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Seneca sends inserts with utility bills

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
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SENECA — Some 15,000 Seneca utility customers have begun, for the first time, to receive fliers in their utility bills letting them know what's going on in the city.

The flier is packed with information on two sides of a sheet that will accompany utility bills each month.

City resident Sandra Gray, co-president of the Clemson Area League of Women Voters, told council members at a meeting this week that she was delighted with the addition.

"When I opened up my utility bill I found your insert, and it was beautiful. It's very informative," Gray said.

Gray also thanked city officials for including information about the elections coming up Tuesday for the special election for the District 3 Oconee County Council seat and June 10 for the statewide primaries.

"We had a very poor turnout in the last two elections," Gray said. "Thank you so much for making this happen, and also for putting a word in about getting out the vote."

Councilman Al Gaines said he received positive calls from constituents about the inserts.

"It's good for our citizens," Gaines said.

The fliers address, in part, the city's response to criticism from residents of the Adams subdivision who claimed they were broadsided by the city's plans late last year to turn the former Kellett Elementary School into the operation center for the Seneca Light and Water Department. Strong pushback by the community stopped the Kellett plans.

City officials voted last month to approve spending $8,100 a year, or $675 a month, to print the black and white inserts, and include them in the utility bills. One side of the flier contains action taken at council meetings, and the other side is used to promote events such as Seneca Fest coming up May 24, Jazz on the Alley and other activities taking place throughout the year.

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