



## Hardeeville's team tactic keeps the city dry

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HARDEEVILLE -- Think collectively, work collaboratively -- it's the Hardeeville public works philosophy that's launched several drainage projects and has kept bureaucratic backslash at bay.

With private, county and state Department of Transportation help, city officials have worked on three stormwater projects in as many years and have discovered new answers to 20-year-old drainage problems.

City officials hired Applied Technology Management, a Charleston-based engineering firm in 2001, to help negotiate the sale of the city water service to Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority. Since then, Tony Maglione, a vice president with Applied Technology Management, has organized dozens of projects for the city -- placing an emphasis on collaboration.

"Their engineering firm does an investigation of certain issues, we meet with them and the city, and we try to put forces there, our equipment and manpower and try to remedy the problem," said Malzone Russell, the Transportation Department's resident maintenance engineer for Jasper County. "It's a group effort."

After landscaping crews unearthed U.S. 17 last month for the city's streetscape project -- to add a host of palm trees, shrubbery and decorative street lights -- they found a sealed drainage box just under the asphalt near Exit 5 on Interstate 95.

"I have no earthly idea why someone would do that," Maglione said. "I've never seen anything like that in 30 years."

Thanks to the landscaping firm's discovery, the drainage problem south of Exit 5 has been solved.

City, county and state workers are going to tie the drain into the interstate storm water system.

Three years ago the trio of agencies completed a similar drainage project on the Jenkins Avenue, Walsh Drive neighborhood, and before summer a new McTeer Street pumping station should be up and running.

The pump station is being paid for through a \$500,000 state grant issued in December 2004. The stormwater will be pumped into the city's pond system behind the recreation fields -- designed for the dual purpose of water retention and fishing.

"(Applied Technology) has been very successful at tying things together and getting them done," said Mayor Pro Tem Brooks Willis, who chairs the public works committee. "These are projects that we designated as emergency deals, next we'll have to work on the overall drainage plan."

Other joint projects include county help cleaning drainage ditches on Martin Street and the state installing new culverts, which solved the flooding problem near the police station.

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The Hardeeville area

# Drainage work



Hardeeville officials credit group efforts in aiding three drainage projects.

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