



▲ Taking part in Friday's Josephine sewer groundbreaking ceremony were, left to right, Josey Baker, Baker Construction; David Wilson, Mattern & Craig engineers; Jeff Cochran, The Lane Group engineers; Wise County Supervisor Ronnie Shortt; Joe Blevins, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; county Supervisor Fred Luntsford; Ninth District U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher; Norton City Manager E.W. Ward; Norton Vice Mayor Joe Fawbush; Health Department official Brad Stallard; Christian Faith Church pastor Arthur Kilgore; and Lenowisco Planning District Commission Executive Director Glen 'Skip' Skinner.

Ground broken to build Josephine sewer project

After many years of trying to make the project happen, Norton has officially started work to extend sewer service to the Josephine community.

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher joined officials Friday for a groundbreaking ceremony at Christian Faith Church in Josephine.

The project will serve nearly 100 homes that currently rely on septic systems, many of which are failing, or that straight-pipe raw sewage into streams feeding the Powell River, Boucher noted.

Until recently, the city had been unable to raise the funds to carry out the project, which also includes upgrades to Norton's Benges Branch sewer interceptor line.

Boucher noted that the Josephine project includes a \$1 million federal community development block grant administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, along with a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant and more than

More than 7,000 feet of 8-inch wastewater lines will be installed throughout Josephine, and a pump station and a portable generator will be installed.

To upgrade the Benges Branch interceptor,

connection, it will help Norton correct sewage flow backups and discharges into Benges Branch, Boucher said.

Once the city builds the project, it will be turned over to Wise County, whose Public Service Authority will handle customer billing and line maintenance.

Boucher praised city officials for their hard work to make the project happen, along with the Lenowisco Planning District staff and state legislators William Wampler, Terry Kilgore and Clarence "Bud" Phillips. ▲



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