

# Weather made library work overdue

**By Gina Parsons**  
Staff writer

Six months after construction began for the new Warrenton Library on Highway 47, a poured foundation and a "future home of" sign are the only clues the building someday will be open.

Construction began in March and had been expected to be complete within six months, but the weather severely hampered work on the

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project, said Sallie Hancox, director of the Scenic Regional Library District.

"This delay was certainly not a delay of choice," Hancox said. "It's been a horrible, horrible summer, rainwise."

Rain hampered efforts to get the construction underway, Hancox said.

"Our big tie-up has been the footings for the steel beams," Hancox said. "Every time they would get the holes dug for those, it would rain and it would fill those up."

The footings and the foundation were poured at the end of August, Hancox said. After that, plumbing and electrical work had to be done.

"We were up there last week and know that the plumber was



Gina Parsons photo

A rainy summer has hindered construction of the new Warrenton Library, being built at 912 S. Highway 47. The building now is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

working," Hancox said during an interview Sept. 6.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year,

said B.J. Sung, of Le Pique and Orne Architects Inc. of St. Charles. Sung designed the building.

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The cement floor was expected to be poured after Sept. 11.

"Once the floor is in it will go fast," Sung said.

The soil quality also has contributed to the lateness of the work, Sung said.

Sung said he suspects a pond might have been on the site at one time, because the soil was softer than expected. The soil softness necessitated modifications in the original design of the building, Sung said.

"We had to make the footings longer and wider," Sung said. "If the footings are weak, the building can tilt and lean. The footings have to be strong enough to hold the building."

The foundation could not be poured until the area was dry. Waiting for the site to be dry enough took four or five months, Sung said.

"Now the rainy season is gone," Sung said. "We shouldn't have any problems."

Sung said people will be pleased with how the building looks when it's complete.

"It's going to look nice," Sung said. "It's going to be one of the modern buildings in Warrenton."

The current library, which is in a leased building at 100-2 E. Main St., contains 1,800 square feet. The new library will have 9,000 square feet.

The library will have a public meeting room separate from the book area, Hancox said. The current library has three Internet work stations; the new library will have eight.

The current library has the capacity for 23,000 books; the new location will have the capacity to hold 41,000 books.

A property tax of 4 cents per \$100 assessed valuation is being collected in Warren County to pay for the new building, according to information from the library district. The tax was assessed in 1999 and will continue to be assessed until 2009.