

Treasure Homes Arson Investigation Continues

“We thought it was fireworks,” Neighbors Say

Arson investigators may be close to solving the New Year’s Eve arson at the Treasure Homes site. The multi-million dollar fire loss has developers and politicians scrambling.

Neighbors, however, thought the early-morning blast was part of New Year’s Eve celebrations along the lakefront.

One nearby resident, Richard Gengler, said, “It [the explosion] lit up the sky. We thought it was fireworks until all the firetrucks showed up.”

The developer, E.L.I.T.E. Homes, has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the

arsonist or arsonists. E.L.I.T.E. Homes may also be underinsured and therefore unable to continue with its ambitious project.

But the fire has also focused public attention on the political shenanigans that led to the “fast-track” condemnation of open land owned by a private benefactor, and the quick approval of zoning variations and building permits for townhomes on prized lakefront property.

The Treasure Homes development was opposed by neighborhood and environmental groups from the beginning. Arson investigators are looking into possible connections between the protest groups and the arsonists.