New trash center taking shape

Strawberry Farm Road facility to open Aug. 1

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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SENECA — The first manned convenience center built in Oconee County is just about ready to be put out to pasture.

Oconee Solid Waste Director Swain Still said Tuesday that the new North Strawberry Road facility built at a cost of more than $559,000 should be ready to open to the public Aug. 1.

When the new center opens, the old compound built in 1992 will be closed for good.

On Tuesday, Solid Waste Department crews installed trash compactors as they continued prepping for opening day.

Still said his department saved at least $33,000 by restoring and reusing the compactors from the old center.

One compactor could cost from $14,000 to $17,000, but solid waste refurbished three compactor units for about $3,000 each, Still said.

The old 1-acre facility has been beset with pothole problems and crumbling infrastructure.

"It was beyond repair," Still said.

The new facility is on 3-acres and features a drive-through pattern unlike anything seen at the other 10 centers in the county.

Still said the public would use an inner lane to pull up with their vehicles, get out and dump their trash without having to back up their vehicles.

The old facility took in about 2,400 tons of trash annually, and that's expected to increase at the new center.

Still said the final cost of the new facility won't be known until he's added up the change orders associated with the project.



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A trash compactor is moved into place Tuesday at the new manned convenience center on North Strawberry Farm Road. The more than $559,000 facility is expected to open Aug. 1.

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