LOCAL NEWS

Pickens County sewer line

Sewer extension along U.S. 123 opens door to more development

By Anna Simon
CLEMSON BUREAU
asimon@greenvillenews.com

PICKENS — Construction could start this week on an eight-mile stretch of sewer that will complete sewer availability along U.S. 123 in Pickens County, further opening the door to new development and bringing change to a rural area.

The $1.7 million project "will allow us to open up properties that have been unavailable along U.S. 123 for some time now," said Chap Hurst, Pickens County administrator.

Sewer availability should mean jobs and clean water, said Neil Smith, chair of Pickens County Council. "We are getting the biggest bang out of our buck."

The county and Pickens County School District have combined resources on the project that will serve two new schools – a new career center and a new Liberty Elementary.

Related plans to construct an interchange on U.S. 123 at Simms School Road also are moving forward with an environmental study, said Hurst, who hopes to have everything

work to start

in place to apply for federal stimulus dollars to fund the interchange if additional monies become available.

"I think it will be a good thing in the long run," said Central Mayor Mac Martin, however there is some controversy.

The town of Central has the ability to annex any development, on request of the property owner, and Martin anticipates that the town will benefit, but residents in the rural area "are not excited," he said.

In addition, because the sewer line will be very close to the Anderson County line, Martin said he fears that resulting development could end up in the neighboring county.