City of Seneca's new Web site up and running

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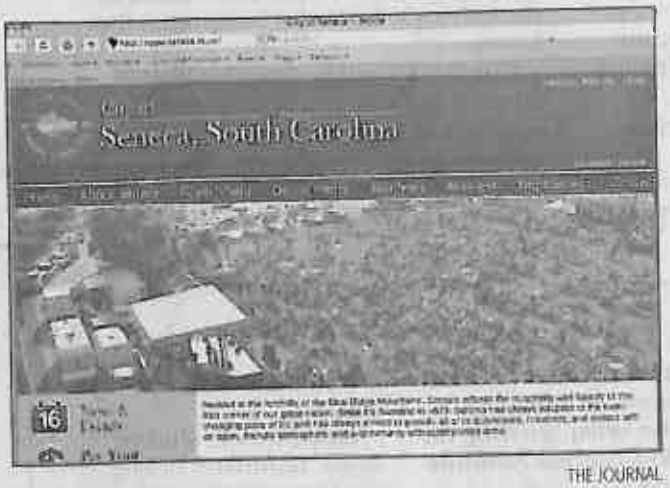
SENECA — Seneca officially took a significant technological step Wednesday, unveiling its revamped Web site designed to spur resident interaction, as well as streamline site administration efforts.

Scheduled to go live on May 1, it took the better part of last weekend to get www.seneca.sc.us fully functional.

"There was some tweaking over the weekend to make sure all the bells and whistles worked," said Riley Johnson, the city's events coordinator.

"But it went pretty smoothly. When you flip a switch, you want to make sure your electricity is working."

In early March, the Seneca City Council approved funneling $5,000 of unused recreation department money to effect to modernize the city's Web site through its already contracted technology company, Net Doctors. The new site is expected to include calendars and information for upcoming events, along with video and photos of city activities. Individual department pages are already up and running, and a blog by Mayor Dan Alexander may become a feature of the site.



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This screen shot shows the now fully-functional city of Seneca Web site.

The new site is the most recent step taken by Johnson in an effort to ratchet up the city's Internet presence, as Seneca is now on various social networking sites, such as a Blogspot.com, Facebook.com and Twitter.com.

The new site is supposed to be not only easier to administer by the city, but it's intended to be more user-friendly.

"It's going to be easier to use for the consumer. It's going to impact people's livelihood, because we'll be able to give something back," said Riley. "If there's a memorial being dedicated, we'll be able to record that dedication, put it on the Web, and you could be in a different country, download it and keep it forever."

Business partnerships, video, audio and blog entries are all expected to become more prominent as the site develops.

"Launching a Web site is like a baby. It grows, gets bigger and develops more things. The folks at the Net Doctors, those guys are telling me what they can do and how it'll grow; it's going to set the pace for other Web sites," Riley said.