Seneca eyes more property

African-American museum beside Lunney House in the works

BY ANDREW MOORE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Just months after the Lunney House Museum kicked off its operations under city ownership, Seneca is considering another significant purchase right beside the century-old landmark.

City Administrator Greg Dietterick told council during the city's monthly work session that it would be asked to vote on whether or not the city should spend $45,400 for two homes that would be used to bolster the Lunney area's reputation as a locale for historic preservation.

"We have a contract signed and a $1,000 binder put down on the property," Dietterick said. "The contract is contingent upon council's approval. It's to purchase the two houses on the property directly behind the Lunney Museum."

The homes, owned respectively by the Lunney family's driver and the late Lilian Mason Lunney's caretaker, Burtha Lee Strickland, are expected to house additional historic items.

The $1,000 binder will be lost should the council not approve the purchase.

"We're very excited about the proposal. We've got great ideas to make it an African-American museum in the Upstate, which will be one-of-a-kind. We expect it to be a huge asset to the community," Dietterick said.

The move represents the second major property acquisition by the city of Seneca, which finalized its purchase of the Lunney in 2008 after it had lost all county funding.

andrew@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6687

'We've got great ideas to make it an African-American museum in the Upstate, which will be one-of-a-kind.'

Greg Dietterick
City administrator