

## Houston Chronicle



### On the Homefront

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## Developer turns vision into reality

**W**HEN Andrew Choy first saw the lush land that is now Lake Olympia more than a decade ago, he had a vision of a premiere residential development. Today, he has turned that vision into one of Fort Bend County's most successful planned communities.

Choy, president of Lake Olympia Development Corp., first saw the area that is now the 1,000-acre Lake Olympia from a helicopter, during a time when he was looking for land to develop.

In the development of the land, Choy left a lot of its natural surroundings, which includes mature trees and waterways.

Lake Olympia has become home to more than 600 families since its official opening in 1984, many of those people being Houston Oiler team members and coaches. Its housing selection ranges from homes by top Houston volume builders to custom builders.

Prices for new homes in Lake Olympia range from the \$110,000s to more than \$1 million.

## Lake Olympia

A relaxing lifestyle awaits home buyers in Lake Olympia's natural environment. The close-in community features 130 acres of lakes, nine miles of shoreline and a variety of homes priced from the \$100,000s to more than \$1 million. Daily boat tours are available at the visitor center.

## New garden homes

One of the newest sections in Lake Olympia is Lakeshore Forest — Lake Olympia's garden home neighborhood.

Bordering a lake and surrounded by trees, Lakeshore Forest is drawing a lot of attention with its garden home collection by David Weekley Homes.

"This new product was created in response to buyer's demands," said Choy. "It has only been open for a month and already 25 percent of the lots have been sold." Choy said that the neighborhood has a total of 86 lots, and another section may be added in the future.

These new garden homes are priced from \$149,900 to \$190,000 and are offered in a variety of one- and two-story designs. The homes vary in size and go up to 2,500 square feet.

"Those home owners living on the waterfront have the option of building their own dock," said Choy. "And for those people who are not on the water, we are building a dock for their use."

Choy said the response has been overwhelming. The buyers of this new product vary — from the empty nester who generally prefers a one-story design, to the young couple with no children or young children — generally wanting a two-story home.

As Lake Olympia continues to develop, its popularity continues to increase. The community is surrounded by natural preserves. In fact, a 10-acre heavily wooded forest is located within walking distance of new Lakeshore Forest. Choy said that there are plans to build a walking path in the forest for residents' use.

Another drawing card for Lake Olympia is its schools. Located in the Fort Bend Independent School District, Lake Olympia is served by Lake Olympia Middle School, which is near the entrance of the community.

"People from surrounding communities want to bring their children to Lake Olympia Middle School," Choy said. "One of the things it offers students is a pioneer computer program."

If you haven't seen Lake Olympia, it is certainly worth a drive. Its location puts it less than 18 miles from downtown and about 14 miles from the Texas Medical Center.

Lake Olympia's entrance is on State Highway 6, one mile east of Murphy Road. One of the best ways to view the community is one of the boat tours — which are offered daily.