



THE STANDARD

Baker County's True Circulation Leader

Macclenny, FL



For local news delivered via email enter address here:

- News
- Front Page
- Community
- Social
- Sports
- Crime and Punishment
- Obituaries
- Letters
- Editorials
- Archive
- History
- Contact Us
- Advertising
- The Standard Shopping Page
- Subscription
- Classified Order
- Rate Card
- Search Archive
- Copyright © 2000 - 2005 The Standard All Rights Reserved
- E-mail Us

Front Page December 29, 2005

County Development Commission seeks impact fee adjustment By Melissa Burnsed

The Chairman of the Baker County Development Commission addressed the county commissioners about high impact fees on industrial construction with Baker County, during the boards regular meeting and in a workshop. "You have shut the door on industrial growth in Baker County and my recommendation would be to do away with them. But since I know you aren't going to do that, instead I am proposing a change," said Ginger Barber.

The county recently enacted impact fees on new construction to help fund demands being placed on the local budget by all the new growth coming into the area. Currently for industrial construction, the county charges \$1,800 for every 1,000 square feet. Barber proposed a reduction down to \$1,000 per 1,000. She called that amount "livable" and said that not reducing the fees would drive businesses interested in locating in the county, to surrounding communities.

A comparison with other counties, done by the North Florida Planning Council found that St. Johns charges \$2,548 for roads. Nassau and Flager have road impact fees subdivided into different categories ranging from \$279.30 (for mini warehouses) to \$1,443.89 (for industrial parks) per 1,000 square feet. Duval, Clay, Bradford and Columbia have non impact fees.

The commissioners were lukewarm in their response to the reduction. Chairman Alex Robinson

said, "We should try and get more industry and we may give the ship away in the future to draw someone here, but not just as we open the door for the first time."

Commissioner Gordon Crews concurred, "I am in favor of enhancing what we do to attract industry, but I have a little bit of a problem in making exceptions for the big boys and not giving any to the small guys." He brought up the idea of tinkering with the rebated ad valorem incentive rate package, as a away of balancing out the costs if the board does reduce the impact fees.

Robinson suggested more study and scheduled another workshop for January 3.

In other action the board set public hearings for the adoption of the new Planning Agency ordinance, along with their ordinance that will require new subdivision developments on county roads to pave roads they connect to, in addition to the ones they construct within their property.

A discrepancy between the county impact fee and language in the school ordinance was caught by County Building Official Bob Hathcox. The county imposes the fee when the permit is issued, while the school district wording calls for payments when the permit is applied for. Building permits are reviewed by

Click ads below for larger version

Stop in for Holiday Gift Ideas or to make a Wish List

J.L. Vincent CLOTHING

Ladies Clothing, Gift Certificates, Candles, Jewelry

20% OFF Everything in the Store on New Year's Eve

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:30 am - 6:30 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
1443 S. 6th Street, Macclenny 259-8380

LATE REGISTRATION SPRING 2006 CLASSES Jan. 3-6, 2006

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Offerings: Academy of Teacher Preparation Programs & Early Childhood Education

For more information call (386) 754-4287
www.lakecitycc.edu

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LCCC is an Equal Opportunity Institution

Dear Friend:

With the approach of the new year, my thoughts are directed toward the wonderful people who have supported me and our exemplary school system through the years.

And so - I am sending you a special greeting to say, "THANK YOU" for the friendship we share and value so highly.

On the threshold of the New Year, my wish is that the peace and happiness of the season will be yours every day throughout the coming year.

Happy 2006!
Paula T. Barton, Superintendent

Web services by our-hometown.com

Newspaper web site content management software and services

RSS

MY Y!

Add to My Yahoo!

Hathcox and can take up to two months to be issued.

Fifteen applicants will have to decide whether to delay pulling permits that they have applied for and be grandfathered in as exempt from the school fee, or proceed with construction and pay the \$1,500 school fee. The county attorney was directed to clarify the ordinance, which will be amended at the next meeting.



[System and Method for Display Ads have a Patent Pending.](#)
[Click Here for More Information](#)