

Luxury Real Estate From Bradenton to Punta Gorda	<i>It doesn't have to be a dream...</i>	Sun Coast Real Estate, LC The luxury Real Estate Company 866 - 639 - 0067 www.suncoast-realestate.com		Find Businesses Online! Search Punta Gorda FL & surrounding areas bestredyp.com
---	---	--	---	--

 Real Estate	 Wheels	 Hotels & Reservations	 Welcome Home
---	---	--	--

Larry
TAYLOR FUNERAL
 and Cremation Services
*Now You Don't Have
 To Choose Between
 Service & Price*
 941-833-0600
www.ltaylorfuneral.com



04/24/06

Schools focus of tri-board summit

The [Charlotte County School Board](#) will play host to an annual planning workshop with county commissioners and Punta Gorda city council members on May 1.

The three boards will discuss, among other things, how changes in federal and state class-size regulations can be reconciled with booming residential development.

The workshop begins at 2 p.m. in the School Board's Administration Building, 1445 Education Way, in Murdock.

Since the federal "No Child Left Behind" policy and the subsequent state's class-size restrictions were adopted, county planners have noted smaller classrooms will mean more schools.

The School Board has responded with a short-term plan that emphasizes enlarging the capacities of the district's six hurricane-destroyed schools -- East, Neil Armstrong and Peace River elementaries; Punta Gorda Middle School; the Baker Center; and Charlotte High School.

The board's five-year plan work program sets aside \$53 million for the district's fourth high school, \$23.1 million for a new middle school, and \$18.5 million for a new elementary school.

The soonest construction will begin for any of the new schools is 2009, according to the district's five-year plan.

How Kitson & Partner's proposed city of more than 40,000 residents on less than 18,000 acres on Babcock Ranch will affect the board's plans will also be discussed.

The district estimates Kitson's development will require three new elementary schools, one middle school and one high school that will cost, collectively, \$154 million.

Commissioners and city council members may also question the board about its tentative plans to adopt impact fees up to \$5,000 on each new home.

On March 1, commissioners imposed a \$4.10-per-foot impact fee on new

residential development. Using this formula, a 2,160-square-foot home would generate \$8,838 in fees.


On the same day, DeSoto County commissioners adopted impact fees ranging from \$3,800 for a smaller home to \$10,093 for a larger dwelling.

The DeSoto County School District is also pondering imposing impact fees. Right now, the only area school district to do so is Sarasota County which levies new homes \$2,032.

You can e-mail John Haughey at jhaughey@sun-herald.com

By JOHN HAUGHEY

Staff Writer

Sunline  © 2006 All rights reserved.
Your Local Internet Service Provider
A division of Sun Coast Media Group Inc.
Publishers of the Sun newspapers.