

# Impact fees dip \$200K in Jefferson

## Residential development monies drop 20 percent from '10 to '11

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CHARLES TOWN - Jefferson County collected \$1,348,092 in impact fees during 2011, down from the \$1,564,678 collected during 2010, according to the Annual Report on Impact Fees presented to the Jefferson County Commission on Thursday by Impact Fee Coordinator Mark Schiavone.

Impact fees are paid on new and proposed commercial and residential developments in the county in order to pay for the increase on services the new growth and population brings.

The one-time fee helps support four segments of Jefferson County, with residential impact fees going to support fire and emergency medical services agencies, law enforcement agencies, parks and recreation and schools. Commercial impact fees go toward fire and emergency medical services, as well as law enforcement.

The amount of money collected from residential development dropped about 20 percent from 2010 to 2011, and 12 commercial building permits were issued in 2011 compared to 18 permits in 2010, according to Schiavone.

While fewer commercial permits were issued last year, Jefferson County has seen a return to a 2008-level of commercial building permits.

The county issued 13 commercial building permits in 2008 and five in 2009, and the increased number of permits during the past two years could bode well for the county, Schiavone said.

"We're back to about where we were We went through a steep dip, and we're coming back out," he said. "Anecdotally, what we're seeing now is that the small developers are showing up We're seeing the small independent contractors beginning to show their faces around the permitting offices again, and that's a good sign."

More information on Jefferson County's impact fees is available by contacting the Department of Capital Planning and Management at 304-728-3331.

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