



Donnie Biggs/News & Messenger

The Bushy Park House sits on the site of the future location of the Gainesville Library project at the corner of Bengal Place and Lightner Road on Monday.

Historic houses could be new home for libraries

By JACLYN PITTS

jpitts@manassasjm.com

Prince William Public Library System officials want people to know they're moving forward.

Right now, that forward movement means evaluating sites for two future libraries in Montclair and Gainesville, both incorporating renovated historic houses, said Dick Murphy, library system director.

Hayes Large Architects LLP has been hired to complete the planning phase, including environmental and technological assessments for both sites, according to Mohamed Abdelrahim, project manager.

Murphy said both sites are being studied to make sure the proposed buildings will fit and that soils are good, among other issues.

But it also comes down to county funding for the projects, which Murphy hopes will be approved in November 2006 under county bond referendums.

"It's more of a question of, 'Will it work?,' " he said.

If the bond referendums are approved for the projects, Montclair would be constructed first, with a projected completion date in 2008, Murphy said.

"Right now, we're in the preliminary planning process," Abdelrahim said.

The projected 19,000-square foot Gainesville Area Library is hoped to be open in 2009, the same year the existing library's lease runs out, Murphy said.

The current Gainesville Neighborhood Library is about 2,500 square feet and has been leased from the county park authority, Murphy said.

See LIBRARY, Page A2

Family just happy to have been there

Team reflects on "Amazing Race"

