



To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

<<
[Back](#)

Lee votes to limit future housing on Pine Island

By [Karen Feldman](#)

Originally posted on March 15, 2006

Citing concerns about hurricane evacuation times and overall quality-of-life issues, the Lee County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday night to reduce the number of homes permitted in future Pine Island developments.

DELIVERING YOUR WORLD

- ▶ [Subscribe to The News-Press](#)
- ▶ [Signup for breaking or daily email news](#)
- ▶ [Printer friendly version](#)
- ▶ [Email this article](#)

..... ADVERTISEMENT

After more than two hours of public comment, during which 43 people addressed the board, commissioners voted to require future residential developments to reduce by two-thirds the number of housing units that would previously have been allowed.

The reduction does not apply to the 12 proposed developments that were already going through the approval process when the commissioners placed a moratorium on all Pine Island projects two months ago in order to have a committee determine how the county should regulate growth on the island.

Bryan Crane, president of Greater Pine Island Civic Association, said after the marathon meeting that he was somewhat surprised that the vote was unanimous but that he was "very pleased with the outcome. I think the commission made a very good decision."

James Ink, a consultant for a number of developers on Pine Island, said he was glad that the commission grandfathered in the 12 developments that were already in the planning stages.

"I think it's the right thing to do," he said.

At issue was a segment of the Pine Island Land Use Plan that calls for the county to consider the number of cars a proposed development will generate and add that to the total already traveling Pine Island Road.

When the number reaches 910 an hour through Matlacha at peak traffic periods, the plan calls for the county to cut the density of future developments by two-thirds.

Traffic on Pine Island Road reached 910 in 2004, but the county continued to approve developments.

Members of the Greater Pine Island Civic Association protested, calling on the commission to rein in growth as called for in the plan.