

## Wilson Rehab gets \$3M upgrade

By BOB STUART  
The News Virginian  
Friday, June 29, 2007



Contractors work on the \$3 million water/sewer renovation at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville on Thursday. BOB STUART/Staff

FISHERSVILLE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center's water and sewer system in the early 1940s, and in recent years the system's breakdowns have become more frequent.

"We would have breaks at 2 in the morning," said Wilson Rehab Center Director Rick Sizemore. "The problems have been more water than sewer. And the system has leaked."

But by late this year, rehab center officials will have no more worries.

A \$3 million upgrade of the water and sewer system is well underway, the result of state capital funding from the Virginia Department of Health and Human Services.

And when that project is complete, a \$1.5 million water and sewer improvement will serve three adjacent Augusta County Schools, Valley-Vocational Technical Center and an

Augusta County Recreation Department gym.

Wilson Rehabilitation Center officials took area legislators and other officials on a tour of the projects Thursday.

Sizemore said work on the Wilson Center part of the project is two months ahead of schedule, and should be complete by the end of the year.

He said work on the schools portion of the water-sewer would follow, and once bid, should take 6 to 8 months. Sen. Emmett Hanger, R-Mount Solon, took part in Thursday's tour.

Hanger worked to assure the state funding for the projects.

"I think this shows a significant commitment on the state's part for the mission of the center," Hanger said.

He said a great deal of mediation went on about the responsibility for the water-sewer upgrade and who would operate it once it was complete.

Augusta County contributed \$750,000 to the funding for phase two of the project.

The Augusta County Service Authority will operate all of the water-sewer operation once it is complete, sometime next year.

Hanger said getting state funding is not a simple task.

He noted that a \$6.7 million renovation of the dining hall at Wilson Rehabilitation Center was taken out of 2007-08 budget because enough money was not available.

"That project will be revisited when more capital projects are done. There is a lot of competition," Hanger said.

Contact Bob Stuart at [bstuart@newsvirginian.com](mailto:bstuart@newsvirginian.com).