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Article published Jul 11, 2005

Cape homeowners get notice of sewer costs

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Cape Coral notified 3,834 property owners — many owning duplexes that are rented — at the end of June that they will be charged \$10,500 for sewers now being installed in an area called Southeast 1. Some will get water and irrigation services as well, which will push their assessments to \$16,560. Owners also face plumbing fees and city impact fees when it is time to hook up to the system.

Two public meetings are scheduled this month at City Hall to talk about the \$50 million project. One on Tuesday, July 19, is an informal meeting with project officials for questions and concerns. A public hearing Monday, July 25, precedes a council vote to establish the the assessment area and impose the assessments.

It's tough to determine how much of the cost to pass on to tenants, said landlord Juan Romagosa. He owns two duplexes in the Cultural Park area.

"I will have to fork out some money. I will pay some every month," Romagosa said. "You can only pass on so much. If you dump too much on the tenants they won't be able to live there." For some tenants, the project came as a surprise when work started in May.

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