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Lee keeps an eye on Manna Christian RV park

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The debris at Manna Christian RV Park in south Lee County has been cleaned up, and county inspectors want to make sure it stays that way.

Park owner Peter Quinn and his brother, manager Thomas Quinn, had until Wednesday to respond to a nuisance violation for accumulated trash issued May 20 by county code enforcement.

The overflowing waste bins have been emptied.

"We just feel that with the ongoing demolition, it makes more sense to keep the case open until the last of those illegal structures are demolished," said Joan LaGuardia, community development spokeswoman. "So we don't have to keep going out there and citing them again and again."

The Quinns could not be reached for comment.

Residents were flooded out of their homes in August after Tropical Storm Fay. Of 166 trailers deemed unlivable, 67 have been demolished.

The latest county records show the park, off Bonita Beach Road in Lee County outside Bonita Springs, has 50 occupied trailers. The residents are mostly poor Hispanic families.

Diego Grisales, team leader for Project HOPE - Helping Our People in Emergencies - has been aiding the Fay victims.

"That is the best thing that could have happened considering the conditions those families live in," Grisales said of the citation and cleanup.

County building officials will continue to inspect Manna Christian every week.

"As long as we keep this case open we can go through the process of bringing them before the hearing examiner at our discretion if it gets trashed again," LaGuardia said.

If the hearing examiner were to determine the owner is in violation, a lien would be placed on the park and the owner could be fined \$250 per day until the situation is corrected.

Quinn also had seven days to respond to a sanitary hazard notice from the Lee County Health Department for demolition trash on the grounds and sewer connections that were not capped. Health department spokeswoman Jennifer James-Mesloh said 95 percent of the debris has been picked up and most of the missing caps on sewer connections of abandoned trailers have been replaced. An inspector will return today to ensure the remaining six are capped.

"This is tremendous progress on behalf of the owners of Manna Christian," James-Mesloh said.

The health department could have fined the owners \$500 for every violation had they not been addressed in a reasonable period.

"We're not trying to fine this owner," James-Mesloh said. "We're trying to have compliance, and it was obvious by the amount of work that had been done that they were doing everything that they could to meet the requirements."

Manna Christian Missions Inc. still owes the Lee County Tax Collector \$684.11. That includes \$619.66 for burning garbage to reduce its volume and produce electricity plus interest and other fees that have accumulated.