

# North Pinellas Times

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Tuesday, September 25, 2007 | NPN

## Helipad headed for approval

The county staff favors Matt Geiger's plan if he avoids birds, late-night rides and other concerns.

BY ELENA LESLEY  
Times Staff Writer

TARPON SPRINGS — Former NBA player Matt Geiger can have his helipad as long as he agrees to avoid colliding with migratory birds, shuns late-night joyrides and adheres to a variety of conditions set by the county.

The Pinellas County staff issued a recommendation Monday for conditional approval of Geiger's proposed helicopter landing pad. Geiger wants

to build the pad at his East Lake mansion, which is on the market for \$20-million.

The recommendation will go before county commissioners Oct. 16 for a vote.

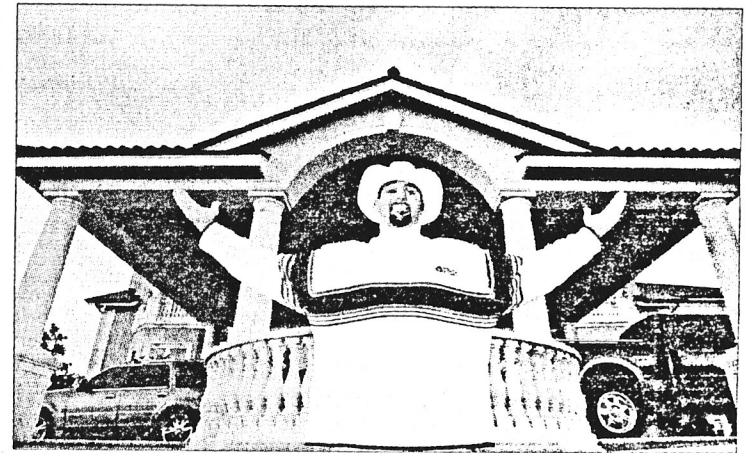
In addition to outlining the county's requirements, the recommendation took into account a number of concessions Geiger promised to neighbors.

"We talked to as many (residents) as we could," said Geiger's representative, Todd Pressman.

"We incorporated all their feedback."

When news spread in July that Geiger wanted to build a helipad, neighbors were nervous. They had visions of helicopters crashing into nearby properties, stampeding ponies on area farms and propellers slashing migratory birds.

Such requests are rare in Pinellas County, said county development review services manager **» See HELIPAD, 5**



JAMES BORCHUCK | Times

**Matt Geiger wants a helipad at his East Lake mansion, for which he is asking \$20-million. He plans to build another home nearby.**

