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OUR VIEW

New development will be welcomed

The signs announcing imminent retail, commercial and office development between Clemson and Seneca are welcome news to residents who live nearby and those who travel that stretch of Highway 123 Bypass daily.

The businesses are coming to a long-vacant tract of land whose greatest claim to fame has been that it was once the site of the Tiger Tails "gentleman's club." It will now contain establishments of a more sedate stripe, whose customers won't have to worry about passersby who might recognize them going in or coming out the door.

For developer Pete Dimopoulos, the announcements are vindication for a venture some thought questionable. It wasn't the economic viability of the area that caused concern, but rather the topography. Dimopoulos moved incredible amounts of dirt to create his flat business environment atop a steep ravine. The effort was truly impressive, running to a cost of $3.6 million including the site clearing costs.

Worries about the land's stability should all be eased after the massive amounts of rain that have been received following the completion of grading and utility work. If ever a site should be settled, this one should.

Now, Dimopoulos has one future tenant in hand in the form of a cosmetic and pediatric dental practice, and hopes to break ground this spring on a 30,000 square foot shopping center.

We congratulate Dimopoulos on his success and hope that activity on this site will spur a flurry of development elsewhere along the Clemson-Seneca corridor. Much prime space is available, cleared and site-ready just a minute away near the Bloom shopping center. Other vacant properties are also waiting for development nearby and across the area.

Sometimes all it takes is one brave business to put up walls and open its doors for others to follow. In this cold winter of lingering recession, this is good news, indeed.