

The Westlake Wire



... your connection to the Town & the Academy

[Town Closings](#)
Nov. 25-26, 2010
Dec. 24 & 27, 2010
Dec. 31, 2010

[Tree Lighting](#)
Nov. 30, 2010
6:30 pm

[Have you met our newest Council Member & School Board Trustee?](#)
Please join us in welcoming
Mr. John Miller!

Please view the Town & Academy websites for more information



Westlake Goes for the GOLD

On Thursday, September 16, 2010, fourteen Texas cities were recognized as Texas Certified Scenic Cities for having the highest level of scenic standards for public roadways and public spaces. The Town of Westlake received a Gold level certification, one of only four other Texas cities.

The [Scenic City Certification Program](#), the first of its kind in the United States, was developed in 2009 by Scenic Texas in cooperation with the Texas Municipal League and in consultation with Scenic Houston, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Urban Land Institute, American Planning Association and Houston Council of Engineers. It accepted its first applications in 2010.

Other programs exist to recognize achievement for individual aspects of urban design and development, but this program is the first to incorporate a comprehensive set of model standards into one program. Applicant cities presented their existing municipal standards for assessment and scoring against the model. Those with the highest evaluation scores were certified.

The 2010 Certified Scenic Cities are Bastrop, Belton, Flower Mound, Georgetown, Granbury, Horseshoe Bay, Irving, Keller, Mesquite, Missouri City, South Padre Island, Sugar Land, University Park and Westlake.

Westlake Welcomes Solera Holdings, Inc.



San Diego software design firm Solera Holdings has chosen Westlake as the site for its new corporate headquarters in Tarrant County.

Kamal Hamid, Vice President of Investor Relations for Solera, said the corporate headquarters in Westlake will initially house a dozen employees. Solera is a publicly traded company with annual sales in excess of \$650 million specializing in a number of software products including software for the automotive repair industry.

The Town of Westlake welcomes this top notch company to its business community and sees it as an excellent addition to the types of service and technology based industries that call Westlake home. To learn more about Solera, go to <http://www.solerainc.com>

Congratulations Mayor Wheat!

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Mayor Wheat was selected as a 2010 Great Women of Texas honoree by The Fort Worth Business Press.

This prestigious award honors women from the area who are recognized for their significant accomplishments in business, civic and social contributions in the Fort Worth area. Each woman honored is a trailblazer in their business interests, but it is their dedication to the community and their own families that makes them stand out. Westlake applauds Mayor Wheat on this well-deserved honor as we greatly value her leadership and service!



MAYOR LAURA WHEAT

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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I hope this newsletter finds you both well and happy and that you are enjoying our stupendous fall weather - our just reward for enduring Texas summers.

I would like to thank each of you who participated in our annual citizens' and/or Westlake Academy parents' surveys. The results of each of these surveys are available for your review on the Town and Academy websites. The staff and Town Council rely heavily on this information to make good budget prioritization decisions on how to use our scarce financial resources, as well as how to measure the performance of Town services and overall parent satisfaction with the Academy. Since we now have compiled data from the past two years, we are beginning to build comparative performance metrics regarding both the Town and the Academy.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Town Council's biggest endeavor these past months has been to deal with financial sustainability issues. After much public debate, citizen input, and Town Council discussion, the Council adopted the Town's first property tax this fall. This property tax of just over 16 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation is the lowest of any city or town in this area and will be a means by which we can stabilize the Town's volatile revenue base while investing in our infrastructure and preserving Westlake's unique quality of life. The Council's deliberations on this issue were as transparent as possible with all information discussed at meetings included on the Town's web site. Many thanks to each of you who attended Town Council meetings and public hearings, sent emails, and otherwise participated in this important dialogue by giving us your input and perspectives. I was incredibly proud of the manner in which we all conducted ourselves. Although the debates and discussions were often lively and reflected divergent opinions, the tone, without exception, was one of respect. Proof once again, that we live in an amazing community.

As you are also undoubtedly aware, Deloitte University continues to literally rise out of the ground, FM 1938 continues under construction, and Stagecoach Hills is getting a new water distribution system installed. You may not be aware, however, that the Town was recently designated as a Gold Level Scenic City, in large part based upon our environmentally sensitive development regulations that stress strong aesthetics. Please know that even though change is inevitable in the Town of Westlake, just as it is in each of our lives, your Town Council remains committed to preserving our Town's unique character and feel. There truly is no place like Westlake.

It continues to be an honor to serve you as your Mayor.

All the best-



Westlake Community Tree Lighting

Please join us on Tuesday, November 30th at 6:30 pm for the annual lighting of our community's Christmas tree and campus at Westlake Academy. This year's event will feature a special live broadcast from "Radio Disney" with games and events to include musical performances by Academy students, cookie decorating station, hot cocoa/coffee stations, and special visitors from the North Pole. Come on out and bring your family and friends and enjoy a fun family night as we kick off the holiday season together. We hope to see you there!



Holiday Fire Safety Message

As we grow closer to the holiday season, many of you may place a Christmas tree in your home. Our awareness of fire safety is crucial during the holidays. Many fires are started by placing Christmas trees too close to heat sources such as the fire place, candles, or heaters. Make sure you inspect your tree lights for shorts, frays, or exposed wiring as this is also a cause of fires. And please remember, NEVER leave your Christmas tree lights on while sleeping or when you leave the house. If you have a non-artificial tree, make sure to keep the tree stand full of water at all times and discard the tree when needles begin to fall easily. Practicing these suggestions will help ensure safer holidays for you and your family.



Community Group Enjoys First of Three Living History Presentations

On October 26, 2010, around 30 community members and Academy students enjoyed a living history presentation by Westlake Historical Board Member and resident Bert Schultz, seen below in a US Calvary uniform with WHPS President Sharon Sanden. The historic period surrounding the Texas Forts and role of the US Calvary during the Indian Wars was brought alive by the passion and knowledge of Mr. Schultz. Audience members also enjoyed the display of various US Calvary pieces including authentic firearms, supplies and equipment. Thank you Mr. Schultz, for sharing your time and love of history with us and also, thank you to Mrs. Schultz for topping off the evening with refreshments!

Please look for more of the Westlake Historical Preservation Society's Living History Presentations by Bert Schultz in the coming year!



New Walk-By Museum Exhibit Coming Soon



Westlake Historical Preservation Society is proud to present the next "Walk-By Museum Exhibit" with a display of Department 56 Dickens' Villages including Santa and the North Pole. This exhibit will begin November 20, 2010, and run through the holidays. For more information on the WHPS or volunteer opportunities, please call President Sharon Sanden at 817-676-7458.



Congratulations Ms. Joyce Roach!

Joyce Gibson Roach, Westlake Historical Preservation Society board member and award winning, noted Southwest author, was inducted in the National Cowgirls Hall of Fame on October 28, 2010. Westlake is very fortunate for Ms. Roach's leadership, passion, wisdom and tireless volunteer efforts that she graciously shares with our community. Please visit the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame's [website](#) to learn more about Joyce Gibson Roach and the other legendary honorees.



Looking for a great holiday gift? Would you like to know more about the Westlake region?

The Little Town That Could, Westlake, Texas, Origins and Legacies is now available. Authored by long time Westlake supporter, Joyce Gibson Roach, the pages are filled with interesting facts and history that take you back to the 1840s in Northeast Tarrant County. Whether a Westlake resident or not, you will be interested in this fascinating book.

Stop by Town Hall to pick up your copy today!

3 Village Circle, Suite 202
Westlake, TX 76262
817-430-0941





Work on the FM 1938 project continues to move along at a rapid pace. During the last several months, the contractor installed underground storm drains across Dove Road, Solana Blvd, and the existing Precinct Line Road. Crews have also installed storm drain pipe on the south end of the project and are removing excess dirt. The Town of Westlake had a 12" water line lowered to accommodate the underground storm drain pipe installation on Dove Road. Both TxDOT and the Town made several engineering design changes required to accommodate unknown existing utilities and groundwater issues. TxDOT's estimated completion date of October for the section of FM 1938 roadway between SH 114 and Solana Blvd is now anticipated in January. The contractor has also started the work on the retaining walls in several locations, one of which is for the pedestrian underpass tunnel that will provide a major regional connection point for Westlake, Southlake and Keller.

Residents with questions or concerns about the project are asked to contact the Town of Westlake Public Works Director Jarrod Greenwood at (817) 680-1422.



Construction Zones in & around FM 1938



During the construction of the new road, the Municipal Court staff wanted to take a moment to ensure that our residents are aware that citations (tickets) issued in the construction zone have additional consequences if they are received while "workers are present", *and to please watch their speed through this area.*

- Citations for speeding, running a stop sign, etc. (otherwise known as moving violations) **do not** qualify for deferred adjudication (probation) or defensive driving, if they are issued while the workers are present in the construction zone.
- Please keep in mind, even if you cannot see the workers in the immediate area and if they are present anywhere in the zone, the citation will be written as a construction zone offense.
- Residents who receive these types of citations will be required to either enter a plea of not guilty and proceed to trial or pay the fine.
- Fine amounts in this zone will be doubled based on the speed or offense charged.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Court at (817)430-0861, Extension 9.

STAGECOACH HILLS WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Westlake began replacing old undersized waterlines within the Stagecoach Hills subdivision in September. The project is progressing very well despite several rain events and is approximately 40% complete. We anticipate the completion of construction in early December. Crews have made new connections to the City of Keller water mains and installed the main waterlines and fire hydrants on Steve Court, Janet Court and Thornton Drive. Over the next few weeks the contractor will be installing new service lines, cleaning up the jobsite, and will begin testing of the water main. Before the new mains can be placed into service they must be pressure tested, disinfected and also tested for bacteria. Once Westlake and Keller approve the waterlines, the contractor will begin switching homes over to the new waterlines.



Residents with questions or concerns about the project are asked to contact Westlake Public Works Director Jarrod Greenwood at (817) 680-1422.

Arbor Day 2010-A Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Arbor Day 2010! Westlake has undoubtedly the best community sponsors, volunteers and Town staff whose commitment and hard work made our 11th Annual Arbor Day celebration a great success!

New attractions enjoyed this year included Horse Painting, Texas Hawking Association, a Wildflower Seed Launch and Rock Climbing, along with favorites from the past such as Hot Air Balloon rides, Guitar Hero, a Petting Zoo, a Fishing Derby, and many other family fun activities. This year's raffle prizes included an iPad, a wine tasting for 6, a health club membership and many other donated items. Ms. Mary Graulty was the winner of the iPad, valued at over \$600. Congratulations Mary!



Westlake Parks & Recreation Director Troy Meyer presented Mayor Laura Wheat with the Tree City USA Award. The Town of Westlake has won this prestigious award for eleven consecutive years. The estimated attendance for the event was reported at 200 guests and over \$8,000 raised in sponsorships, food and raffle ticket sales. A hearty "Westlake Thanks" to the following community 2010 sponsors- Team Knight, Steele and Freeman, Hillwood Alliance Group, Fidelity Investments, Best Buy, Rudy's BBQ, Lawyers Title, Maguire Partners, Fossil Creek Spirits, Dr. Pepper and The Solana Club. Additionally, this year's Arbor Day would not have happened without the hard work of the following: Troy Meyer, Joseph Lopez, Trish Landers, Stephanie Erb, Cinda Knight, the Westlake Fire Department/EMS and Westlake Academy staff and students. We appreciate each and every one of you! Until next year...



WESTLAKE ACADEMY



Westlake Academy First Quarter Report

Westlake Academy has had an exciting and dynamic first 9 weeks. With our enrollment climbing to around 530 students (K-12), the air of positivity and teamwork is at an all time high, and the level of creative and critical thinking demonstrated by our students is, without doubt, something to behold. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the highlights of the first quarter of the academic year, as well as extending a personal invitation to visit Westlake Academy so that you may experience our wonderful learning community for yourself.

The arrival of our Secondary Principal, Mr. Rod Harding

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our latest addition to the Westlake Academy Leadership Team, Secondary Principal Mr. Rod Harding.

A citizen of Australia, Mr. Harding commences his role as secondary principal for this academic year and holds a Masters degree from New York State University with 20 years of international teaching and administrative experience. He has held positions of Primary and Middle Years Principal in his recent IB World School, as well as a whole school position of Director of Operations.

Along with his knowledge and experience as an instructional leader, Rod has taken on senior administrative roles in facility and curriculum development, as well as security and risk management. He is keenly interested in systems that create and maintain a culture of learning within the educational setting, meeting the diverse needs of students to reach their maximum potential and develop meaningful professional development programs for educators. Welcome Rod!

New Teachers



In addition to our Secondary Principal, we also have a number of new additions to our teaching faculty as follows:

**Erin Austin -Grade 3
Cheryl Hassell -Grade 4
Amanda Metzler -Grade 5
Tara Schwirtz -Grade 6
Roy B. Odom -G8 Art**

**Chad Nothe -PYP PE & Head Boys Basketball Coach
Cheryl Johnson -Secondary Mathematics & Science
Nicolau Pereira -Spanish, Grades 9 & 10
Elliot Ventura -Texas History, G7 & U.S. History, G8**

**Westlake Academy
2600 J.T. Ottinger Road
817.490.5757
817.490.5758 fax
Superintendent—Tom Brymer
Secondary Principal—Rod Harding
Primary Principal—Jamie Schmitz
Administrative Coordinator—Ben Nibarger**



Curriculum Enrichment

The 2010/2011 academic year has seen the introduction of new courses and services such as: The Blacksmith Course and the addition of a dedicated Primary Reading Specialist.

Of particular interest is the aforementioned unique, “built from the ground up” Blacksmith Course:

The Blacksmith course is designed to address student life at Westlake Academy. At the core of this course is the learning culture of the school. The course will educate students on the Middle Years Program and serve as an authentic guide and realistic approach to the school’s mission statement. The course at the core answers the question, “What does it mean to be a student in the Middle Years Program at Westlake Academy?”

Specifically, the Blacksmith Course encompasses:

- * Middle Years Programme study
- * Community and Service
- * The International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile
- * Student Portfolio
- * The Areas of Interaction
- * Study Skills

Our Learning Community and Professional Development

At Westlake Academy, we are focused on becoming an effective Learning Community. We aspire to have all stakeholders (students, faculty and parents in particular) learning, growing and developing their understanding of inquiry-based practice continuously and in parallel. In order to achieve the abovementioned, we have begun to implement a variety of strategies and tactics in accordance with our strategic plan, mission, vision and values.

We draw our meaning of the term Learning Community from different sources. Rather than just paraphrasing or quoting from a particular piece of work, we have looked at what different Learning Community conceptual constructs have in common. In essence, the elements that resonate with our goals and focus are as follows:

- A group of individuals with a common purpose
- A group of individuals who are dedicated to continuous learning, improvement and growth
- A group of individuals who are committed to collaboration and who believe that teams make better decisions
- A group of individuals who are open to sharing expertise and ideas at any given opportunity
- A group of individuals who understand that others with different perspectives can also “be right”
- A group of individuals who are willing to take risks, innovate and create
- A group of individuals who have ownership of the mission, vision and values of the school and refer to them when designing and implementing learning and assessment (Kilpatrick, Barrett & Jones, 2003, p.5)

Kilpatrick, S., Barrett, M. and Jones, T. (2003). Defining Learning Communities, *CRLRA Discussion Paper*. Launceston, Tasmania

To assist us in achieving the abovementioned, we have devised a rich and varied Professional Development Roster for the 10/11 academic year which includes internationally and nationally renowned speakers and experts such as:

- **Dr. Rick Rigsby**-nationally recognized motivational speaker
- **Dr. Grant Wiggins**-internationally renowned Curriculum and Assessment Expert, author of *Understanding by Design* and key contributor to the International Baccalaureate’s (PYP/MYP/DP) written curricula
- **Sir Ken Robinson**-internationally renowned creativity expert and author of *The Element*
- **Daniel Pink**-internationally renowned author of *A Whole New Mind* and *Drive*
- **Dr. Marcia Tate**-internationally renowned Educational Consultant and author of *Worksheets Don’t Grow Dendrites*

11/17/2010	Student Holiday / Staff Development Day
11/22-28/2010	Thanksgiving Holiday
12/06/2010	Board of Trustee Meeting
12/15-17/2010	Early Release Secondary/Exams
12/20-31/2010	Winter Holiday
01/17/2011	Holiday/Martin Luther King Day
01/19/2011	Early Release/Parent Conference/Staff Development



WESTLAKE ACADEMY SENIOR KHALIL PILLAI LAUNCHES UNICEF CLUB AND TWO FUNDRAISERS

Were you surprised to see trick-or-treaters this past Halloween carrying a little orange box when you opened your door? They were collecting on behalf of Westlake Academy's new UNICEF Club as part of the 60th Anniversary of "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF." UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) is a global organization that saves children's lives in over 150 countries by providing clean water, nutrition, medicines, education and aid in emergencies.

Westlake Academy Senior Khalil Pillai was inspired while returning from a vacation this past summer to begin an effort at the school to help others. While on an airplane he met a flight attendant who was an ambassador for UNICEF and was collecting money for the cause. Because UNICEF is a branch of the United Nations, Pillai first learned about UNICEF through a class he took at school called General Elementary Model United Nations.

Next on the Club's agenda is a community-wide event: a concert and a silent auction held at the Academy, 2600 Ottinger Rd., Westlake, TX 76262, on **Saturday, November 13, 5 - 11 p.m.** to benefit UNICEF. The event will include performances by local bands, a raffle, silent auction and food and beverages. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and students.

"I hope the community will join us for this fun and worthwhile event," added Pillai. "If you have anything you would like to donate for the silent auction please let us know. Everyday 22,000 children die from preventable causes, and we believe that number should be zero. Please join our fundraising efforts for this important cause."

Congratulations to six (6) of our 2011 Westlake Academy Graduating Seniors!

Westlake Academy, along with the entire Westlake community, want to extend a hearty congratulations to **our first National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, Franklin Otis**.

Approximately 16,000 Semifinalists were announced in September from roughly 1.5 million 2009-2010 high school junior students across 22,000 high schools that entered the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state and are eligible for some 8,400 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, after obtaining advancement to the Finalist level of the competition. National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in the spring of 2011. Also earning recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Program are five other members of the Westlake Academy senior class. Well-deserved congratulations go out to **Patrick Watson, Phillip D'Amore, Casey Timmerman, Riley Rennhack, and Joelle Jung** in earning the distinction of a **2011 National Merit Commended Student**.



More than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by other national corporations and business organizations. We are very proud of you!



3rd Annual Pink Out

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A sea of over 400 pink shirts blanketed the gymnasium on October 29, 2010, at Westlake Academy's third annual "Pink Out" to rally students and recognize teachers, parents, family members and friends who are breast cancer survivors or have been affected by breast cancer, while raising funds for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Students sold t-shirts, wristbands and a bake sale to raise funds. Westlake Academy presented a check to the Susan G. Komen Foundation and announced at an all-school assembly, the "Pinkest House" (the house division of the school that raised the most funds). This year, Westlake Academy raised approximately \$4,500 with the Keller house winning the honor of the pinkest house.

Mayor Laura Wheat, a three-time breast cancer survivor, spoke during the event and the song "We Fight Back" by Tim Halperin was played while survivors, friends, and families of survivors came forward, displaying a name and photo of their loved ones, and stood together in honor of the overwhelming number of those affected by cancer. Later that afternoon, a Mr. Pink Contest was held with secondary students competing for the title by donning the best pink toga, dancing routine and answer to an interview question. Approximately 20 young men entered the contest and Sophomore Conner Smith was declared the winner by the judges.

As a continuing fundraising effort, Westlake Academy invites you to join the students and download the song from iTunes, "We Fight Back", written by TCU graduate and pop artist Tim Halperin, to support the fight against breast cancer. Mr. Halperin will donate \$.70 of each downloaded song back to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



Gallery

An Evening at the
The Westlake Academy Foundation

**Be a Part of It...
New York, New York!**

March 5, 2011
Marriott Solana, Westlake

We want **YOU** to be a part of it! Help plan a great
Gallery Night auction, dinner, and dance!

Interested?

Contact Shelly Myers
(817.490.5722; smyers@westlakeacademy.org)



Westlake Baja

monday, september 27, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

What a fantastic day we had at the 2nd Annual Westlake Baja! On September 27th, over 200 golfers, sponsors and guests contributed more than \$127,000 to the Fund100 for Teachers! You have honored our fine faculty with your generous participation and ensured that teaching excellence remains the cornerstone of a Westlake Academy education.



To date, the Westlake Academy Foundation has awarded over \$72,000 in grants from the Fund100. Every teacher who has submitted an application has received full financial support! The Academy is deeply appreciative to have these important dollars dedicated to recruiting, retaining, and developing legacy teachers to deliver the rigorous International Baccalaureate curriculum.

Special Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors:

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Brett & Lisa Pylant - Range Resources - Rick & Leah Rennhack
Jeff & Charlotte Ryan - John & Trisha Thievon
Westlake Academy House of Commons - Doug & Laura Wheat
Horace Wu, M.D. & Jinny Yoon, M.D.