

**July permitting slows in Lee after June surge**

Daily News staff

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After a peak in June caused by a road impact fee deadline, builders slowed their permitting activity in July for unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach.

Commercial permitting was valued at \$6.8 million in July, following an all-time record value of \$332.9 million in June. In July 2006, commercial permitting was valued at \$62 million.

Lee County's Department of Community Development reports that 135 permits for single-family houses collectively valued at \$42.6 million were issued in July, compared to 449 permits valued at \$120.3 million in June. In July 2006, the county issued 579 permits.

About 47 percent of the single-family home permits were for construction in Lehigh Acres.

In the first seven months of this year, Lee County issued 19,991 building permits of all kinds, valued at approximately \$1.8 billion. At this time last year, the county had issued 28,288 building permits valued at approximately \$2.7 billion.

Lee County Community Development oversees planning, zoning, and development services, such as permitting, development and environmental review, building inspection and code enforcement in the unincorporated areas of the county, and permitting services for Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach.

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