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Local real estate broker Shane Clardy tosses trash Tuesday at the new Strawberry Road Convenience Center. The \$650,000 center features a drive-thru that allows users to pull up with their vehicles.

Residents take liking to new trash center

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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SENECA — Residents are quickly taking a liking to Oconee County's new trash collection center at North Strawberry Road.

The \$650,000 facility opened to the public last week to replace the oldest garbage dump among all of Oconee's 11 convenience centers.

Solid Waste Director Swain Still said this week that people are still getting used to the new facility.

"There's no parking area," Still said. "It's like a drive-thru."

Located a few hundred feet from the old location, Still said the new center is a prototype of what other counties are using.

Still said he visited sites in Pickens and Lau-

rens County that have the drive-thru format.

"Most places now have drive-thru," Still said. "The big advantage is that it's less contagious once people get used to it."

Still said users drive into the 3-acre new site, pull into a drop off lane and continue going one way.

The decision was made to close the old 1-acre facility because of its limited parking and crumbling infrastructure.

The county spent an additional \$12,000 to put up a fence and plant some 45 trees to create a buffer for nearby residents who complained about having the new center abut their Reedy Fork Road properties.