

# Suwannee Democrat

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## Sinkhole on Pinewood Drive confirmed

### Others in Live Oak are presumed, awaiting results from tests

*Misty Ward*

**CNHI**

Live Oak — Pinewood Drive between Suwannee High School and Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center remains closed since the flooding rain that was dropped on the area during Tropical Storm Debby.

According to Live Oak Public Works Director Brent Whitman, the depression on Pinewood Drive has been confirmed to be a sinkhole according to preliminary results from Bracken Engineering. Whitman said the city is awaiting a grouting plan for the Pinewood Drive sinkhole.

Robyn Eastman, project manager for Broaddus & Associates, shared the status of the problematic areas within Live Oak.

According to Eastman, Bracken Engineering had to drill 75 feet into the ground before they hit bedrock at the Pinewood Drive sinkhole.

“There was no stability whatsoever,” Eastman said.

He mentioned at the meeting that Bracken will do further ground radar testing to determine how to best fix the sinkhole.

Eastman said engineers would be drilling this week to determine the size and scope of the Warren Street depression, which is presumed to be a sinkhole located near the Suwannee County Courthouse.

“Hopefully by Friday we will have a solution that problem,” Eastman said.

The roads will take approximately a year to fix, Eastman said. Each of the presumed sink holes will have a project worksheet completed on it. A ground penetrating radar will be done on each of the identified places, and if a geologist deems necessary, further investigation is drilling down to find bedrock. Upon the recommendation of the geologist, a grouting plan will be made and the city will begin the procurement process for a contractor to come fix the sinkholes.

Numerous roads throughout Live Oak remain closed due to presumed sinkholes. Whitman said the roads closed are Warren Street, Maple and Houston; Church and Dexter; Church and John; Santa Fe and Neighbor; and Anna at Martin-Mayhue. Other presumed sinkholes in Live Oak, not affecting roads but located near them, White Avenue at Gay Street, Meadow at Myrtle, Santa Fe at Nabor, and Wilbur Street.