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## "Developers Hoping To Build In Rutherford Co. Sweeten Deal"

Farmland developers in Rutherford County are hoping to turn a field along Midland Road near the Bedford County line in the southwest corner of the county into 126 homes.

To sweeten the deal, the developers said they will offer to give \$700 per home to Rutherford County Schools.

Project engineer Bob Warren said, "It's no secret that the county, both the county government and the school board is under a lot of strain right now, is it enough? Who's to say, the numbers are all over the dart board, but it's something."

The subdivision would be reminiscent of east Nashville and include common green space

With the new homes, however, come more children.

Younger children living in the proposed subdivision would attend Christiana Elementary School, an already crowded Rutherford County school.

Last year, the school was so full they had classes in a workroom, the library and a locker room.

This year, the school has added more portable classrooms and has plans for a multi-million dollar expansion.

The expansion, however, has yet to be funded.

"The situation with the school system is not one single developer or any one person's problem. It's not going to get solved by one person or solved by one developer," said Warren.

While the developers said some of their colleagues may see the offer as helping open a Pandora's Box and they will have to follow suit, they just hope the extra money for schools will help convince county officials to let them build.

The Regional Planning Commission will consider approving the project on Thursday.

Rutherford County already charges developers an impact fee.

The Regional Planning Commission is also exploring adding more fees to help with the cost of growth.

Officials are waiting for an opinion from the state attorney general as to whether new fees would be legal.

In the end, developers said it will be the home buyer who pays a higher cost.

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