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### What are your Memorial Day weekend plans?:

- To visit a gravesite
- I am going camping
- I plan on enjoying a barbecue on Monday
- Nothing different
- I have to work

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## School impact fees back before city

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**Calvin Bratt**  
*Tribune editor*

LYNDEN – School impact fees are back on the agenda of the Lynden City Council.

Seventeen months ago, the idea of a charge on residential growth to support schools — \$2,781 per new house and \$732 per apartment unit — got through one step. The city adopted the Lynden School District’s six-year capital facilities plan.

However, city councilors asserted that any fee should be imposed equally throughout the school district, not just inside the city.

So, said school Superintendent Dennis Carlson Monday, the concept was taken through the Whatcom County process and is now on the same basis as in Lynden.

The city already collects impact fees on growth for parks, streets, water and sewer utilities upgrades. By law, a school district cannot enact impact fees on its own.

So now before the City Council, after several Community Development Committee meetings with Carlson, are an interlocal agreement with the Lynden School District and a proposed ordinance setting up the framework of school impact fees. A public hearing on the topic is set for June 16 at 7 p.m.

“It’s a matter of going through the process,” Carlson said.

Two city councilors who work for the district, Doug Adelstein and Nick Laninga, said they won’t participate in the decision, for conflict-of-interest reasons.

Councilor Gary Bode, who was opposed to the fees the first time around, also indicated Monday he might be opposed again.

Calculated for the years 2002 to 2006, a construction boom time, the school impact fee in Lynden would have raised \$1.6 million. Schools now are in a budget crunch for 2008-09, and construction has significantly cooled.

In other action:

- Pat Schoening, 411 17th St., spoke to the council with concerns related to the pile driving for constructing a new 17th Street bridge this year.

Mayor Jack Louws told Schoening that the city will do everything reasonable to assure there will be no vibration damage to nearby houses from the construction project.

Consulting engineer Nathan Zylstra said that the driving force will be limited to only what’s necessary and that seismic measuring equipment will be used to monitor the vibrations.

- The council awarded a \$1.37 million contract to Tiger Construction for replacement of the 14th Street bridge over Fishtrap Creek. Among four bidders, the low bid was right on target with an engineer’s estimate.

Public Works Director Duane Huskey said that the 14th Street project, which involves little stream disturbance, will be about a month ahead of the 17th Street one.

- For the times when water restrictions are in force, Lynden residents have new assigned days for irrigating their yards. Addresses ending in even numbers will go on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and odd-numbered addresses on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

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