Library, Bridge Nearing Completion

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation's two major construction projects – the Jefferson Library at Kenwood and the Saunders Bridge at the entrance to Monticello – are moving toward completion.

The 15,500-square-foot Jefferson Library is on schedule to open in early January. The first free-standing presidential library devoted to a Founding Father, the Jefferson Library will have shelf space for 28,000 volumes, reading and study spaces, conference and meeting rooms, and offices. In addition, the library will be wired to accommodate state-of-the-art computer and Internet systems. Construction of the building included the installation of an energy-efficient, environmentally friendly geothermal heating-cooling system.

A formal ceremony dedicating the library is scheduled for April 2002.

Saunders Bridge, a stone-arch span over Route 53 that will provide vehicles and pedestrians with safer access to Monticello, is scheduled to be completed this winter, but will not be opened to traffic until the summer of 2002.

After the bridge itself is finished, extensive grading and paving will be required to complete the project. As
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such work is difficult to accomplish in winter weather, it is unlikely
the project will be finished until June.

When finished, Saunders Bridge will serve as the capstone of the
Thomas Jefferson Parkway, a linear park along Route 53 that includes
Kemper Park and the Saunders-Monticello Trail, a 2.2-mile pathway
that will run over the new bridge onto the grounds of Monticello.