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Ewing spending \$2 mil on bath house, pavilions

By **JOAN GALLER**
Staff Writer

EWING — Two contracts totalling \$1,998,159 were awarded last night to two separate firms to renovate the Louis I. Kahn Trenton Bath House and Day Camp Pavilions and the associated snack bar and plaza, all located at the Ewing Senior & Community Center.

The funds come from \$2.45 million in grants provided last year, \$1.7 million from

Mercer County and \$750,000 from the New Jersey Historic Trust Fund.

Wu & Associates of Cherry Hill won the historic renovation project with its \$1.515 million bid, beating out the sole other bid for \$2,892,896 by Masonry Preservation Group Inc., which was found not qualified to bid.

DeSapio Construction Inc. of Frenchtown will handle the non-historic work to restore the snack bar and plaza. DeSapio's \$483,159 bid was the second

lowest of four submitted. The lowest bid was withdrawn after math errors were discovered that would cause great hardship to the bidder.

Both winning bids were endorsed by the project architect, township attorney, community services director, and Mercer County's planning staff.

Mayor Jack Ball, in anticipation of last night's vote, said the township wants the work finished "in time for this summer's pool season."

Located on the site of the former Jewish Community Center at 999 Lower Ferry Road off Parkway Avenue, the Trenton Bath House was designed in the 1955 by internationally renowned architect Louis I. Kahn.

Kahn's cross-shaped bath house with pyramidal roofs and the day camp pavilions were designed for the former Trenton Jewish Community Center, which was later sold to Mercer County in 2007 and given to Ewing Township.

The bath house and day camp pavilions were included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Kahn's bath house is revered worldwide for its architectural significance and welcomes a constant stream of international visitors, as Mayor Ball discovered a few years ago when he encountered a "busload of Italian visitors milling about the site." www.kahntrentonbath-house.org.