



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Check out the SECURITY FEATURE on pgs. 7-9
- Sunday Music in the Park, Feb. 19, 4PM @ Willow Waterhole
- WCC Board Meeting : February 15, 7PM @ Westbury High School
- MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED
- FEBRUARY's heavy trash is JUNK WASTE

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Sunday Music in the Park

Featuring music students from Parker Elementary

The Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy is proud to announce that the popular and enjoyable "Sunday Music in the Park" concert series will resume this spring. On Sunday, February 19, talented students from the music magnet program at Parker Elementary will play at the Willow Waterhole. Our goal is to offer a truly memorable experience: great music performed in a beautiful setting. The November concert by the WHS Jazz Band was enjoyed by over 75 people, young and old. Bring your friends, neighbors, and kids!

Bring your own chair or blanket.

Date & Time: Sunday, February 19, from 4 - 5 PM

Place: South Gazebo (approx. 5300 Dryad) at Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve

Parking: Available along the Dryad easement next to WHS

In case of rain, the event will be cancelled.



BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS: Crime is Up

Check out our feature on pages 7-9 all about crime and security

Support the Westbury Area Patrol, see page 3

Are you sick and tired of crime? Volunteer to be a block captain or a section director. Think about joining Citizens on Patrol and be trained by HPD. Contribute to the Westbury Area Patrol so we can add more eyes on the street. Join us as we fight crime to keep Westbury safe and secure. These programs are explained more in depth on pages 8 and 9. Be aware, be vigilant, watch out for one another.

ATTENTION WESTBURY 1 AND 2 HOMEOWNERS: SEE PAGE 6 FOR A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Railroad Quiet Zone Update

A railroad "Quiet Zone" means that the train horn is silent as the train approaches each road crossing. A Quiet Zone requires signs and approved safety devices at each crossing to protect drivers from a train collision. According to the City of Houston Public Works department, plans for the devices needed at each local railroad crossing location (at Chimney Rock, Hillcroft, S. Post Oak, Haviland and Fondren) for the US90A/ South Main Railroad Quiet Zone were being finalized during the week of January 10th. Once the contractor provides an implementation timeline, the City of Houston will let us know when the Quiet Zone will go into effect.

We are all anxiously awaiting this date!

REMINDER: IT'S A NEW YEAR, PLEASE PAY YOUR 2012 DUES. SEE PG. 3

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Westbury Civic Club Office

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30AM— 1:30PM*, Closed Fridays
Address: 5322 W Bellfort Ste 107 Houston, TX 77035
Phone: 713-723-5437 **Office Manager:** Jennifer Edmondson
Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net
 *The office is closed on all major holidays, weekends (follows HISD calendar)
FREE NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666
 HPD Non-Emergency
 713-884-3131
 Power Outages (Centerpoint)
 713-207-2222
 Westbury HPD Storefront
 713-726-7126
 Platou Community Center
 713-726-7107
 Poison Control
 1-800-764-7661
 Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)
 713-207-2222
 District K Councilmember Larry Green
 832-393-3016
 District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen
 832-393-3004
 County Commissioner El Franco Lee
 713-755-6111

City of Houston 311 Hotline

(for all Non-Emergency Issues)

- Forestry Department
- Graffiti
- Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Heavy Trash
- Neighborhood Protection
- Parking Management
- Recycling
- School Crossing Light Repairs
- Water and Sewer Repair

CIVIC CLUB OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:30AM-1:30PM



President's Message

It's been a tough month since I last sat down to write the president's message. My dear mother, Polly Rucker, whom many of you may have known from her 46 years of teaching so many neighborhood children at St Thomas More, passed away on December 30th. Following closely behind her was Marie Gage, another vibrant, wonderful woman, whose life was taken during the robbery of her home. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. February always makes me think of valentines and love. And, although I don't think they knew one another, Marie and Polly shared an incredible love of life and shared that love with everyone who was lucky enough to know them. My message for February comes from them -- life and love are precious treasures; make the most of them!

In this month's *Crier* you will find articles on security and ideas for improving safety. The city has lifted its water restrictions and it is time to get our yards under control. This *Crier* will start a series of articles on lawn recovery.

We have some special events this month. February 19th, select music groups from Parker Elementary, an HISD Music Magnet, will be performing at the Willow Waterhole Sunday Music in the Park. February 25th is Opening Day for Westbury Little League and its 50th year anniversary celebration.

We had a nice crowd at our combination

January Civic Club meeting and METRO workshop. It was good to meet so many of you. I hope more of you will put the third Wednesday of the month on your calendars and come to our monthly meetings. HPD's Captain Martin will be our speaker for February.

Most everyone should have received their Dues Payment Forms by the time this *Crier* is delivered. Please send in your dues so that we can continue the programs that make Westbury such a great place to live. A special thank you goes out to a long time Westbury resident who sent in a really uplifting letter and a check for \$1,000. He's been in the neighborhood for 20 years and hadn't ever paid his dues, but said his house had tripled in value and that he had never been prouder of Westbury than he had been in the past few months.

From me and all the people that give their time, talent and money to make Westbury a better place, we thank you! To the thousands of you who pay your dues, the hundreds of you who come forward during the year to volunteer your time and talents, we thank you! Every dollar, every hour donated makes a difference.

Won't you join us in making a positive difference too?

Becky Edmondson

Board Mtg. Notes

- The proposed 2012 budget was approved by the board.
- Carlos Mata (Maintenance / Beautification) and Kevin Douglass (Security) were approved to fill vacant board positions.
- METRO CEO George Greanias spoke briefly. (see page 13)
- HPD Sgt. Sutton & Officer Brady from the Westbury HPD Storefront reviewed recent security issues. Constable Deputy Addison commented on observations from his routine patrols. Residents had many security questions and comments.
- Other visitors: Mary Seymour from office of Texas Rep. Borris Miles, Donald Perkins, Chief of Staff from city CM Larry Green's District K office, and Barbara Hite, also from District K staff.

WCC Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 15
7PM-9PM
Westbury High School

2012 Westbury Civic Club Dues

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____
 E-mail _____

**Make checks payable to:
 Westbury Civic Club, Inc.**

**Mail to:
 P.O. Box 975182
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**Please send this form
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****Call the office for more payment options**

Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$40	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$230	\$
Subtotal	\$295	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
Total		\$

**MANDATORY
 DUES FOR
 PW 1 and
 PW2 are due
 by 2/1/12**

Thank You Westbury!

We greatly appreciate the residents who used the past *CRIER* issues to submit their 2011 dues. Here's a chance to submit your 2012 dues and help pay for our much needed Westbury Area Patrol.

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock

Monday-Thursday 12—8PM ; Friday 9AM-6PM

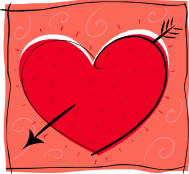
Open in the morning for scheduled classes , call 713-726-7107

FEBRUARY IS HEALTHY EATING MONTH AT THE PLATOU CENTER

Potluck Lunch

February 19, 11AM to 1PM
Bring and share food made with heart healthy recipes!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Free Ballroom Dance Lessons

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30PM
Call Marilyn at 713-729-9425
A beginner class will form soon



Aerobics

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-7:30PM
To register, call 713-726-7107 or come pre-view the class

Stretching Class

Monday, Wed., Friday, 9-9:45AM
Improve your flexibility by joining this non-strenuous exercise class.



LINE DANCING CLASS

Mondays from 1 to 2:30 PM.
For more information or to sign up call 713-726-7107.

Westbury Quilting Bee

Tuesday, 12PM - 3PM
Contact Janie at 713-721-5526

Games

Wednesday, 10 AM to 12 noon
Contact Wally at 713-729-9310

Portable Projects

Thursday, 9:30- 11:30 AM
Contact Hazel at 713-729-4568

TOPS:Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Tuesdays, 5:45 to 7PM
Weight loss support group
Contact Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or Naomi at 713-988-2233

FILL THE RECYCLE BINS AT CHIMNEY ROCK PARK

Put your cardboard boxes, newspapers, magazines, office and school materials into the bins and help raise money for Chimney Rock Park

"Like" us on Facebook at Platou Community Center

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11122 Endicott
3 bed/2 bath

Call us Information on Featured Listings ♦ www.waynemurray.net

What's Happening in Westbury

February 2012 Events & Meetings Calendar

Mon 13	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:15-7:45PM Platou Center—11655 Chimney Rock Open to the public
Wed 15	WCC Board Meeting 7PM– 9PM Westbury High School - 10911 Chimney Rock HPD Captain Martin; Security discussion
Sat 18	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow
Sun 19	Sunday Music in the Park 4PM-5PM Gazebo at Willow Waterhole—approx. 5300 Dryad Featuring Parker Elementary
Mon 20	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Fri 24	Los Vaqueros Trail Ride through Westbury —goes by Anderson, Parker, Johnston and more. At Parker Elementary approx. 9AM For more information, check out our Facebook page
Sat 25	Westbury Little League 50th Anniversary Celebration During opening ceremonies - all day event www.westburyll.org
Tues 28	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South

Important Trash & Recycling Information

- 🗑️ Trash cans need to be out on curb by 7AM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- 🗑️ No heavy trash out before 6PM the Friday before pick-up date
- 🗑️ YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste and will not be collected with heavy trash. It is collected on Westbury's regular Thursday trash day as long as it is in the correct recyclable bags
- 🗑️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- 🗑️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
 - SW Trash Depository/Recycling Center 10785 Southwest Frwy**
Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste and Recyclables. Current utility bill needed.
 - Environmental Service Center 11500 South Post Oak**
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9AM-3PM; 2nd Saturday 9AM-1PM
Accepts Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste
- 🗑️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com for more trash and recycling information

Attention: Junk Waste falls in two different weeks for Westbury this month

February 2012 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

Thurs 9	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Wed 15	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE (North of W. Bellfort)
Tues 21	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE (South of W. Bellfort)
Thurs 23	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
MARCH	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY

***** ATTENTION ***
*** HOMEOWNERS ***
IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE TRASH CANS, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE AT LEAST 3 FEET APART**



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Deed Restriction Revision

Deed Restriction Q & A

Q: I am confused by this “grandfathering” stuff. Please explain.

A: “Grandfathering” means that existing property owners would not be affected by the revised deed restrictions requiring mandatory assessments. Only property owners who acquired the property after the effective date would be affected by the mandatory assessments. So in effect, not until you sold your home would mandatory dues be owed.

Q: Didn’t I already sign to change Westbury 2 deed restrictions?

A: Some people in Westbury 2 signed an earlier version last year; however, due to the many changes by the State Legislature in 2011, the wording of the legal document required numerous modifications. Therefore, the signature process must begin again with the new wording.

Q: I think it is important for all homeowners to financially contribute to the Westbury Civic Club in order to protect our property values. Why bother with the “grandfathering” feature?

A: For the long term success of our community, it is considered vital to modernize our finances. Voluntary financial contributions are an unreliable means of financial support. Although the “grandfathering” feature requires more record-keeping for the WCC and is more cumbersome, it is believed that this

Attention Westbury 1 and Westbury 2 Residents

Homeowners in Westbury 1 and Westbury 2 will soon be receiving a letter containing a document to sign indicating approval to modify your deed restrictions. If you agree with the proposed deed restriction changes, please return the signed documents by the end of that month. The Westbury Civic Club, plus many residents, recommend and urge that you approve the proposed changes. Once WB1 and WB2 residents have approved the changes, then the effort will continue throughout the rest of our community.

More information about the proposed deed restriction modifications will be posted on our website at www.westburycrier.com If you have additional questions, please contact the WCC office. Here is a summary of the proposed changes.

- * “grandfathered” mandatory assessments – will NOT affect current homeowners; only owners who acquire a home after the amendment goes into effect will be subject to mandatory assessments
- * One vote per lot - for future deed restriction modifications
- * WCC – is named as the entity to collect and spend the assessments
- * Modifications are due to state laws which went into effect in 2011

technique will be more likely to lead to successful implementation of reliable finances.

Q: Why does the WCC need so much money?

A: Supplementary security patrols by Harris County Precinct 5 Constables are expensive and must be contracted in advance for an entire year at a time. In addition to maintaining our existing patrol deputies, we would like to increase the number of patrols in Westbury. Three constables do not provide 24/7/365 coverage. Furthermore, as WCC actual income (adjusted for inflation) has declined over the years, the WCC has had to reduce its office hours. The WCC would like to serve our residents better by increasing office services. The proposed mandatory assessment for WB1 and WB2 is the same as the current recommended voluntary donation of \$295.

Q: Who should sign the document to approve the proposed modifications to the deed restrictions?

A: *The Property Owner.* If there is more than one owner of a property, then those owners who agree with the proposed changes should each sign. One of the proposed changes is that there will be one vote per lot, in the future, after the modifications are approved.

Q: I am worried that the WCC will foreclose on my home if these changes are approved.

A: These changes affect future homeowners, not current owners. The WCC works with homeowners to develop a payment plan if one is needed.

Q: This is an important issue for me. How do I volunteer to help?

A: Contact the WCC office to volunteer at 713-723-5437.

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Security / Crime

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37 * 30 days preceding January 24, 2011

	Single-Family Residential	Apartment/Condominium	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	8	3	1	0	12
Theft	16	2	1	6	25
Auto Theft	3	0	0	0	3
Robbery	0	2	2	1	5
Assault	1	1	1	3	6
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	29	8	5	10	52

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 12/20)

Block	Street	Crime
6000	Arboles	Theft
10800	Atwell	Burglary
5700	Airport	Burglary
5600	Belrose	Burglary
10800	Burdine	Auto Theft
10700	Carlota Crt	Auto Theft
5700	Cartagena	Theft
12100	Dunlap	Burglary
12500	Dunlap	Theft
5700	Effingham	Burglary
6000	Effingham	Theft
5800	Ettrick	Burglary
5600	Fontenelle	Theft
11500	Gaymoor	Theft
5400	Greencraig	Theft
5700	Greencraig	Theft
5200	Hummingbird	Theft
5700	Hummingbird	Theft
5400	Kinglet	Burglary
5500	Kinglet	Theft
10700	Landsdowne	Burglary
6000	Lattimer	Theft
5800	Ludington	Theft
10600	Oasis	Theft
5200	Redstart	Ag. Assault
5400	Sanford	Theft
5700	Sanford	Murder
5400	Spellman	Theft
5200	Willowbend	Theft

*Area bounded by: S. Post Oak, US 90/S. Main, utility easement north of Willowbend and drainage bayou west of Braewick

**SUPPORT THE
WESTBURY AREA PATROL
PAY YOUR DUES!**

**REPORT ALL CRIMES! THERE IS NO
SUCH THING AS A STUPID REPORT!**



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Recent Crime Statistics

HPD has a website that allows a person to search by area or

address for crime reports that have been entered into the Houston Police Department's Report Management System within the last 24 hours, 7 days or 30 days. The crime data represent basic/general information for incidents based on the FBI's Uniform Crime Report coding system. Search the data by looking at SuperNeighborhood = Westbury. Here is the link: <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/recentcrime/index.html>

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Security Feature

HOME SECURITY

Remember that the key factor in most crimes is OPPORTUNITY. If they can't get at it, they can't take it! Everything that you can do to slow a criminal down will deter him and, hopefully, convince him to try another, easier neighborhood. While determined intruders can enter almost any home, they usually seek the easiest target. You can take steps to make your house less vulnerable.

HPD has a program that can be presented to homeowners to help with security and we can bring that program to our civic club meetings or to smaller groups.

Additionally, HPD officers will actually come to your home to conduct a Home Security checkup. Call the HPD Westbury Storefront at 713-726-7126 to schedule a security review appointment for your home.

When planning your vacation, make sure to fill out a Vacation Watch form, available online at www.westburycrier.com or in the WCC office. Vacation Watch is provided to you through our Westbury Area Patrol program.

Make sure your home security alarm system calls the Constables first. 281-463-6666

Q: When should I call the Constables?

A: Call ANYTIME you see suspicious person(s) or vehicles. Call to report minor crimes. Call to report noise violations. Call to report minor vehicle accidents.

Q: When should I call 911?

A: All emergencies. Crimes in progress. In case of serious injury or illness. Major traffic accidents. Fire.

Q: When should I call the HPD Westbury Storefront?

A: Report yard parking violations. Arrange home security review. Volunteer for Citizen on Patrol program. See page 9.

**PLEASE REPORT ALL
CRIMES, NO
MATTER HOW
MINOR**

**Westbury
Area Patrol
Constable
Dispatch
281-463-6666**

Recent Crime Statistics

HPD has a website that allows a person to search by area or address for crime reports that have been entered into the Houston Police Department's Report Management System within the last 24 hours, 7 days or 30 days. The crime data represent basic/general Information for incidents based on the FBI's Uniform Crime Report coding system. Search the data by looking at SuperNeighborhood = Westbury. Here is the link: <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/recentcrime/index.html>

**HPD Westbury Storefront
713-726-7126**

**HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131**

WARNING

A Westbury 2 resident found a bullet fired through a bedroom wall. The police reported that the bullet came from a neighbor firing his weapon during an attempted motor vehicle burglary.

If you own a gun, please use it in a responsible manner. Think before you fire. All bullets stop somewhere. It could be your home, your car, your tree, your child. Please be careful.

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Neighborhood Watch & Citizen Patrol

Citizen Patrol

HPD Volunteer Initiatives Program

The Houston Police Department is committed in using volunteers to enhance the delivery of police service to the citizens of Houston through the department's Police Volunteer Initiatives Program (VIP). An important component of the Police VIP is the Citizen Patrol program.



The Citizen Patrol program is designed to provide a means for citizens to organize into patrol groups for the purpose of reducing crime in their community. Citizen Patrollers are the additional eyes and ears who the police can count on to make Houston a safer place to live and work. There are many active Citizen Patrol groups throughout the city of Houston. If you are interested in creating a Citizen Patrol group, please contact the HPD Westbury Storefront at 713-726-7126 or by emailing HPD Sgt. Timothy Sutton at timothy.sutton@cityofhouston.net.

To participate in the HPD Citizen Patrol program, you must meet the below listed minimum qualifications and standards for a police volunteer.

- * Be 18 years of age or older.
- * Have a valid Texas Driver License.
- * Pass a background check.
- * Must be trained by the Houston Police Department.
- * Must reside in the area patrolled by the Citizen Patrol group.

Citizen Patrol volunteer patrol groups must meet the below listed qualifications:

- * Designate a lead coordinator.
- * Recommendation that at least 16 citizens participate in the program. If less than 16 citizens, approval from the Citizen Patrol Division Liaison is required.
- * Commitment from the group to patrol a minimum of 30 hours per month.
- * Submit a monthly report detailing the group's activity.
- * Submit a marked map outlining the area to be patrolled.

**SUPPORT THE WESTBURY
AREA PATROL, see pg. 3**

Neighborhood Watch

Neighbors Looking Out For Each Other!

The Neighborhood Watch program is one of the most effective means available for keeping crime out of a neighborhood. It relies on the best crime fighting tool ever invented, **a good neighbor**, and Westbury has plenty of those!

Neighborhood Watch is a community based organization of neighbors working cooperatively with law enforcement. The premise is that when we, as homeowners, take positive steps to secure our own property and neighbors learn how to report suspicious activity around their homes, crimes, such as residential burglary and related offenses, decrease dramatically. Some goals are:

- 1. RAISE your alertness to possible criminal activity** in your neighborhood. LOOK OUT...and by doing so you will be looking out for one another. Know what is going on outside your house. Learn what is normal and what is not normal.
- 2. LOWER your reluctance to call the police for help.** With the Pct. 5 deputies in our neighborhood and HPD nearby, it is an easy phone call to make.
- 3. EXPAND interaction with your neighbors.** Get to know them well, their habits and their travel plans. This makes it easier to recognize and report suspicious activity.

This program relies on Block Captains and was implemented in Westbury years ago. Some blocks still have active captains and others do not. More information about this program will be coming to you soon. Be a good neighbor and help make Westbury safer by actively participating in a Neighborhood Watch program.

713.960.6222

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If you are thinking of selling your home or want to know the market value of your property, call **Larry Mercer** for a free Market Analysis.

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You may contact me by email at:

Lmercer@flash.net

Or visit my web site at:

www.Larrymercer.net



Neighborhood
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2012 WCC Budget

WCC General Operation/Programs 2012

General Income	Dollars
Transfer + Refinance Fees	26,000
Advertising— Crier	36,000
Interest Income	1,300
Mandatory Membership	12,000
Non-Mandatory Membership	41,000
Donations—Civic Club	1,000
Community Garage Sale	2,000
Total General Income	119,300

Expenses –Administrative	Dollars
Insurance	6,360
Rent– Office	8,850
Telephone & Internet	2,300
Electricity	900
Salaries & Wages	30,000
Payroll Tax Expense	2,400
Taxes Personal Property	390
Banking & Paypal Fees	3,800
Equip. Maintenance & Repairs	300
Training—Directors or Staff	1,000
Website– Maintenance & Hosting	2,200
Computer Hardware/Software	2,000
Postage—Regular	1,000
Office Supplies/Equipment	2,000
Professional Services	3,500
Total Expenses (Admin)	67,000

Expenses—General Programs	Dollars
Programs/Hospitality/Events	2,300
Deed Restriction Revision Project	7,000
Deed Restriction Enforcement	2,000
Crier– Prepare, print, distribute	30,000
Membership– Brochures/Envelopes	5,000
Community Garage Sale Expenses	2,000
Contributions to External Orgs.	1,500
Yard of the Month Program	2,500
Total Expenses (General)	52,300
Total Admin & General Expenses	119,300

WCC Programs with Restricted Funds 2012

WAP Constable Patrol -Restricted Funds	
WAP Income	Budget
Mandatory Assessments	48,000
Voluntary Dues	150,000
Donations to WAP	12,864
Westbury Garden Townhomes	8,400
Total WAP Income	219,264

WAP Expenses	
Harris County Constable	219,264

Greenspace Beautification– Restricted Funds

Greenspace Income	Budget
Mandatory Assessment	8,150
Voluntary Dues	22,000
Donations to Greenspace	1,000
Other (Grants)	1,000
Total Greenspace Income	32,150

Greenspace Expenses	
Monthly Maintenance	16,000
Water and Watering	8,000
Other (supplies, labor)	2,500
Special Projects	2,435
WAIC 10% of Revenue	3,215
Total Greenspace Expenses	32,150


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Greenspace Beautification

The Greenspace Beautification Director and Committee manage maintenance and beautification efforts along our 7 miles of roadways. Here are some of the activities your contributions pay for.

New Landscaping Company

As of January 1, Monarch Landscaping is looking after the esplanades in Westbury. The change was made because we want more attention to be paid to all seven miles of our esplanades. Monarch is scheduled to survey all esplanades. They mow the required areas at Chimney Rock and W. Bellfort, Burdine St. along the drainage ditch and the setbacks south of W. Airport on Chimney Rock and on Hillcroft. Monarch will de-litter as needed, if there is a problem area, to supplement the de-littering and mowing done by the City of Houston. Monarch will also take care of our gardens at Chimney Rock and W. Bellfort and our subdivision sign gardens. We hope to see a more polished look.

Watering Effort

Last year we hired Texas Landscaping to water newly planted trees along Burdine, on Hillcroft, and in Westbury Park and Hager Park. They also watered our renewed sign gardens and the gardens at median tips. This cost \$300 each week due to the extended summer drought. If you have noticed that our roses at the tips of some esplanades look good, it is because of the watering. Many of our young trees survived and the new plants at our sign gardens did well.

New Trees

We have plans to replace some of our lost trees next month with help from Trees for Houston. Any time new trees are planted, watering needs to take place to get those trees established. Therefore, we will continue to have watering done to preserve improvements made to the Westbury esplanades. We appreciate your donations to pay for this, too.

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Drought Preparations For Gardeners

Chris LaChance, Watersmart Program coordinator for the Texas Coastal Watershed Program, will speak about Water Smart Gardening for Drought Conditions on Wednesday, February 8, at 10 AM at the Godwin Park Community Center, 5101 Rutherglen.

Ms. LaChance is well-known to gardeners and has much to share concerning water conservation, particularly with drought conditions, which are predicted to continue for at least another year in Texas. This is a free talk presented for the community by the Bouquettes Garden Club.

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<p>\$160's</p> <p>7655 S BRAESWOOD #44 3/2.5 StylishRemodl+Study+SSAppl+Custm Cabntry+Granite+WilkinPrtry+UpdtdBths</p>	<p>\$150's</p> <p>6027 SPELLMAN - WESTBURY 3/2/2 Renovated+Granite+SmoothSurfCooktp+ WovenCprt+TileFlrs+RaisdBmdCeiling</p>	<p>\$140's</p> <p>8721 DUNLAP - BRAEBURN TERRACE 3/1.5/2 Pristine!HrdwdFlrs+Plantation Shuttrs+CrownMolding+FlagstonePatio</p>	<p>\$91,750</p> <p>8209 ALBACORE - ROBINDELL 3/1/2 Hrdwds+CrwnMldng+FreshPaint+SS ElectRange+PlantationShuttrs+LrgBckyrd</p>

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AD BY DEEA LANE

Faces of the Westbury Civic Club



Kevin Douglass is the new Director of Security. Kevin and his wife Deirdre, moved to Westbury in 1990 to get as close to the medical center as they could afford at the time. They rented a house in Westbury South for four years and then moved into their current home in Parkwest in 1994. Kevin and Deirdre have raised their two children here. They attend Westbury Church of Christ and are active in various programs, including Kevin being a Deacon of Missions. In their professional lives, Kevin is a Captain on the Boeing 737 for United Airlines (formerly Continental Airlines). He has been with Continental/United for over 20 years. Deirdre is a Nutritionist and Registered Dietician specializing in Nutrient Database Management. Westbury is a great place to live, and they are proud to call it home and are looking forward to doing their part in making it even better.

Carlos Mata is the new Director of Greenspace and Beautification. Carlos has been a Westbury resident for 10 years. He fell in love with the neighborhood, after living on the northwest side for 17 years. He has been involved with Greenspace Beautification. He was awarded a Mayor's Proud Partner Award for his efforts. He also conducted Westbury's first Holiday Home Tour in 2010.



METRO Offers Alternatives for Chimney Rock # 49 Bus

Late in 2011, METRO announced plans to discontinue the #49 Chimney Rock bus in January 2012. Due to concerns expressed by bus riders, the Westbury Civic Club and other area organizations, METRO scheduled a workshop at Westbury High School on January 19 to review the issue. METRO CEO George Greanias spoke during the January WCC meeting to emphasize that METRO is open to suggestions and wants to be responsive to community concerns.

Prior to the workshop, METRO conducted surveys of bus riders who use the Chimney Rock bus. They also contacted Westbury destinations for the bus riders, including: Johnston Middle School, Westbury High School, The Gathering Place, and Westbury Place Nursing Home. For example, many of the workers at the nursing home use the # 49 bus to get there.

During the workshop, METRO unveiled three alternatives to continue bus service to the riders at the southern end of the Chimney Rock route in Westbury. At press time, we do not know which of the three alternatives will be selected.

The Westbury Civic Club greatly appreciates that METRO listened to the concerns of the community and then offered alternatives. This is an example of how working together as a community can make a difference.

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PIP = Positive Interaction Program

HPD's Positive Interaction Program (PIP) holds monthly meetings featuring speakers from different police divisions (Burglary and Theft, Homicide, K-9, Helicopters, etc.) explaining how their divisions operate. This is done so citizens will know what to expect, should they ever need the police. There is a chance to meet the officers that patrol one's neighborhood and get to know them on a first name basis. Each month someone is chosen to ride with a police officer on an actual tour of duty. At the following month's meeting, the "citizen-rookie" will report about his or her experience. Crime statistics are given out at the end of each monthly meeting. After each formal meeting, a second, informal meeting is held (usually with refreshments!) Attendees have an opportunity to talk to others in attendance, possibly having much in common, and even exchange ideas on how to help solve similar neighborhood problems.

Our area meeting is on the 4th Tuesday of the month, from January through September, at Aramco (9009 W Loop South) at 7 PM. Every month the PIP meeting is listed on the calendar in the Crier.

MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

January 11, 2012 -- Houston Mayor Annise Parker and the Public Works and Engineering Department announce the City of Houston is lifting the mandatory water conservation measures imposed last summer. The move follows recent rains and cooler temperatures, which have increased lake levels in all three drinking water reservoirs. As the city continues to experience severe drought conditions, Houston residents are asked to continue voluntary water conservation.

Although pre-drought water reservoir levels have not been reached, the City's combined reservoir storage has exceeded criteria established in City ordinances for mandatory conservation. Additionally, while ongoing breakage within the distribution system remains higher than normal due to continued ground movement with changing moisture conditions, the stress on the distribution system of last summer has been relieved and additional capacity for future repairs has been secured.

Open House for Westbury Christian Athletic Complex

Westbury Christian School cordially invites the Westbury community to attend an open house at the new Wildcat Athletic Complex. In December 2011, WCS purchased the Westland YMCA property and is converting the site into an athletic complex. Join WCS for family-friendly fun and food, and to learn more about the exciting plans for the complex.
When: Sat., Feb 11, 10AM—1PM
Where: Wildcat Athletic Complex 10402 Fondren (old Westland YMCA)

www.westburycrier.com

DRIVERS BE MINDFUL

Traffic cones are placed at strategic points on the streets around Anderson Elementary in the morning and afternoon to help control traffic. Drivers, please refrain from driving over the cones or otherwise ignoring them. The safety of our students is a major concern. Please drive carefully in our school zone.

WESTBURY SOCCER CHAMPIONS!

The Westbury Rangers soccer team won the South Texas Fall Championship District Level tournament on December 4, 2011. The Rangers team is made up of 12 and 13 year old boys. The team went on to win the South Texas Fall Championship State Level tournament on December 18, 2011, played in Cypress. They beat competing teams from Dallas, San Antonio, and other TX cities. Congratulations!



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