

## **City of Blakely Receives \$500,000 Grant**

The City of Blakely was one of 23 Georgia cities receiving stimulus funds in a round of community development grants announced Monday by Governor Sonny Perdue. The \$500,000 grant approved for the City is earmarked for sewer improvements. The grant was applied for by the City with the assistance of P.C. Simonton & Associates, Inc., the City's Engineer.

The 23 grants total \$10.3 million in stimulus funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the State Community Development Block Grant Recovery Act program.

"These funds will provide an economic boost to communities in their efforts to fund projects that will create jobs and improve infrastructure," said Governor Purdue.

"The \$500,000 grant is for the replacement of sewer lines and manhole rehabilitation on Hogan and Evergreen Streets," Mayor Ric Hall told the Early County News Monday. "We have a lot of problems in that area."

Hall noted the P.C. Simonton & Associates, Inc. has also submitted an application on behalf of the City for \$1.6 million to replace sewer lines and rehab manholes on North Main Street and North Avenue. Although not yet funded "This being a 'shovel ready' project, advertisement for bids have already been published for that project," Hall stated.

Voters approved a bond issue referendum in July last year enabling the City to move forward with a \$7,965,000 sewer rehab project. Improvements at the treatment plant include new headworks, a grit chamber, an additional aerator, a new control room and a chemical testing lab in which water testing can be performed without having to outsource the testing to other labs.

In addition, the City has already secured \$1.1 million in federal stimulus monies for additional work. The work includes smoke testing and video exploration of the lines to determine leaks and problems and which lines can be repaired by slipping a liner inside the existing pipe and which sections will have to be replaced or rerouted.