

Seneca's Lunney project expanding

Black history museum to be added to property

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SENECA — The City of Seneca has renewed its financial commitment to the development of what City Administrator Greg Dieterick says may be a one-of-a-kind historical attraction in Upstate South Carolina.

City Council approved a \$10,000 monthly appropriation for on-going capital

improvements to the Lunney and Strickland museum projects. The money is to come from hospitality and accommodation taxes but, based on cash flow, allows borrowing of city funds to keep the projects moving forward.

Last month, council authorized the purchase of two homes behind the Lunney Museum, which the city has been restoring since taking over ownership from Oconee County.

Dieterick said that, at one time, the home of Bertha Lee Strickland, who served the Lunney family, and the second home were one residence. Mrs. Lunney lived in the house while her home was

being built. After the Lunney house was complete, the home behind it was divided.

Dieterick said interior renovations would continue throughout the winter at the Lunney House, breaking for a black tie gala scheduled on New Year's Eve. Meanwhile, city workers have already begun trimming trees and clearing brush around what will become the Bertha Lee Strickland African-American Museum. The second house, he said, would be used for ongoing historical displays.

"There is a story not being told from the African-American point of view," Dieterick said. "We believe what we are creating here will be one-

of-a-kind in the Upstate and, possibly, South Carolina."

Council also approved a \$5,000 HAT appropriation for advertising and catering services for the Lunney gala, but tabled, at the request of City Attorney Mike Smith, a HAT request from the Blue Ridge Arts Council and Downtown Seneca Merchant's Association.

Also Tuesday, council had a presentation from the Ravenel Elementary School Lego League on the creation of a "smoke-free town," and voted to extend the sick leave of a city employee who is fighting cancer.

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