

Prince William Public Library  
Manassas, Va.

## Preserving history for the future

**T**he Friends of the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre is trying to build an alliance with Prince William County and the Park Authority. The goal behind the partnership is the salvation of Brentsville's 175-year-old historic courthouse complex.

The Park Authority directors are reviewing the proposal and we hope they will vote in favor of the trust.

Prince William County and Manassas have been working to increase tourism — along with Gov. George Allen who has been working to up tourism across the state. With such a vibrant history as this area has, what would be a better draw for tourists than renovated historic buildings?

The Board of County Supervisors voted last week to provide a \$25,000 match to a state grant to go toward the renovations. As well, more than \$8,000 was donated by the county Historical Commission.

The courthouse and jail made Brentsville the center of Prince William government for 72 years — from 1822-94.

Other historic structures have been renovated lately, but we'd like to see more.

Manassas dedicated its historic Railroad Depot on Saturday, which underwent a \$575,000 rehabilitation and now contains a visitor center, museum and passenger waiting area. Also displayed was a painting by noted artist Ted Rose which will be featured on 1998 calendars distributed nationwide by Amtrak.

As well, Prince William County's historic courthouse, which is located adjacent to the new area courthouse complex, received a new roof recently.

We hope area leaders will seriously consider putting forth the funds to renovate Brentsville's courthouse. It could be beneficial to all residents interested in learning more about this area's history.