



Reduced impact fees sought for low-income

BY GEOFFREY SHANNON

SLIDELL SENTRY-NEWS

MANDEVILLE -- The St. Tammany Parish Council introduced an ordinance at last week's meeting that would amend a recent development impact fee ordinance to ease financial burdens for low-income families.

Parish Council President Kevin Davis and Council Chairman Steve Stefancik co-sponsored the ordinance. If approved, the amendment will provide an impact fee waiver for applicants seeking a single family residential building permit and who experience unreasonable financial hardships.

Under the impact fee ordinance passed by the Parish Council last November, all new residential and commercial subdivisions must pay the proposed fees starting Jan. 1, 2005. Collected funds will be set aside in separate accounts for road and drainage improvements.

New single family development would be charged a combined \$3,077 per structure. Multiple family homes \$1,487 and mobile home parks would pay \$573 per pad. Commercial retail developments would pay \$3,003 per 1000 square feet, industrial buildings will pay \$2,132 per square foot and office/institutional parks will pay \$2,173 per square foot.

Residents eligible for waivers must fall within the parameters for public housing and Section 8 Income limits. Applicants must present accurate documentation to receive the waiver, and no individual can receive a waiver more than twice.

Impact fees are an essential revenue source for Davis' \$1 billion, 10-year infrastructure improvement plan. This new amendment will free the parish from any questions of financial discrimination without hurting the long-term plan, Stefancik said.

Since the inception of the impact fees, one person has come before the board who would have been eligible for the impact fee waiver, said Stefancik.

Local National Guardsman heads up effort to help Iraqi youth

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Donations now being accepted

Operation Kids for Kids is now accepting items to help Iraq children. Currently, the program is not accepting monetary donations. Recommended items for donation include:

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Gatemouth Brown to aid Kidz Konnection

Grammy award winner Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown and local band 4 Unplugged will donate their time and music to the Kidz Konfections, A Kulinary Extravaganza" on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Lacombe duo arrested in connection with armed robbery

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Detectives identify 11 new victims of alleged child rapists

NEW ORLEANS (AP) -- The Denham Springs couple accused last week of luring children into sexual encounters were booked with numerous new capital counts involving 11 additional victims earlier this week.

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Shine Productions comedy will encore at Minacapelli's in March

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