

## Sycamore to talk sewage impact fee

*By Renee Messacar - Staff Writer*

SYCAMORE - The city council will consider tonight whether to increase a pair of impact fees to cover the costs of pumping more water and treating more sewage.

The city's water impact fee on new homes would increase from \$299 to \$352 per home while the sewer impact fee would go from \$1,750 to \$2,205 under the proposal, which could get final approval next month.

The water fees would help pay for construction of a new north-side well and an elevated storage tank, together costing about \$4.75 million.

The city on average pumps 1.7 million gallons of water daily. With population growth at about 4 percent, the city will need 2.8 million gallons pumped daily by 2020, according to the meeting agenda that City Manager Bill Nicklas put together.

The higher sewer impact fee would go toward covering the cost of expanding pipes in the sewage treatment system to be able to handle a larger volume of sewage.

The increases, which total \$508, are “just a matter of keeping up” with rising costs and growth, Mayor Ken Mundy said.

The council last raised city water and sewer impact fees April 1, 2002.

Also tonight, the council will discuss preliminary plans for city improvements through 2009. The plans show the city installing radium treatment equipment at water wells this year at a cost of \$1.3 million, constructing a second fire station in fiscal year 2009 for \$2.5 million and continuing its street and sidewalk improvement programs.

“It's an ambitious plan and addresses the needs known for years and years,” Mundy said.

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