

Dry weather brings out utility crews, leads to underground discoveries

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

The week's springlike weather and absence of rain has done more than give a short respite to the winter doldrums. It's allowed utility companies to catch up on projects that often rely on good weather.

In Clinton, that means the utilities company is taking care of planned sewer work, said Joey Meadors, director of utilities and public works for the City of Clinton.

"We are able to get some sewer work done because of the inflow and infiltration issues we've had, because they tend to dry up," Meadors said. "We're able to get the sewer lines smoked and on the Streets and Sanitation side, we're also beginning to take care of some weeds and get started on cleaning up the neighborhood parks to get ready for mulching later on."

While much of the work has to continue no matter what the weather, non-emergency high-voltage work such as needed pole replacements is something both the City of Clinton and Laurens Commission of Public Works has accomplished while

the rain holds off.

The southern end of Caroline Street was closed Wednesday and Thursday while crews replaced a deteriorated pole in Laurens.

"Having it warm and dry helps

CPW wasn't created until 1922 so (the tank) was put in back probably 40 years before we were here.

Keith Wood

to get things done," Wood said. "If there's an emergency, we have to do it no matter what the weather, but some things you can put off for good weather, and the electric line work is definitely safer in dry weather."

One project ongoing for a couple of weeks is a hydrant replacement at the southeast corner of the Downtown Square,

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Photo by Judith Brown

ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS — Laurens Commission of Public Works crews work to replace an aging high-voltage electric pole, closing Caroline Street Wednesday and Thursday. Utility crews in Laurens and Clinton took advantage of the unusually warm and dry week to catch up on weather-sensitive projects.

Trash transfer station closed, options for future considered

By John Clayton
Editor

Laurens County Council decided to reverse course at its last meeting on a deal that would have kept a garbage transfer station in Clinton open.

With the transfer station now closed — operations ceased on Jan. 31 — Laurens County is now sending household garbage to Greenville County's Twin Chimney landfill and considering options for a new transfer station.

"For the residential citizen, they'll see no change in our operations," said Dale Satterfield, Laurens County director of public works. "They can take their solid waste to one of our 10 convenience sites as they've always done."

Satterfield said council members made a business decision when they decided to forego an agreement with Republic Services, which owned and operated the transfer station. Republic had offered to lease the transfer station to Laurens County for \$1 per year.

In turn, the county was to deliver solid waste to Republic's regional landfill in Union County at a price of \$28 per ton.

Satterfield said Republic wanted a 10-year contract, which became a sticking

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