

Stormwater fees lowered 50 percent in Lake County

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Lake County commissioners have taken the formal step to certify a 50 percent reduction in the fees collected from property owners within communities served by the county Stormwater Management Department.

Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution on Thursday to establish the rates for 2013 to reflect the reduction.

In January, commissioners previously passed a resolution of intent to reduce the fee structure as part of their plan to raise the county sales tax by 0.5 percent and to reduce property taxes dedicated to the General Fund by 1.0 mills.

Each of those three steps have now formally been completed, Commissioner Daniel P. Troy said.

Commissioner Raymond E. Sines, often a critic of the stormwater program, said he wanted to emphasize that the fees will be reduced.

Participating communities are the cities of Kirtland, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Painesville, Willoughby Hills and Willowick, along with the villages of Fairport Harbor, Grand River, Kirtland Hills, Lakeline, Madison, Timberlake and Perry, and the townships of Concord, Madison and Painesville.

Thirteen of the 15 communities have opted for Level 2 service, and two have opted for Level 1 service.

Residential property owners will now pay \$15 annually for Level 2 service. Level 1 community property owners will pay \$4.80 per year.

For business and other nonresidential property owners, their rate is based upon their impervious area divided by 3,050 square feet, or a typical half-acre residential lot, as deemed by the county's Geographic Information System Department.

Stormwater Director Tim Miller said the fees will generate \$1,068,905 next year, down from \$2,043,827 anticipated for collection this year.

The drop of revenue will amount to a 48 percent reduction for the program because Madison Village officially joins the program in 2013, therefore adding about \$37,000 in additional revenue.

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Lake County commissioners read a proclamation related to Be a Santa to

