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Building-permit fees waived

for flood victims until Nov. 24

Cabarrus County residents who had flood damage from Tropical Storm Fay won't have to pay for building permits and other construction-related permits until Nov. 24.

The Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to waive the fees for 90 days for flood victims.

"We wanted to help ease the financial burden and allow flood victims to get back in to their homes sooner," said board chairman Jay White.

More than 20 residents have requested building permits for repairs to flood damage. Those residents will be contacted to have their fees reimbursed, according to a news release from the county.

Staff reports

Countywide

Homeowners and small businesses in Cabarrus County that experienced damage from severe storms and flooding Aug. 26-27 have until Nov. 3 to apply for Economic Injury Loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration Processing and Disbursement Center, according to the office of U.S. Rep. Robin Hayes, R-N.C.

To apply, call the SBA district office at 704-344-6563 or call the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-6955.

Concord

The Concord City Council agreed to two major economic incentive packages Thursday.

The council voted 6-0 to offer an economic development grant to PreGel America, which makes gelato ingredients.

The incentives are worth \$128,520, on a total investment of \$12 million to \$16 million for property and equipment.

The company built a 135,000-square-foot plant in the International Business Park in Concord and is considering a 120,000-square-foot expansion, city officials said.

PreGel also has a three-year deal with Cabarrus County worth \$192,780, the equivalent of rebating 85 percent of county property taxes the project is expected to generate.

Also on Thursday, Concord unanimously approved a grant to the Nolim Group. The three-year grant essentially rebates 85 percent of city property taxes, requiring a minimum capital investment of \$1.5 million in the building.

The Nolim Group, which owns the business park, is considering developing a 177,000-square-foot speculative building. Nolim wants to design and construct the shell according to LEED standards, which are followed in the construction of "green" buildings. Gail Smith-Arrants

Schools

The Cabarrus County school board on Monday approved architect Martin Boal Anthony & Johnson's designs for three schools.

Both the A.T. Allen Elementary replacement and a Lower Rocky River-area elementary will be 1,000-student clones of Furr and Boger elementaries. The brick colors will be reviewed by the construction committee before coming back to the board. Carolyn Carpenter and Andrea Palo voted against both designs.

For the Furr Elementary addition, the board voted 6-1 to see how much a second bathroom on the second floor would cost.

Chair Holly Blackwelder, who voted against the school design, said the pattern of the three brick colors on the exterior would be too labor-intensive. Gail Smith-Arrants



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