



Westbury Crier

HIGHLIGHTS:

- WCC Board Meeting: February 19 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist
- February's heavy trash is JUNK WASTE. Pick up is February 13 for ALL of Westbury.
- Donate Now to help save the 7 acre site of the Westbury Community Garden, page 9
- Happy Valentine's Day

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014

2014 Mayor's Inauguration

WCC Directors Jennifer Edmondson, Cindy Chapman, Becky Edmondson, and Westbury resident Priscilla Bloomquist attended the *Inauguration of City Officials* on January 2nd. The inaugural event was held at the Wortham Theater and featured an orchestra, choir, city poet, and talented soloists as the city officials were sworn into office. Thank you to Larry Green for providing special tickets for the event. Following the inauguration ceremony, a city council meeting was convened at City Hall. We were invited back to the city council offices for an Open House, and shared food and fellowship with the Council members and their staffs. A special thank you to Larry Green and his amazing staff for their hospitality. In the picture below we are standing with District K City Councilmember Larry Green in his office.



Remodeling your home? Adding On? Do you know your deed restrictions?
Did you know that the Westbury Civic Club can look over your proposed plans for free before you start construction?

We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen. Did you know that Westbury 2, Westbury 3, and Westbury 5 have a 25 foot rear setback for the main structure? Did you know that there is a minimum percentage of brick that must be on your home? Did you know that you can't build in front of your building line? We want to help you! We want you to find out about possible violations before it costs you money and time. Several homeowners in the past couple years have had to tear down and/or modify their construction due to deed restriction violations.

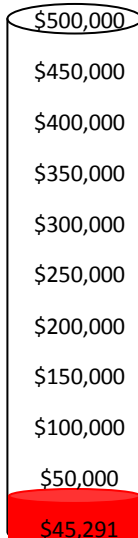
The City of Houston does not review deed restrictions when issuing permits. They require a signed affidavit acknowledging that the plans comply with your deed restrictions. This holds YOU, the homeowner, accountable for knowing and complying with your deed restrictions. We are here to help you. All deed restrictions are available online at westburycrier.com.

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MUST READ ARTICLES

- *Donate Now to Save the Garden Page 9
- *2014 WCC Budget Page 16
- *Lost Pets in Westbury Groups Page 18
- *Trail Riders and Campfire at WLL Page 23



Westbury Square Update

According to the District K staff, the pending demolition of several buildings at Westbury Square is still on target to be completed by February 15th as required. They have had the secondary environmental testing done and expect the results shortly. Demolition contractors have been giving bids. In the interim they have a demolition company removing exterior brick.

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Parkwest 2	Jeffrey Weiss	Parkwest2@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 3	Joe Niles	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

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

Deed Restriction Enforcement (City Legal)
 832-393-6333

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

Stay connected!

**Are you one of the 884
 likes on our Facebook
 page, Westbury Houston?**

WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

President's Message

January began on a sad note with the passing of Rita Woodward. Her legacy of service is monumental. For over 20 years Rita lobbied tirelessly on behalf of Westbury High School and its students. Westbury is a better place because Rita loved us. You can read more about her on page 19.

The headline in the February 2013 *Crier* was "WHS Baseball Team Rescues Crier Delivery". One year later this partnership with the WHS Baseball booster club and the Westbury Civic Club has proven to be a great success. We get the *Crier* delivered in one day by a caring team and in return the WHS baseball program gets a nice infusion of cash. This is a win-win situation for both organizations. We are always looking for ways to partner with our neighborhood schools. We thank the boys, the coaches, and their parents for this service to their school and their community. To compete with other baseball programs at Lamar and Bellaire, WHS still has needs and you can read more on page 22.

Our first WCC meeting of the year was momentous and three new board

members were elected. You can read about them on page 6. It's going to be a great year. I'm excited about our new Director of Volunteers. She has great ideas for events as well as a background in event planning so this should be a fun-filled year. We have a new Membership Director, too, so expect new things from that committee. Each WCC section now has a section director except for Westbury 2.

The 2014 billing for mandatory assessments has been mailed, and a mailout to our voluntary homeowners is underway. Our 2014 budget is on page 16. We are adding a 4th deputy to the WAP patrol, so it is important that more of you participate so that we will be able to continue this important but expensive program. We thank all of you who financially support the many WCC activities which improve OUR neighborhood. We ask those who don't provide financial support to please reconsider. Also, if you have intended to get around to sending us a check, then

TODAY is a good day to clip out the form in this *Crier* on page 13 and send your check to Dallas – where it is immediately and securely deposited by the check-processing center for our bank.

I can't do a message in February without thinking of **love** and **Valentine's Day!** I remember decorating lunch sacks at Parker Elementary and everyone dropping in Valentines cards. So I will end this message with a few Valentine's Day cards I'd like to send.

And speaking of love, help us get to 1,000 likes on Facebook by liking our Facebook page.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you.

Becky Edmondson

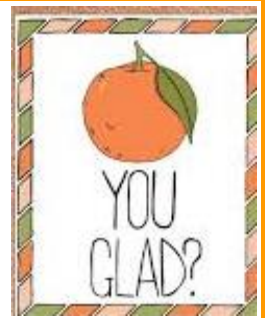
**To the volunteers that serve on the WCC board and committees:
You take the cake!**



To the Westbury High School Baseball team and booster club: We are bananas over you!



To everyone who chooses to make Westbury their home: Orange you glad?



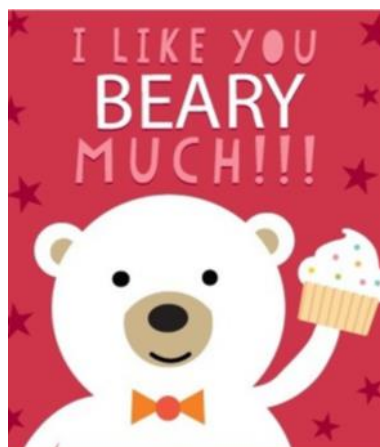
**To our city council representatives and their staff:
You are out of this world!**



**To everyone who pays their dues and contributes to the WAP Patrol:
You are dino-mite!**



**To the hard working Crier publication committee:
I like you Beary Much!**



**To everyone who has donated to the Westbury Community Garden land acquisition fund:
You are A-maze-ing!**



"Like" us on
Facebook

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock

Monday-Thursday 12PM—8PM; Fridays 11AM-7PM

Supervisor: Dan Reilly, Daniel.reilly@houstontx.gov or 713-726-7107

"Like" us on
Facebook

Stretching Exercise Class

Monday, Wed, Friday, 9-9:45AM
Improve your flexibility by joining this non-strenuous exercise class. No registration required. Wear comfy clothes.



Line Dancing Class

Mondays, 1:45-2:45 PM
For more information about this fun, unique workout class. Call 713-726-7107

Nike Aerobic Hybrid Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:30-7:30PM with Stacia
To register, call Dan 713-726-7107



TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Weight loss support group

Tues, 5:45-7PM
Drop in to preview the program or call Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or Naomi at 713-988-2233

Portable Projects

Thursday, 9:30AM to 11:30AM.
For more information, call Genie Mitchell at 713-470-7969

MsBeeHaven Quilters

Tuesday, 10AM to 2PM
Call Janie at 713-721-5526 for more information

Games

Weds., 10 AM to 12PM
Contact Wally at 713-729-9310

Affordable Care Act Informative Session

Feb. 12, 5-8PM

Information will be provided about Obama Care and Q&A about the new healthcare law. If you want to enroll, but do not know how to, assistance will be available.

Get Ready for the Rodeo at Platou!

Country Western Dance Class
Mondays, 6:30- 7:45PM*

Learn 2 Step and Double underarm spins. Beginners welcome. Instructor is Robert Plimper.

*Class starts Feb. 17 and will run for 4 weeks. Max 16 people per session. Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 to reserve your spot today.

Don't forget to recycle your paper & cardboard at Chimney Rock Park!



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jackiem@waynemurray.net



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kendylm@waynemurray.net



11931 Dunlap
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11723 Hillcroft St.
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5207 Redstart
Another One Sold!



5811 Southminster
Another One Sold!



Your Home Could Be Here!!!



5519 Cartagena
\$214,900

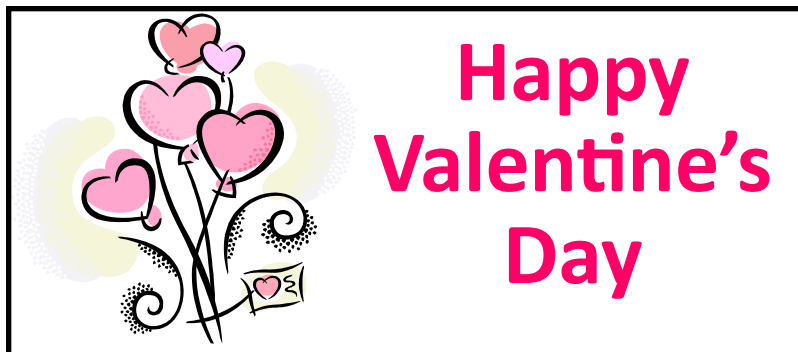


5039 Kingfisher
Just Listed!

What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar February 2014

Thurs 6	Westbury Meet & Eat at Teotihuacan @ 6PM 6579 W Belfort Open to all Westbury residents
Mon 10	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Platou Community Center - Chimney Rock
Sat 15	Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Mon 17	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Wed 19	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30AM Salem Lutheran - 4930 W. Belfort
Wed 19	WCC Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist Church Open to ALL Westbury residents
Tues 25	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Bldg
Thurs 27	Horseshoes from the Heart/Los Vaqueros Campfire 5PM-9PM Westbury Little League baseball fields—5200 Dyrad Event is open to the public, more information on page 23
Fri 28	Los Vaqueros Trail Riders at Westbury Area Schools 8AM More information, see page 23 GO TEXAN DAY!



City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

January	Tree Waste	July	Tree Waste
February	Junk Waste	August	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste	September	Tree Waste
April	Junk Waste	October	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste	November	Tree Waste
June	Junk Waste	December	Junk Waste

Help Keep Westbury Beautiful

Planning Calendar

March 17-21: HISD Spring Break

April 12: Jazz Festival @ Willow Waterhole 11AM-9AM

April: Spring White Elephant Sale, Date & Location TBA

Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

February 2014

Thurs 6	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 13	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 20	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

March 2014

Thurs 6	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 13	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 20	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM each Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM each Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- ♻️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- ♻️ Yard waste **MUST** be in correct biodegradable bags
- ♻️ Heavy trash can go out at 6PM the Friday before pick-up
- ♻️ YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste. It is collected on regular Thursday trash day
- ♻️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ♻️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr - 10785 SW Frwy
 Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables. Current utility bill needed.
Environmental Service Center - 11500 S. Post Oak
 Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM. Accepts Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com or www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

Welcome New WCC Board Members

Jeffrey Weiss, Parkwest 2 Section Director

Jeffrey is originally from Detroit, Michigan. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and Los Angeles College of Chiropractic. He has been residing and in private practice in Houston for the past 22 years. In addition, he is an Associate Professor at Texas Chiropractic College. Jeffrey is married and has one daughter who attends Texas A&M.



Stephanie Lester, Director of Volunteers

Stephanie is a Houston native and graduate of University of Houston, with a degree in Corporate Communications. She has lived in Westbury since 2007.



Stephanie and her husband, Joel, have two young children whom she feels fortunate to get to stay home with and take to Westbury Park during the week. The family also has two yellow labs. Stephanie is a dog lover and frequently finds lost pups - or they find her, she's not sure which!

She has extensive background in Corporate and Social Event planning and is happy to put that experience to use helping to bring some fun, exciting events to our neighborhood.

Kate Wilson, Director of Membership

Kate moved to Houston from Virginia in 1981. In 1990 she and her husband bought their home in Westbury 5-East. She has a degree in Computer Science from the University of Houston and spent 19 years working in IT for the UT Health Science Center. Since retiring in 2009, Kate spends a lot of time knitting, reading, and traveling.



Board Notes—January 2014

- 3 new board members were nominated & unanimously voted onto the 2014 WCC Board.
- 2014 Budget was approved
- Formed a New Resident Committee to be chaired by Jennifer Edmondson
- The Deed Restriction revision committee reported that they are meeting with an attorney and revisions on Westbury 1 & 2 should start soon.
- Membership Committee reported that the Mandatory letters had been mailed out and the Voluntary letters would be out by the end of January.
- The next board meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist

Volunteer Opportunities

- *Scanning past issues of the *Crier*
- *Help at next White Elephant Sale in April 2014
- *Backyard Tour homes, guides and volunteers

Contact the WCC Office at 713-723-5437 or westburycc@sbcglobal.net



Are you looking for a reliable dog walker or pet sitter for while you are at work or on vacation??

Boon Pet Care
is here for you!

As Westbury residents, we are committed to taking the very best care of our neighbors' loved ones.

Check out our website for pricing and details: www.booncare.com
Or contact us today: booncare@gmail.com or 713.936.2623

Community Partners

WAIC Board Notes

The Westbury Area Improvement Corp (WAIC) board met on Jan. 15. Highlights of the meeting include:

Financial: Donations to save the Westbury Community Garden land have passed \$46,000. In December, Target donated \$1,000 in gift cards to the Westbury HPD Storefront for a youth program, via the WAIC. Walmart donated 1,000 toward more improvements at Westbury Park. Volunteers signed up for the Financial Oversight and the Grants/Funding Committees.

Technology: A preliminary website has been set up for free on Google Sites, since it was needed as part of the online donation page for the Westbury Community Garden Land Acquisition Project, and a domain name will be set up.

Neighborhood Protection Issues: Trina Tillman, an inspector from the COH Dept. of Neighborhoods, is now working in our area and introduced herself. There was a general discussion about an upcoming City Planning Commission variance hearing on February 6 related to the canopy built at the convenience store at 5415 W. Airport, and

updates about the Westbury Square and the "Westbury Centerette" commercial sites.

Schools: Anderson Elementary reported that HISD is implementing a school wide Dual Language program for the 2014-2015 school year. The WAIC/WCC will request a community meeting on this topic. Parker Elementary is considering adding another kindergarten class and will be adding a new magnet option of Music Technology. The JMS orchestra will be playing at Carnegie Hall this spring.

Community Partners: The Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy said that a \$300,000+ grant cannot be spent until a design consultant has been approved by City Council, and the WWGC does not want to waste money duplicating plans already done by Flood Control. Friends of WHS Foundation is planning its gala and will have a scholarship honoring Rita Woodward. Westbury Little League is enrolling now for Spring and is trying to get a fence built between their fields and the Willow Waterhole.

Next meeting will be February 19 at 8:30AM at Salem Lutheran Church.

Bi-Monthly Breakfast: Westbury residents Van Austell and Trey Velasco are sitting with WCC President Becky Edmondson at the Westbury Civic Club table with Russell Schexnayder, Virginia Livingston, Wayne Slaikeu, and Cindy Chapman on Jan 14. The WCC sponsors a table at each Bi-Monthly Breakfast event (hosted by SWHouston 2000 / Brays Oaks Management District at Houston Baptist University).

This breakfast events feature speakers of local interest and also provide positive visibility and networking opportunities for the WCC. For example, new HISD Trustee Wanda Adams attended the breakfast in January and our WCC President was able to hand her a copy of our January newsletter. Sometimes a space at the WCC table becomes available and might be advertised on the WCC Facebook page or on NextDoor; if you are interested in attending, then act fast when a space is advertised! For information about SWH2000 or their upcoming Bi-Monthly Breakfast events, go to www.facebook.com/SWHouston2000.



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Westbury Community Garden

Garden Beds Available at WCG

Have you been thinking about joining the Westbury Community Garden? Good news. There are currently 6 beds available for lease. We look forward to new gardeners joining this wonderful community. If you have ever wanted to know how to grow food sustainably, then there is no better place in Houston to do so. Our soil is healthy. Our gardeners are knowledgeable, and it is wonderful eating your own homegrown veggies. Homegrown food tastes great because it is fresh, plus you can grow varieties that are not commonly offered in stores.

Consider gathering together a group of friends and neighbors to share the experience and the food. Sharing a garden bed is encouraged, for newcomers. Many of us in Westbury have shady yards or pesky squirrels, and the sunny, squirrel-free Westbury Community Garden awaits you.



Please send email to westburycommunitygarden@gmail.com with your name and contact info. This is the perfect time to get involved with spring planting starting soon. A small fee and volunteer hours are required to lease a bed. Contact the WCG for more information.

Show Your Roses Some Love!

Roses thrive in Houston. Valentine's Day is the traditional day for pruning roses here (barring any predicted heavy freezes, of course). And while different types of roses respond to different types of pruning, all of them will benefit from the removal of dead wood and branches, and a general "cleaning up" to reshape them if necessary.

Hybrid tea, floribunda, and grandiflora roses (what we usually think of as "bush" roses). Cut at least 1 inch below the damaged area, using a 45-degree angle cut and a sharp blade. (This encourages water to flow off the stem, rather than sitting on a flat surface.) Keep in mind that the best shape for most of these bushes is an open vase shape, so prune them to encourage this type of growth. Remove limbs that cross over other limbs in the center of the bush. If two limbs are rubbing against each other, remove the smaller one. Cut a branch just above an outward-facing leaf bud. Ideally the plant should grow up and out, to encourage good air flow through the center of the bush, because this helps to control mildew issues later in the season and insures equal sunlight reaches all areas of the plant. Once you have pruned your roses, apply a fertilizer such as Earth Essentials or Microlife.

What is the Value of the Westbury Community Garden to Westbury and Nearby Neighborhoods ?

According to an article from *Agriburbia*, developments that include a farming component have seen their property values rise as much as 25%.

When developers create master planned communities they often include swimming pools, club houses, and shopping centers. Now days something new is being added across the country: the specialty farm. Thanks to the local food movement coupled with more farmers markets and the need for organic foods, having a community garden is seen as a desirable thing in a community.

We are lucky to have access to the 7 acres of greenspace that is home to the WCG.

To bring you up to date, our year end fundraising campaign raised over \$46,000. We are well on our way to securing the WCG's seven acres as permanent greenspace. Thanks to all of you who have donated to this cause. Our fund raising efforts are ongoing and there is a donation form on page 9.

There are big plans underway at the garden. Two Plant it Forward graduate farmers are breaking ground now on acre plots. This is the beginning of an exciting partnership that we hope will culminate in a Farmers Market for Westbury. We will have a community celebration for the gardens 4th year anniversary. There are gardening spaces available and I hope some of you will join us this year.

It is exciting to be a part of something so unique. What could have become an unnecessary 250 unit housing project instead is an award winning community garden. We want you to be a part of this garden: you can join us for a workday; you can take a class; you can become a gardener; you can just come and sit under the beautiful pavilion and enjoy the beauty; and you can cut out the form and send in a donation today.

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**Carpet, Cork, Laminate, Vinyl, Hardwood,
Ceramic Tile & Countertops!**

M-F 8-5 Thurs. 8-7 Sat. 10-4
6 Months No Interest Financing

UPDATE—Garden Land Acquisition

Save the 7-Acre Westbury Community Garden

Thank You, Thank You, and Thank You once again! We weren't sure how high to set our initial fundraising goal in our efforts to raise funds to save the 7-acre Westbury Community Garden, so we took a deep breath and opted to set a HUGE goal of \$50,000. That was an enormous goal to set so early in our efforts, but we had faith in our Westbury residents and friends and allies. We also have faith that this project is worth doing -- to protect this 7-acres of land as a public greenspace instead of yet another apartment complex built in southwest Houston.

Donations received so far have totaled more than \$46,000. This is fantastic news and we are so grateful to everyone who made a donation in 2013. Some folks have already made a contribution for 2014. We continue to raise funds and encourage you to support our cause by making a donation in 2014. We still have a lot of money to raise, and we need your support to be able to save this land. Donations made in 2013 ranged from \$10 up to \$5,000.

To make donations by check, make the check payable to "WAIC – Land Acquisition", and then clip the donation form and mail it to the address indicated. To make a donation by PayPal or credit card, go to the WCC website (www.westburycrier.com) and click on the blue button "DONATE NOW – Secure donations through Network for Good". If you want to make multiple donations for 2014, then it is easy to do that via the online donation page or by sending a check every month!

In February 2014, please make a donation to show that you LOVE our Westbury Community Garden. All donations are gratefully accepted, large or small. Even if you are not able to make a large donation, your small donation will help us when we seek grants by showing broad support to save this land, now and forever. In honor of Valentine's Day on February 14 and the year 2014, **our next goal is to get at least \$14,000 in donations by the end of February.**

Please donate today. Donations are tax-deductible.

Donations by Check: Make check Payable to WAIC with memo line "Westbury Land Acquisition" and send to the WAIC, 5322 W. Belfort, Suite 107, Houston TX 77035.

Donations by Credit Card: Make donations online using our fundraising service "Network for Good" using this link or by going to the Westbury Civic Club website www.westburycrier.org and clicking on the DONATE NOW button.

Your receipt will be emailed from Network for Good.

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/SaveWestburyCommunityGarden>

Help Save Our 7 Acre Greenspace

Attached is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____	Donations of any amount (small or large) are welcomed and appreciated!	
Name:	GIVING CATEGORIES	
Address:		
	Contributor	\$100
Email:	Sustainer	\$250
Mailing Address for Donation receipt (if different)	Sponsor	\$500
	Steward	\$1000
	Benefactor	\$5000+
	Other	

Checks should be made payable to WAIC – Westbury Land Acquisition

Send donations to the Westbury Civic Club, 5322 W. Belfort St., Suite 107, Houston, TX 77035



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What Do You Love About Westbury?

We asked Westbury residents...What do you love about Westbury?

"What I really love about this area is its location in the city. There is no area in the City of Houston that you cannot get to in a short period of time due to 610, 90, 59 and Sam Houston Toll Way (north or south). All other neighborhoods in Houston should be green with envy. What the future holds for our community with our present leadership is mind boggling." **Eugene Sirls**

"The trees... That's what attracted me to this neighborhood in the first place. Also the friendly people and active Civic Club." **Kate Wilson**

"What I love about Westbury is that it is an eclectic near-town neighborhood with residents from lots of different cultural, religious & socioeconomic backgrounds but it still maintains a suburban, close-knit feel: people out walking their dogs, hanging out in their yards with neighbors, kids on bikes. I also love the mature trees & houses that aren't cookie cutter designs." **Stephanie Lester**

"I love the great location & steady home values." **Debby Rapp**

"I love all the fruit trees and gardens, I love the diversity of our friendly families of all ages, and I love that our neighbor-

hood doesn't have a ton of developers coming in to tear down our old houses and oaks." **Franny Oxford**

"I love that I grew up here in the 60s, graduated from Anderson Elementary, Johnston Jr. High, and Westbury High School, and have the opportunity to live here again. It's so convenient to everything. The streets are curvy and the trees are big and I don't have to pay a toll road fee to get anywhere. The people are home earlier than in other parts of town so they spend time outdoors walking and generally enjoying life. I love the vintage ranch houses and the way they are all a little different, since they've had 6 decades to be altered a bit, which makes things more interesting than a cookie cutter neighborhood." **Konny Cross**

"I went to Westbury High School (c/o '95) and it is so nice to see the neighborhood making a come back. I also love that we are close enough to be "in town", but far enough from the chaos to feel like we are suburbs. My husband & I love to take our girls for a long bike ride down the bayou and we have even been known to ride into town for a drink. We have season tickets to the Texans, so it is also wonderful to be so close to the stadium. Westbury is a special place with really special people in it and I can't wait to see where we are 10 years from now --

hopefully with a really useful Westbury Square by then ;)" **Mindy Campbell**

"I love that Westbury overall has so many friendly people and that a good many of them are willing to volunteer for the various projects that have made Westbury a great place to live. Projects like esplanade beautification, deed restrictions, park playgrounds, community garden, and the Civic Club itself. A big Thank You to all these people." **Diana Lovelady**

"The new Westbury Park playground and Westbury Pool. My 4 year-old son learned to swim at the pool this summer -- free of charge -- and with individual attention from the caring lifeguards." **Jessica Collins**

"What we LOVE about Westbury are our GREAT Long Time Neighbors, Old Well Built Homes on Large Lots, Mature Shade Tree Lined Streets, Strong Civic Club with a sense of Family and Location so close to most Everything!" **Charlsey Porcarello**

"What I love about Westbury is... friendly people, big trees, hard-working volunteers, plus I am writing this on a beautiful 75 degree day in January and thinking how lovely all our Westbury yards are going to be in a few short weeks when "spring" arrives in Houston." **Cindy Chapman**

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Crime/Security


Sergeant Coming to Westbury Patrol in 2014


We are pleased to announce that a fourth deputy will be added to our Westbury Area Patrol constable contract in 2014 when our contract renews. We have requested that this additional officer be a sergeant. It has been several years since we have had a 4th patrol officer, and we are looking forward to this addition. Precinct 5 has provided supplemental security to Westbury for over 30 years and these certified officers are an important asset to our neighborhood. Contact Dispatch at 281-463-6666, and save this phone number on your mobile phone.


Security Alert: Break-Ins in Parkwest 2


Recently Sgt. Mitch Hutter met with a concerned group of Parkwest 2 residents after there were 2 daytime break-ins. Alert neighbors saw two Hispanic men and two Hispanic women, whom they did not recognize, knocking on neighbors' doors on Creekbend and Bankside. In checking further, one resident saw that the back door of a neighbor's home had been kicked in and called the Pct. 5 dispatch. The men were apprehended but, shockingly, the women fled and later broke into another home.

There are several good takeaways from this:

 If you see anyone you do not recognize or that seems suspicious, then call the police or Precinct 5, or both.

 If you have security concerns, Precinct 5 will meet with homeowners as well as provide a security evaluation of your home.

 If you call for the police/Pct. 5 deputies and an officer doesn't respond, then **call back**.

 If a situation changes from a suspicious person to a crime in progress, then **call back** to let the police/Pct 5 know. Call 911 for a crime in progress or a situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance.

HPD Announcement

HPD Captain Jennifer Evans, of Special Crimes Divisions, announced the new information line for the victims of sexual assault. The phone line provides survivors an opportunity to contact HPD to get information on their case. The phone number is 713-308-1400. In addition, victims can now submit inquiries via email at SAinfo@houstonpolice.org



Westbury HPD Storefront
713-726-7126

WAP Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days preceding January 18, 2014

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	17	4	1	0	22
Theft	3	7	5	0	15
Auto Theft	0	5	0	0	5
Robbery	1	0	1	0	2
Assault	0	1	1	1	3
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	15	8	1	47

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

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 1/18/14)

Block	Street	Crime	Block	Street	Crime
11100	Ashcroft	Burglary	10700	Moonlight	Theft
11400	Ashcroft	Burglary	10800	Moonlight	Theft
5700	Bankside	Burglary	10800	Moonlight	Burglary
5800	Belrose	Robbery	5200	Redstart	Burglary
11500	Burdine	Burglary	5500	Redstart	Burglary
5900	Cartagena	Burglary	12400	Renwick	Theft
6000	Cartagena	Burglary	5700	Spellman	Burglary
5700	Creekbend	Burglary	5700	W Bellfort	Burglary
5700	Firenza	Burglary	5900	W Bellfort	Burglary
10700	Glenfield Crt	Burglary	5900	Willowbend	Burglary
5900	Lattimer	Burglary			

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Westbury Area News

Political Sign Etiquette

The political season is again heating up with Democratic and Republican party primary elections scheduled for March 4, 2014. The WCC encourages our residents to vote and to be politically active -- because politicians take notice of neighborhoods with high voting rates. We want politicians to pay attention to the issues important to our residents.

Political signs are already starting to show up in yards. Please remember to post political signs between your house and the city sidewalk. It is the polite way to post your political signs and it is also a legally accepted way to post your political signs. It is a violation of city ordinance to post signs on city property or easements, and the narrow strip of land between the street and sidewalk is part of the city easement.

Brays Bayou Association Meeting

*Monday, February 17, 2014, 7:30 PM
The Gathering Place 5310 South Willow Dr 77035*

Jaime Gonzalez, Conservation Education Director, Katy Prairie Conservancy, will present "The Role of Prairies in Flood Reduction". He also serves as President of the Coastal Prairie Partnership and as a member of the Texas Children in Nature Coalition Steering Committee. Where nature can reduce the risk of flooding, it is always better than what we humans can do. Thus we need to know what nature can do and how to help it along.

Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) News

Cindy Chapman, WCC director and a member of the BOMD board, has been named chair of the BOMD Business and Economic Development Committee. This committee seeks to bring attractive new developments, support and retain existing businesses, create jobs, and bring additional spending power to the district. The committee meets monthly on the 1st Thursday at 9AM at the BOMD office located 10103 Fondren, Suite 300.

District K Councilmember Larry Green will be working with BOMD and the Five Corners Management District to organize several economic development tours in 2014. The tentative schedule includes one tour to focus on restaurants and another to focus on grocery stores/commercial businesses. Other tours will look at sites suitable for single-family residential development or potential multi-family/mixed use development.

Help Keep Westbury Storm Sewers Clean

Yard men with blowers can be seen almost every day in Westbury. In the "olden" days, yard crews came with a broom and swept up your clippings and leaves. Now a preferred method seems to be just blowing everything out into the street. This stuff doesn't disappear by magic and can end up plugging up storm sewers or blocking storm drain inlets, which means that YOUR home or your neighbor's home or a car you have parked at the street might get flooded during a heavy downpour.

This common practice of blowing yard debris into the street is against city ordinance, and tickets can be given and fines levied. If you employ a yard service, ask them to sweep up your clippings and yard debris and put it into an approved disposal bag. Did you know that any time you employ a contractor they are required by city ordinance to take their trash away with them? This means bags of leaves, tree limbs, appliances, construction debris, etc. Call 311 to report illegal dumping.

FYI - Online Donations to Save the Westbury Community Garden via Network for Good

If you made an online donation in 2013 to help us save the 7-Acre Westbury Community Garden, please note when preparing your 2013 taxes that your donation was made to **Network for Good, a non-profit, donor-advised fund (tax ID 68-0480736)**, which will then distribute your donation to the non-profit organization you indicated. The online receipt you received stated that the donation was made to Network for Good, but we wanted to remind people one more time. Thank you once again for making your online donation, and we hope that this new option of partnering with Network for Good, which allows donations by credit card or PayPal, is useful to you.

Dual Language for Anderson Elementary

HISD is proposing to convert Anderson Elementary to a school wide full Dual Language School for the 2014-2015 school year. The WAIC and WCC would like to have a community meeting. Stay tuned to future *Criers*, Facebook, and our website at westburycrier.com for more information. HISD Trustee Wanda Adams is the representative for District 9, wadams2@houstonisd.org

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2014 Dues/Assessments

Mission of the WCC

The purposes of the Westbury Civic Club, Inc. (the "Club") are to improve the appearance of the Westbury area and promote the civic, cultural educational, health, and general welfare of the residents of the Westbury and Parkwest subdivisions in Harris County, Texas (collectively, the "Community").

ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2

Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments. As per the deed restrictions, the assessments may be increased by a percentage not to exceed the then most recently published annual percentage increase in the Consumer Index for all Urban Wage Earners, U.S. City Average. The new assessment for 2014 will be adjusted by 2.1%. The amount of the 2014 Mandatory Assessments will be \$227. The 2014 Mandatory Assessments are due by February 1, 2014. Invoices have been mailed. If you are interested in a payment plan, please call 713-723-5437.

Benefits of Paying Your Dues

- Protects your investment in your home by keeping Westbury a strong and vibrant neighborhood.
- Keeps the doors of the Civic Club office open and staffed.
- Protects your home and family with the Westbury Area Patrol through Constable Precinct 5.
- Improves the looks of our esplandes, parks, and green spaces.
- Advocates for City services and infrastructure improvements
- Hosts two White Elephant Community Garage Sale events each year

For a more detailed explanation, check out the January 2014 *Westbury Crier* available online at westburycrier.com.

Why do my dues go to Dallas? Is this correct?

Yes, this is correct! We have you mail your payments directly to our Bank Lockbox. This allows your payments to be processed immediately and saves our office manager hours of work.



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2014 Westbury Civic Club Dues

*Please send this form in with your payment

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____
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Mail to:
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Sending multiple payments?
 Circle your payment choice
 2 payment of \$147.50
 3 payments of 98.34
 **Call the office for more payment
 options or questions

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		\$

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Neighborhood
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What's Trending Now in Westbury

NextDoor.com

NextDoor is a private social network where Westbury neighbors pass along crime and security information, neighbor to neighbor, and other community information. Although this site is not maintained or operated by the Westbury Civic Club, more and more Westbury residents are signing up for the service. Note that each member of NextDoor must verify their address to join. HPD has recently announced that it will be posting on Nextdoor. The Westbury Civic Club does NOT have a login and does NOT monitor the site. If you have a problem that needs WCC attention, please contact us via email at westburycc@sbcglobal.net, phone 713-723-5437 or our Facebook page, Westbury Houston. If interested in nextdoor.com, Sign up at <https://westburytx.nextdoor.com>

Westbury Houston Facebook Page

Are you one of our 884 friends on Facebook? If not, you should be! We share heavy trash reminders, crime alerts, meeting updates, event reminders, and other important information. Do you have a question for the WCC? Send us a private message on Facebook & you will get a response within 24 hrs & most times within an hour of sending the message!

Westbury Trading Group on Facebook

The Westbury/Meyerland/Bellaire Trading Group is a new Facebook group that has 490 members that allows area residents to sell, trade, or buy items from other area residents. It was started by a Westbury mom that saw a need. Check it out!

Parker Elementary Music Magnet presents its 35th annual Suzuki Workshop Concert

Listen, Practice, Perform!

Friday, February 7, 6:30 PM, FREE
At Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft

Pieces performed by Parker Suzuki Strings cello and violin students, kindergarten through 5th grade.

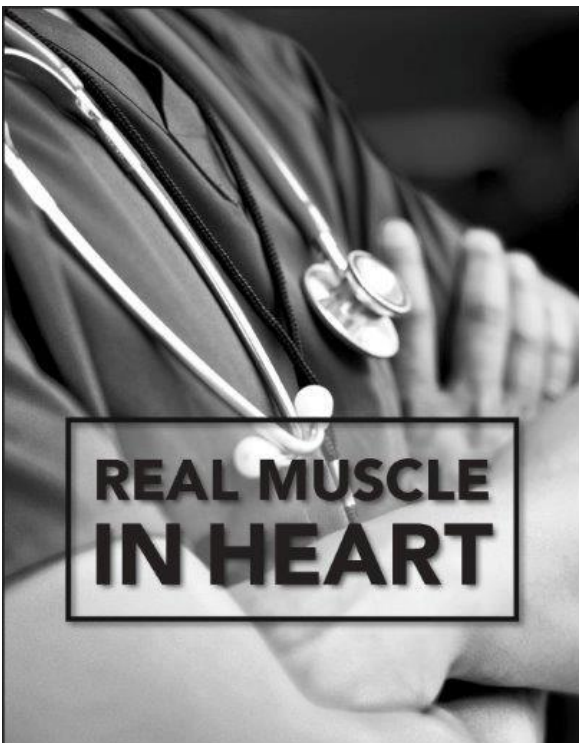
Parker Elementary's 35th annual Suzuki Workshop Concert will be held February 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Westbury Baptist Church (10425 Hillcroft). The workshop, three days directly before the concert, emphasized the importance of Listening, Practicing, and Performing in the Suzuki Method and the parent/teacher/student triangle which makes the Suzuki Method so successful. Suzuki instructors from around the country came to Parker to provide daily instruction for its cello and violin students.

Westbury Meet & Eat

Come out to Teotihuacan Mexican Restaurant at 6579 W. Bellfort every 1st Thursday of the month to meet Westbury residents. This event is open to anyone who lives in Westbury. Ask for the Westbury group. Happy Hour will be extended for the time we are there.

February Meet & Eat: Thurs, February 6 @ 6PM

March Meet & Eat: Thurs, March 6 @ 6PM



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2014 Budget

WCC General Operation/Programs 2014

General Income	Dollars
Transfer + Refinance Fees	32,800
Advertising— Crier	50,000
Interest Income	3,250
Mandatory Membership	16,000
Non-Mandatory Membership	44,000
Donations—Civic Club	1,500
Community Garage Sale	2,500
Total General Income	150,050

Expenses –Administrative	Dollars
Insurance	6,850
Rent– Office	8,160
Telephone & Internet	2,600
Electricity	1,000
Salaries & Wages	42,500
Payroll Tax Expense	3,500
Taxes Personal Property	390
Banking & Paypal Fees	3,800
Equip. Maintenance & Repairs	500
Training/Meetings—Directors or Staff	2,000
Website– Maintenance & Hosting	1,000
Computer Hardware/Software	5,500
Postage—Regular	500
Office Supplies/Equipment	3,000
Professional Services	3,750
Total Expenses (Admin)	85,050

Expenses—General Programs	Dollars
Programs/Hospitality/Events	5,000
Deed Restriction Revision Project	10,000
Deed Restriction Enforcement	2,500
Crier– Prepare, print, distribute	38,000
Membership– Brochures/Envelopes	3,500
Community Garage Sale Expenses	2,000
Contributions to External Orgs.	3,500
Yard of the Month Program	500
Total Expenses (General)	65,000

Total Admin & General Expenses 150,050

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WCC Programs with Restricted Funds 2014

WAP Constable Patrol -Restricted Funds	
WAP Income	Budget
Mandatory Assessments	64,000
Voluntary Dues	218,400
Donations to WAP	10,000
Westbury Garden Townhomes	9,600
Total WAP Income	302,000

WAP Expenses	
Harris County Constable	302,000
Total WAP Expenses	302,000

Greenspace Beautification– Restricted Funds

Greenspace Income	Budget
Mandatory Assessment	11,000
Voluntary Dues	25,000
Donations to Greenspace	1,500
Other (Grants)	6,000
Garden/Holiday Tours	1,000
Total Greenspace Income	44,500

Greenspace Expenses	
Monthly Maintenance	20,000
Water and Watering	5,000
Supplies & Plants	3,500
Other Services & Equipment	2,000
Special Projects	14,000
Total Greenspace Expenses	44,500

WCC Budget Highlights

- Income from *The Crier* will offset the expenses of the *Crier*
- Income from Community Garage Sales will offset expenses
- Funding provided to update deed restrictions
- Enforcement of Codes/Covenants/Restrictions – includes a new tablet and a mobile app, compatible for use with our property management software and also to document problems sent to the city for resolution
- Increase payroll expenses to improve services to our residents
- Additional costs for security patrols—adding an additional deputy to this important service
- Beautification “Special Projects”— esplanade tree trimming and additional planting & cleanups

Shell Gasmer Facility

Not many people realize that Shell has a technology prototype facility located right here in Westbury. In December 2013, WCC President Becky Edmondson and Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) President Cindy Chapman participated in a group tour of the Shell Gasmer facility. The Gasmer Technology Center sits on 30 acres of land on Gasmer near Westbury High School and employs more than 100 Shell staff and contractors. When the future campus expansion for WHS is completed, the high school property will adjoin the Shell Gasmer technology center. The Gasmer facility is also adjacent to the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve.



The Gasmer facility is part of the Shell Projects and Technology group. Worldwide, this department has more than 14,000 employees, and more than 1,000 of these employees have PhDs. The Gasmer facility is integrated with the Shell Technology Center Houston located on the west side of Houston. Shell has about 87,000 employees worldwide.

The Gasmer facility has been in operation since 1960 and more than \$250 million has been invested at the facility in support of research and development activities. Originally the land was part of

the Shell pipeline group, but that building is now used for welding and a machine shop.

These days, the Gasmer Technology Center constructs and operates prototype equipment and pilot plants for testing and analysis in the exploration and production of oil and gas. Gasmer project teams specialize in drilling and heavy oil upgrading technology. They have the ability to test and evaluate large-scale lab experiments and pilot plant demonstrations, which help reduce risk prior to full-scale, field implementation.

Visitors to the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve may have noticed huge spools at the Gasmer site. These spools hold heater component assemblies up to 5,000 feet long. The heaters are used to warm up conditions underground at drilling locations so that crude oil flows easier. Due to their large size, these spools are not transported from the facility using Gasmer Drive. Instead they are transported via Dryad (the road behind the facility) and then are driven south on Chimney Rock for easy access to the highway system. They try to minimize the impact to the community when moving large items into or out of the facility via Dryad, so they need to know when events are scheduled that affect Dryad Drive – such as events at Willow Waterhole, Westbury High School, or Westbury Little League.

Back in the early days of offshore oil platforms, workers practiced welding underwater in a deep pool at the Gasmer facility. This same pool has been used to test equipment and techniques to cap underwater wells. After the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, the US government required all offshore drilling companies to document their ability to cap underwater wells, and

Shell used equipment tested at the Gasmer facility to get permission to resume operations.

There are several other projects at the site, but the newest pilot plant at Gasmer is a heavy viscous oil (HVO) prototype pilot plant. It is used to test processing of heavy Canadian tar sand oils using techniques which were developed in labs at the Shell Technology Center Houston. The samples arrive in drums and are converted to more valuable products. Testing is anticipated to last several years to evaluate challenges for commercial applications. The pilot plant is mounted on a skid so that it can easily be removed when testing is completed.

Shell is working on a site master plan for the Gasmer facility. Although the master plan has not yet been approved, a new control room for the site was built for the recent HOV pilot plant project. This new, consolidated control room will provide more amenities for users and will make cross-training easier once other control rooms at Gasmer are transferred over to the new control room.

Other new upgrades at the facility include projects to reduce noise at the site. In particular, Shell had been shutting down loud blowers located in the corner near the Willow Waterhole "South Gazebo" on weekends when events were scheduled. Currently the equipment in that corner of the property is being modified so that it will be much quieter for 2014 events.

It was very informative to tour the facility and learn about testing being conducted at the Shell Gasmer Technology Center. The Shell Gasmer Technology Center is a valuable asset to Shell and Shell has been steadily investing in the site. Shell strives to be a good neighbor. They have been a

fi-

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financial supporter of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.

Westbury Loves Their Pets

Westbury Neighbors Love Their Pets!

If you are on Facebook or NextDoor.com, then you will see the outpouring of compassion for the many stray, lost, or abandoned animals that populate our neighborhood. There is a huge need to assist animals across all of Houston, including right here in Westbury.

FACEBOOK: On January 8, a new Facebook page was launched by caring residents looking for a way to help reunite owners and pets - "Lost and Found Pets in Westbury Houston Tx". The web address for this page is <https://www.facebook.com/westburyhoustontexas>. Please LIKE this page if you would like to receive Facebook updates about Lost and Found Pets.

NEXTDOR: Nextdoor.com is a website that allows neighbor to neighbor communication. Some of the same neighbors who formed the Facebook page for Lost and Found Pets have formed a private group on Nextdoor.com called "CARE". If you are on Nextdoor and would like to participate or to stay informed about local efforts to help rescue animals, then request to join.

Missy the Dog Update: Last month we reported about a stray dog, Missy, who had nine puppies under the shed at the Westbury Community Garden. All the puppies as well as their mother have found homes. A big thank you to everyone who cared for the dogs and helped spread the word to find forever homes. Thanks to everyone involved, these 10 dogs now have bright futures. This is not an isolated occurrence; another Westbury resident found a pregnant stray dog and is fostering those puppies. If you need a little more love in your life, think about fostering or adopting one of the many dogs that seem to be available.



Marcia Hartman, Exemplary Puppy Foster Mother to all nine puppies! Missy's Puppies Thank

Dog Parks Near Westbury

Officer Lucy Bark Park

Located at 4337 Lafayette and built & maintained by the City of Bellaire

Danny Jackson Bark Park

Located at 4700 Westpark and built & maintained by the Harris County Pct. 3

A dog park closer to Westbury would be great. If you are interesting in having a dog park nearby, please share your ideas and email westburygreen@gmail.com.



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Address	Price	On Market	Status
4848 Briarwood	\$248,000	47 days	SOLD
13622 Wilshire Dr	\$188,000	138 days	SOLD
4817 Waycross	\$229,900	44 days	ON MARKET
4008 Briarwood Dr	\$214,900	3 days	ON MARKET
48 sq. ft.	\$227,200	44 days	ON MARKET
62 sq. ft.	\$248,000	98 days	SOLD



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Market Snapshot is brought to you by Brock & Foster. Susan Brock is a specialist in Westbury and the surrounding areas. With more than 12 years experience she offers an individualized experience that has earned her a five-star client experience rating. Susan is a licensed broker and REALTOR.®

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Rita Marie Woodward (1927-2013)

Rita Marie Woodward (1927-2013)

Westbury's good friend, Rita Marie Woodward, 86, passed away on December 31, 2013.

Her funeral service was wonderful and uplifting. Her family and friends spoke eloquently. George Nwanguma, the Fondren Fiesta store manager and ardent supporter of the Friends of WHS spoke; Donald Perkins presented a Proclamation from the City of Houston; her daughter and granddaughters gave moving tributes; and US Congressman Al Green spoke and presented flags to the family. There were tears and laughter and mourning and celebration for a life well lived. It was a perfect send-off for a woman who was a much loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and a trailblazing community activist. The world, especially Westbury, is a better place because you loved us, Rita. Rest in peace, good and faithful servant.

We featured Rita in the December *Crier* honoring her with a "Power of One" award. She worked tirelessly on behalf of Westbury High School. Her passion was supporting her community in any way she could. Rita served on the boards of the Friends of Westbury High School Foundation, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, and Southwest Houston 2000.

Rita was born in Houston, Texas, and went to Milby High School where she was a cheerleader. After having four children, Rita went back to work in 1964 as a secretary for the City of Houston and in 1982 she went to work for City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley. Rita retired from the City of Houston in 1987. From 1990-1993, Rita served as Westbury High School's PTO President/Vice President. In 1992, Rita founded the Friends of Westbury High School Foundation, a non-profit organization providing grants to outstanding seniors, teacher support and special school projects. To date, the Foundation has awarded 188 scholarships and raised \$236,000. From 1983-2013, Rita Woodward was awarded several honors including an Honorary Degree from Houston Community College, Mayor's Proclamation – Rita Woodward Day, a Park dedicated in her name (The Rita Woodward Environmental Nature Park), a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and the George Washington Honor Award by the Freedom Foundation-Houston Chapter. Rita was also an honorary member of Beta Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a professional organization of women educators.

Rita also served an important role in bringing the 9th Grade Academy to the WHS, and was a strong supporter to make WHS a premier campus once again. Tests scores and attendance are improving, the Fine Arts programs continue to expand, and WHS is scheduled to have parts of the campus rebuilt in 2017.

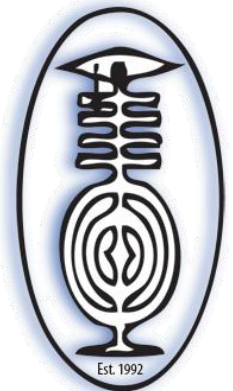
Memorial donations may be made to the Friends of Westbury High School Foundation, PO Box 31386, Houston, TX 77231-1386 to endow a scholarship

in



The Friends of Westbury High School foundation is honoring Rita Woodward with a student scholarship in her name. This scholarship will be given to a deserving student at the 16th annual "Gala" held at Braeburn Country Club on Saturday April 26, 2014. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to: The Friends of Westbury High School Foundation (TFWHSF), PO Box 31386, Houston TX 77231-1386. The TFWHSF established in 1992 is a volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation.

More information is available at website www.friendswhs.org



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Willow Waterhole News

Tentative Tree Planting Event February 8th: As we go to press this event is still tentative as working with multiple entities is often a challenge. There will be an update on the Facebook page of both the WCC and the WWGC as the date approaches. Volunteers are needed to plant trees and spread mulch at Willow Waterhole on Saturday February 8th. Registration begins at 9 AM at The Gathering Place parking lot, 5310 South Willow at Ricecrest. Tree planting events are a great way for families with children in the 6 to 14 year old range to accomplish something meaningful together. The holes will be pre-dug to the correct size. A shovel will be required to remove the remaining loose dirt from the hole. A family working together should be able to plant four or more trees in a couple of hours. Everyone should wear sensible shoes and long pants. Bring your own gloves, but they will also be provided, if you don't. Everyone will need to have a signed waiver to participate. The waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian for those under 18. A PDF copy of the waiver can be downloaded from the WWGC's website at <http://www.wwgc.org/>. Copies of the waiver will be available at the registration desk.

Recycle your unused Recycling Bin: The WWGC needs some of the old-style, rectangular curbside recycling bins. If you have one of the new rolling, single-stream bins, and are not using your old one for other purposes, it can be dropped off at the Platou Center at Chimney Rock Park, 11655 Chimney Rock on Wednesday's between noon and 7 PM. We have multiple uses for them now and for years to come.

Pocket Prairie Coming to Willow Waterhole: The WWGC is working on a plan with the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Flood Control District and various prairie organizations to plant a one-fourth-acre pocket prairie on South Willow between the hospital and The Gathering Place. We will be rescuing native coastal prairie plants in March and April for transplanting in the South Willow Pocket Prairie.



Mardi Grass: Flora of the Famous Cajun Prairie in Deer Park Texas: "Mardi Grass: Flora of the Famous Cajun Prairie in Deer Park Texas" will be presented by botanist and author Jason Singhurst of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on February 27 at 3015 Richmond Ave., 77057. All are welcome to grab your Krewe and some beads and join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments & 7:00 p.m. for "Mardi Grass". This Cajun prairie in Deer Park is a 54-acre virgin prairie that was purchased last year at \$4 million with privately raised donations and saved from being a housing subdivision. Many of the plants found there are also found on the Prairie Management Area at Willow Waterhole!

Barbed Wire Controversy

The WCC notes that there is a controversy in progress regarding the Praire area on the East side on S. Post Oak regarding barbed wire fencing. Residents neighboring the site are very upset about placement of a barbed wire fence surrounding the future prairie site. The Harris County Flood Control District feels they are justified in the placement and construction of the fencing. This issue is currently in City Legal Review.

Bird Survey Results

With the weather clear and cold, the Willow Waterhole Bird Survey recorded 44 species on Saturday, January 18. Of note was the flyover of an Anhinga, a first-time sighting for this count. Nice flocks of American Pipits were seen, as was a Tufted Titmouse, a bird not often found in the park. A turnout of 36 participants enjoyed the morning of birding. The next Willow Waterhole Bird Survey will be on Saturday February 15.



WWW.WWCG.ORG

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Willow Waterhole

Willow Waterhole Prairie Management Area

STATUS UPDATE – January 2014

This is the first in a series of regular updates the Harris County Flood Control District will provide to residents, public officials and other stakeholders about activities related to the Willow Waterhole Prairie Management Area. The Flood Control District is committed to keeping you informed as we progress through the plans to establish a 15-acre native coastal prairie management area in the Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention Basin's Compartment 3 located northeast of the intersection of South Post Oak Road and South Main Street.

PRAIRIE MANAGEMENT PLAN – ACTIVITY UPDATE/NEXT STEPS

As of January 2014, the Flood Control District is continuing with the second phase of the plan to create the Willow Waterhole Prairie Management Area:

1. Vegetation Removal Activities: The District continues with the removal of identified shrubs, saplings, small trees, and exotic, or non-native, vegetation in the Prairie Management Area's North Sector (south of the forested buffer between the Prairie Management Area and the Willowbrook and Post Oak Manor neighborhoods). Remaining work in the North Sector includes the removal of mulch, brush piles, non-native vegetation, select trees, vines and shrubs from the prairie habitat. Work continues on clearing shrubs, saplings, small trees, and exotic, or non-native, vegetation and debris piles targeted for removal in the South Sector near Gasmer Drive.

2. Tree Evaluation: This week (Jan. 13), the project team conducted a tree inventory in the Prairie Management Area's North Sector (south of the forested buffer between the Prairie Management Area and the Willowbrook and Post Oak Manor neighborhoods). Each tree was mapped with a GPS location, and information was collected about species, size, diameter, general health and unique characteristics. Flood Control District biologists and foresters will evaluate the condition, location, number and species of these trees to determine which of them should be included as mottes, which are groupings of trees, and which should be removed. Prior to any large tree removal, Flood Control District project staff will meet on site with local experts and a community spokesperson to discuss proposed upcoming steps for prairie restoration in the North Sector. Community input will be taken into consideration.

Walk Out Westbury -- WOW!

Did you know there are wonderful trails at the Willow Waterhole? Now that milder temperatures are here, it is a great time to get out and walk and explore this beautiful nature reserve. Ask a neighbor to join you. If you use NextDoor.com, then invite some neighbors to join you or start a regular walking group. For you stay-at-home parents, get your friends together for a picnic under the big oak tree at the Rafferty Memorial at Willow Waterhole (park on Ricecrest), and then let the kids run off their energy or push the little ones in their strollers on the concrete pathways. For you seniors, the concrete pathways are excellent. There are benches and picnic tables for those who would rather have a snack or rest in the peaceful environs.

A walk is helpful to burn up the extra calories of holiday feasting. When you have out of town guests, show off one of the jewels of our neighborhood by taking a walk around the park.



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WHS Baseball Team Gives Back to Community

Westbury Baseball Team Gives Back

One year ago, the Westbury Rebels baseball team started delivering the Westbury Crier. The team has delivered the Crier in 2013 on the hottest day of the year and the coldest day of the year, and is looking forward to many years to come. We want to thank the Westbury Civic Club for allowing us to deliver such an important community newsletter. The players also want to thank the neighbors in the community for always greeting them with a smile and a warm hello.

The Westbury High School baseball team has been busy trying to raise money to bring the team's facilities and equipment back up to par. The team is looking to the Westbury community for its help. The players, parents, and coaches have put in many hours to get the field ready to host our first ever Westbury Baseball Classic. Five high school teams will come together to play a round robin tournament on February 27th, 28th, and March 1st at Westbury High School.

The team is looking for sponsors for the Westbury Baseball Classic to help offset some of the expenses of hosting and inviting other schools to the area. Sponsorships start at only \$100 but, any donations would be gladly accepted. All donations/sponsorships can be mailed to the Westbury High School Baseball Booster Club, a 501c3 Non-Profit



Organization, at P.O. Box 311101, Houston, TX 77231. All donations will be mailed a receipt. Any questions about sponsorship can be directed to Coach Lyle at rlyle@houstonisd.org.

Thank you Westbury for all your support!



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Trail Riders Come to Westbury

19th Annual Campfire and Trail Ride

Horseshoes from the Heart and the Los Vaqueros Rio Grande Trail Riders will hold their 19th annual Westbury Neighborhood Campfire on Thursday, February 27 from 5PM to 9PM, at the Westbury Little League Baseball field (5200 Dryad). The event is open to all residents of Westbury and the surrounding area. The event will include a campfire circled by trail ride wagons and horses, live music, and a native dance program by the Alabama-Coushatta Indians. Admission is Free. Food and drinks may be purchased at the event.

The "Horseshoes From The Heart Foundation and the Los Vaqueros Rio Grande Trail Riders" annual trail ride leaves Westbury Little League at 8AM on Feb 28 and winds through Westbury. The route will include stops at Anderson Elementary, Parker Elementary, and Westbury United Methodist.



2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

- Feb 28: Go Texan Day
- March 1: Downtown Rodeo Parade
- Feb. 27-March 1: BBQ Cookoff
- March 4-March 23: Rodeo + Shows

Check out www.hlsr.com for more information and details



CAMPFIRE: Thurs., Feb. 27 from 5PM-9PM
Westbury Little League

TRAIL RIDE: Fri. AM thru Westbury, Feb. 28

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