

No development for Northshore golf course

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Developer's plan to build 850 homes on private Tacoma golf course thwarted at state Supreme Court

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The state Supreme Court has driven the final nail in the coffin of a developer's plans to build more than 850 homes on a golf course in northeast Tacoma.

This week, the state's top court decided not to review a lower court's ruling in May that provided the next-to-last nail. That decision held that the developer of the Pointe at Northshore missed a notification deadline by two days, an error that meant the entire case should be dismissed. The developer asked the state supreme court to review that decision, and on Tuesday it said no.

At this point, the history of the case is longer than the description of the latest development. Here is a summary: In 1981, the city allowed the development of Northshore Country Club Estates, a 338-acre planned neighborhood around the private golf course. In 2006, the golf course's owners agreed to sell the course to developers, who wanted to build 366 houses and 494 townhouses on it. Neighbors strenuously objected. In 2010, a city hearing examiner recommended the city deny the rezoning that would allow the developers to build. The developers sued, and the case has wound its way through the court system until the state Supreme Court put it out of its misery this week.

"This news is a tremendous victory for Northeast Tacoma residents and helps preserve the wonderful quality of life citizens enjoy," said Tacoma City Councilman Robert Thoms, whose district includes the course, in a news release. "I commend the hard work by many neighbors who made their voices heard throughout this process."

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