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# Seneca set to provide sewer for MonteLago

## But details, including date of completion, sketchy

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SENECA — Seneca City Council voted last week to enter into a contract to provide sewer to Marick Home Builder & Developers' MonteLago project on Lake Kenwee.

"Marick initially designed the sewer system to just meet their needs," Utilities Director Bob Faires said. "What we did was hire a separate engineering firm to look at it, and we implemented a few upgrades in the design."

The upgrades provide for larger piping and pumping capabilities to provide room for growth in the area of a sewer line that will connect the out-of-city area with Seneca. The main infrastructure of the sewer system will be built and paid for by Marick, as well as the upgrades, but the costs for the upgrades will be paid back by the city. Faires said there is currently no timetable for the beginning of the sewer project. Marick Home Builder & Developers could not be reached for comment regarding a possible start date.

"I've seen no schedule on that line at all at this point," Faires said.

The connecting line is planned to run through Highway 188, to Petty Road through Luther Land Road to Seneca, Faires said.

See MONTELAGO, Page 7A

## MONTELAGO

Continued from Page 1A

The city's cost of the upgrades has been capped at \$500,000, and the total cost may be paid back interest-free over the next 10 years.

While uncertainty about the project exists, Faires said when it is made a reality, it could benefit the residents of Seneca, despite it being outside the city. More customers to Seneca's utilities department could stabilize and possibly reduce costs in the future.

"If we have a system out there, the more users there are, the more the cost is spread out," Faires said. "The more spread out the costs, the better off we are."

According to the plan, Marick will build the sewer system and deed it over to the

city for operation and maintenance.

The MonteLago project stirred up controversy when it was first announced, as the lakefront high-rise condominium complex produced fears from the locals about obstruction of their homes' lake views and questions of supporting infrastructure, traffic and other concerns.

Despite the approval of the contract, the project is currently in limbo.

"Your guess is as good as mine as far as when they'll want to start," Faires said. "They may start right away. They might start two or three years from now. I let them know that council had approve the contract, and they said this

was 'one of the last pieces of the puzzle.' That is all they've said."

Mayor Dan Alexander said he saw the MonteLago sewer contract as a way to promote growth in the Seneca area, as the connecting pipeline would provide pre-existing infrastructure to support development along that route leading into the city.

Faires said whether the project is in or outside the city limits, their devotion to customer satisfaction will remain unchanged.

"We don't look at people outside the city or inside the city any differently," Faires said. "We just want to provide our customers with the best value in utilities we can."