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Bonita Springs trailer park declared safe, for now

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Manna Christian Missions RV Park met its health inspection deadline yesterday but will still face Lee County code enforcers.

Last week, the park, located off Bonita Beach Road, was given seven days to cap sewer connections and clear away scattered debris and demolition garbage.

On Wednesday, inspectors found that about 95 percent of the debris had been removed and all but six sewer caps had been installed, according to Lee County Health Department spokeswoman Jennifer James-Mesloh. By Thursday, inspectors discovered that the six sewer connections had been capped and the remaining debris had been cleared.

"The owner had made a concerted effort to fix the problem," said James-Mesloh.

Code enforcers were also satisfied with the progress the park had made when they visited the park on Wednesday. However, the park is not in the clear yet.

Community Development spokeswoman Joan LaGuardia explained, "We will continue to inspect them weekly to make sure demolition debris does not accumulate again. Keeping the case open like this allows us to act quickly to bring him (park owner Peter Quinn) to the hearing examiner if necessary."

LaGuardia estimates the park still needs to demolish another 60 trailers and could be fined up to \$250 a day if it does not comply with agency mandates.

Park resident Jose Brito, 16, said, "I see them working every day so I guess they are doing their job." Brito described how his father and other residents have been aiding in the cleanup efforts.

Manna Christian, whose residents are mostly low-income Hispanics, was brought to code enforcers' attention after Tropical Storm Fay flooded the park, causing the residents to evacuate. Community Development found over 100 illegal trailer modifications and ordered the structures to be demolished. The park

management has so far dismantled 67 structures. Yet much of the resulting debris had not been removed from the park.

Thomas Quinn, the park manager, refused to comment on the situation.

Many of the park's current and former residents are also involved in a dispute with the Federal Emergency Management Agency over water damage from Tropical Storm Fay.

Lisa Carmona, an attorney representing many of the victims, said, "We had asked trailers remain until they were inspected. We are working on getting releases from our clients so (park management) can go ahead and demolish them."

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