

Not everyone happy with new Westlake mayor

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At the Nov. 19 reorganization ceremony for the Westlake Village City Council, one resident urged officials not to appoint Councilmember Ned Davis as mayor for 2015.

Frank Bonvino, whose home is next to the 5-million-gallon water tank under construction in the Three Springs neighborhood of Westlake Village, said Davis—and Councilmember Philippa Klessig—have shown favoritism to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District at the expense of city residents.

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Mayor

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Bonvino claims the construction has come close to causing two traffic accidents on Three Springs Drive since work on the tank began last March.

And on Oct. 1, a 50-foot section of 36-inch-diameter steel pipe fell off a construction truck and rolled within 100 feet of Bonvino's home on Sandycreek Drive before being stopped by an oak tree, he said.

Tuesday, the truck traffic reached a crescendo with a reported 58 concrete haulers going in and out of Three Springs once every 4 minutes starting at 7 a.m.

According to Bonvino, many residents in Three Springs feel Davis does not represent their interests. Bonvino said that during a City Council meeting in October after the pipe fell off the truck, Davis ignored the safety issues created by the tank project.

"His comments about the accident were nothing short of ridiculous, demeaning and dis-

missive," Bonvino said.

He presented a petition signed by 29 people who oppose Davis' mayoral appointment.

The mayor and mayor pro tem positions in Westlake Village rotate yearly. Davis, who joined the council in 2007, was chosen as the new mayor at last month's meeting, and Councilmember Sue McSweeney was appointed mayor pro tem for the upcoming year.

Davis and Klessig did not respond to Bonvino's comments.

But in an interview with *The Acorn*, Davis said, "Frank has every right to his feelings and his opinion."

Klessig said Davis is committed to safeguarding the well-being of residents.

"He really listens to people," she said.

Davis said that residents who oppose the new water tank are looking to the City Council to fix

issues, but that the city does not have authority over the project, only the water district does.

He said the city worked closely with the water district to reduce the impact of the construction on Three Springs residents.

"I feel badly for those who are impacted by this, but also gratified that the city was able to enter into (an agreement) to mitigate construction impact," Davis said.

"We're almost done with it, and thank goodness no one has been hurt," he said.

At the meeting on Nov. 19, two people spoke in support of the City Council's efforts.

Westlake Village resident Sheldon Mende said Bonvino's criticism of Klessig and Davis is without merit, and that the council and staff are doing everything in their power to protect the interests of residents.

In the November LVMWD election, the water district board directors who supported the water tank, Glen Peterson and Lee Renger, were reelected, while Barry Steinhardt, who opposed the project, was defeated.



Ned Davis