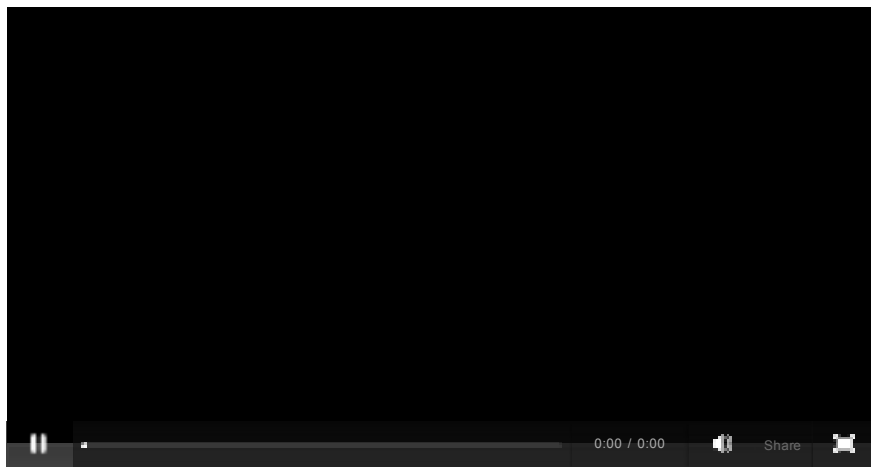


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Westlake Homeowners Win Fight to Preserve Wooded Land - For Now




By Alice Barr



The Westlake Town Council rejected a zoning change that would have brought in 56 new homes after neighbors voiced their objection. (Published Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017)



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and you can win. After weeks of public outcry, the town council rejected a zoning change Monday night that would have brought in 56 new homes.

The march toward development may seem inevitable, but in this case it did not win out. A group of dedicated homeowners did, armed with detailed research and plenty of fight.

Westlake is a town of beautiful homes and plentiful trees, not quite tumbleweeds but neighbors are drawn there for the next closest thing: room to breathe.



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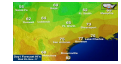
"It's so relaxing and just a peaceful, family-oriented environment," said Westlake homeowner Nancy Graves.



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Burglar Breaks Into Home, Gets Stuck

A New York burglar gets stuck in a window while breaking into a home and it's all caught on camera. It happened early Saturday at this home in the village of Airmont, north of New York City. Surveillance video from a home security camera shows the burglar, dressed in a bathrobe and slippers, struggling to get through a kitchen window into the house... [Read more](#) (Published Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017)

But change is here. Westlake is already zoned for as much commercial development as downtown Fort Worth, right now more than half is still untouched.

"I think stiff-arming development is dangerous," Westlake Mayor Laura Wheat said. "I think ultimately it's impossible. Development and growth is going to happen."

Mayor Wheat added that it's the town government's job to make sure any new development fits.

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That's where the fight over a 62-acre hilltop of trees comes in. A developer wanted to raze it to put in 56 new homes, a closely packed development that would have overlooked Neil McNabney's acre lot.

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Grinch Targets 'Toys for Tots'

The search is on for the thieves who stole \$1,200 worth of gifts designated for a Toys for Tots toy drive in North Carolina. Security video footage caught a silver Chevy truck pull into a drop-off location in Greensboro at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday.
(Published Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017)

"I think this was a seminal point," said McNabney. "The town could either lie down and roll over to the developer or they could stand up and say you know what, this is an important feature of the town."

Mayor Wheat, who rides to town hall on a bike, says preserving the vision of a wide open Westlake means a lot, and so do the voices that stepped up to fight for it.

"Whatever happens, the fact that people were so energized, and so involved in the process, it will be a better product in the end than it would have been without it," said Mayor Wheat.

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Right now the lot is zoned commercial. It's owned by a development company that didn't return calls for comment so it's not clear what's next for the land.

The mayor says town council will do whatever it can to preserve it as wooded land and neighbors will be watching closely.

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