

Tuesday, March 14, 2006 | Updated at 12:48 p.m.

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# County to consider hiking park impact fees

**Director of Environmental Services**

**Summerville at Bonita Springs**

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

**Staff Accountant**

**Stock Development**

The cost of the parks impact fee may soon be going up in Collier County.

E

Collier commissioners will consider increasing the fee at today's meeting. The issue is to be discussed at a specific time — 1 p.m.

The current park impact fee for a 2,000-square-foot single-family home is \$822. Under the proposed increase, the cost would go up by 25 percent and cost \$1,027.

For a regional park, the fee for a 2,000-square-foot single-family home now costs \$821. That cost would go up to \$2,272, a 177 percent increase, under the new proposal.

There are separate impact fees for community and regional parks. Both fees will be increased under the county's plan and purchasers of new homes would pay both park fees.

County officials estimate they will bring in an extra \$7 million if the increases are approved. The county hired a consultant, Duncan Associates, and the consultant recommended the impact fee increase because of the increased cost of land.

Impact fees are onetime assessments on new construction that are intended to make growth pay for growth. They are assessed for each new home and business built in the county and paid by developers, who typically pass them on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

The park impact fees are assessed on new construction, and the money is then used to build new parks.

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Impact fees have been a source of tension between Collier County officials and the local building industry. Building officials complain the county has too many impact fees, and those fees are too high.



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The county now has 10 separate impact fees. The fees are also charged for roads, schools, fire departments, jail facilities, emergency medical services, government buildings and law enforcement.



Nautically Speaking

Commissioners meet beginning at 9 a.m. today in commission chambers at the county government complex, at the intersection of U.S. 41 East and Airport-Pulling Road.

They also are scheduled to:

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• Approve extended hours of operations and a noise abatement policy for Caxambas Park in Marco Island. The current hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parks and Recreation officials have proposed extending those hours to 7 a.m. to sunset.

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• Consider approving a resolution that supports the proposed Permanent Protection for Florida Act. If this became law, it would prohibit offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

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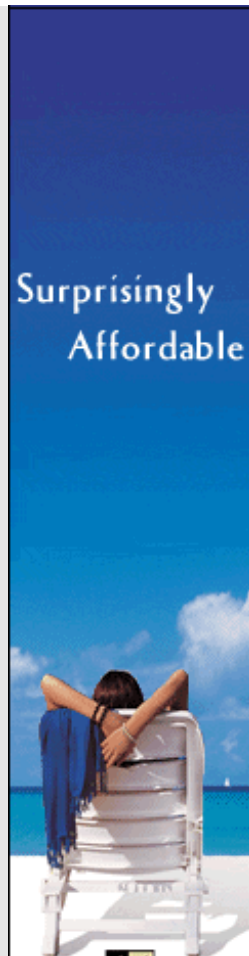
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