

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**PRINCETON** — With a few strokes of a pen, a major step was taken Tuesday in the years-long effort to open a new public library in Princeton.

A construction contract that will turn the former post office along Mercer Street into the new Princeton Public Library was signed by Ann Stafford, president of the Princeton Public Library Board of Directors; Adam Sarver, owner of Main Street Builders; and Jack Fredeking, owner of the Fredeking/Stafford Construction Company. The project's estimated cost is \$2.5 million.

"It's really going to be a nice, state of the art building," Fredeking said. Work could begin within two weeks.

Once finished, the former post

office turned library will have more than 13,000 square feet of space, triple the present library's 5,000 square feet, said Library Director Connie Shumate. Tuesday's signing ceremony was a big step toward completing a project years in the making.

"This has been almost 10 years of planning and working, and now it's real," Shumate said.

Dewey Russell, chairman of the library fund drive, said the current total was approximately \$3.5 million. Having a contract in place will demonstrate to new donors that the project is moving forward, he added.

"We've kind of got our sights set on \$4.6 million. With the signing of the contract, we feel it will make the last bit move in very quickly," Russell said.

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