

Ave Maria Controversy

By WINK News

Ave Maria, Florida - Ave Maria is Southwest Florida's newest community. It is located in North-East Collier County. It's just ten miles off Oil Well road. But the new town comes with a little controversy. The ACLU is not praising what's happening in the new town.

The American Civil Liberties Union is worried certain businesses here will not follow the same government ordinances as any other business in Collier County.

WINK News spoke with the project manager who says that couldn't be further than the truth and this is nothing more than a publicity stunt.

The ACLU is worried the line may be crossed and businesses may cater to catholic beliefs because Ave Maria was founded by a devoted catholic, Thomas Monahan.

The legal organization is afraid businesses will be influenced by catholic beliefs banning items like contraception and pornography.

Project manager Blake Gable says all businesses in Ave Maria fall under the same ordinances as every other vendor in Collier County and to think that businesses would be treated differently just because a catholic church stands in the middle of the town is outrageous.

The ACLU has not found any violations yet but will be keeping a close eye on the businesses out here.

The Ave Maria Townfest is Saturday from 10:30 to 2:30.

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