

## City may limit size of upper floors

But critics argue the proposal amounts to taking away property rights.

By Laurie Krosney  
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ANNA MARIA — People building new homes or remodeling and enlarging existing ones may find that they can't make their third floors as large as they used to be able to.

If the city commission goes along with a planning and zoning recommendation that grew out of Feb. 17 meeting, the large, rectangular, straight-walled homes now being built would no longer be allowed.

"Only 50 percent of the structure may exceed 27 feet in height based on the square footage of the main level not exceeding 27 feet in height," is the exact wording in the proposed ordinance that the P&Z board will recommend.

The main level refers to the main living level. In newer homes, since FEMA regulations dictate that the living space has to be elevated, if you had two stories over parking, the upper-most floor could be only 50 percent as large as the main living floor.

This restriction didn't sit

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# The Anna Maria Island SUN

VOL. 9, NO. 22 - FREE - FEBRUARY 25, 2009 - ANNA MARIA ISLAND, FLORIDA - WWW.AMISUN.COM

The Island's award-winning weekly newspaper



## Record crowds feast at fish fest



SUN PHOTO/MAGGIE FIELD

It was a seafood lover's delight Saturday and Sunday at the 27th Annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival, which set records for attendance at 24,000 and gross proceeds at \$227,000.

An estimated 24,000 people crammed into the two-day celebration of commercial fishing.

By Cindy Lane  
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CORTEZ — It was standing room only under sunny skies at the 27th Annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival last weekend, where visitors cracked crab claws, danced to down-home music, shopped for nautical art and learned what makes the historic fishing village special.

A record crowd of 24,000 enjoyed the weekend festival, taking boat tours of the working waterfront and guided tours of the Florida Maritime Museum and admiring Caribbean-colored traditional wooden boats built by hand.

In keeping with the festival theme, "Claws," a crabber demonstrated how to

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## County beach pier closed permanently

By Pat Copeland  
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HOLMES BEACH — For the second time in five months, county officials closed the Manatee Beach pier, but this time they said it must be removed and replaced.

In meeting with county commissioners Thursday, Charlie Hunsicker, director of the Natural Resources Department, said, "Because of continued deterioration to the pier structure since the last

inspection, this report recommends removal of the existing pier followed by new construction to replace the original footprint at a higher elevation, as required by current state permit requirements."

He presented four options:

- Option 1: Demolition and removal, \$670,000;
- Option 2: Repair existing pier, \$1,683,000;
- Option 3: Rebuild pier over top of existing pier, \$1,490,000;



SUN PHOTO/PAT COPELAND

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Is the Pine Ave. project good for Anna Maria?



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