



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2016

2016 Mayor's Inauguration

On January 4, Houston's new mayor and city council were sworn in during an inauguration ceremony. Representing Westbury and the Westbury SuperNeighborhood were Becky Edmondson and Cindy Chapman.

It was a moving ceremony with beautiful music by the Houston Symphony and gospel singer, Yolanda Adams. In his inaugural speech, Mayor Sylvester Turner said it is important to dream big, because when you do, big things can happen. He mentioned hard work and doing your best -- always a formula for success. His goal is to make Houston the best place to live. He reminded us, "we are all Houston, and we will stand and work for Houston and for its future". He spoke of the challenges Houston faces. For those of us living in southwest Houston, Mayor Turner said that alleviating flooding is a high priority. "No one wants to hear any more heart-wrenching stories like the ones that I have heard in the Meyerland-Westbury area ... Addressing the issue of flooding will be a high priority for this administration."



Like all of us, Mayor Turner wants a safe city with more police, quality education, more parks, strong communities, and affordable housing so people don't leave the city.

Following the inauguration ceremony, we were invited back to council offices for an Open House. It was a good chance to meet newly elected officials and their staffs and to renew acquaintances. We, in Westbury, are looking forward to working with the new city government as we work together to make our part of Houston the best that it can be.

Community Meeting: February 18 @6:30PM Westbury High School—2012 HISD Bond Update

Come see the new plans unveiled for the first time for the new addition and renovation of Westbury High School. It is important to show a strong community presence. These updates are part of the 2012 HISD Bond. For more information, see page 10.

HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE

Heavy Trash for **FEBRUARY** is **JUNK WASTE**. Pick-up for ALL of Westbury is **Thursday, FEBRUARY 11**. **DO NOT PLACE JUNK WASTE ON CURB UNTIL FEBRUARY 6**



21st Annual Campfire & Trail Ride

Horseshoes for the Heart

Campfire - Thursday, Feb. 25, 5:30PM-8PM

Westbury Little League

Trail Ride - Friday, Feb. 26, 8AM

For more info, see page 6



BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Don't become a victim of crime

Are you sick and tired of crime? There are many ways you can help. Volunteer to be a block captain or a section director. Think about joining a neighborhood watch program and contributing to the Westbury Area Patrol (WAP) so we can add more eyes on the street.



Join us as we fight crime to keep Westbury safe and secure. We will explain these programs in more depth on pages 14 and 15. Be aware, be vigilant, watch out for one another.

The Dues form is on page 17. Send in your payment today!

Westbury Celebrates 60 Wonderful Years PHOTOS OF WESTBURY

WANTED

If you have any photos of Westbury from the past 60 years, especially of the 1950s-1970s, see page 7!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE

5322 W. Bellfort #107, Houston, TX 77035

Jennifer Edmondson.....WCC Office Manager

NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO DUES PAYING

WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appt.

OFFICE HOURS/CONTACT

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

Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Telephone.....713-723-5437

Email.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Deed Restrictions.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Visit our website at www.westburycrier.com

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SECURITY

Pct. 5 Constables (WAP).....281-463-6666

including suspicious activity, burglar alarms and vacation watch

Emergency.....911

Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency..... 713-884-3131

Westbury HPD Storefront.....832-394-7520

CITY OF HOUSTON

District K Council Member, Larry Green.....832-393-3016

District C Council Member, Ellen Cohen.....832-393-3004

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

Platou Community Center.....713-726-7107

Meyer Library.....832-393-1840

Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office.....832-393-0955

Houston Help & Information.....311

*For missed garbage pickup, water line breaks, potholes
sewer repairs, dead animals, traffic signals, heavy trash
violations, neighborhood nuisances, and other city services*

CENTERPOINT ENERGY

Electric outage.....713-207-2222

Suspected natural gas leak.....713-659-2111

Street light repairs.....713-207-2222

Make sure to give pole number

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

County Commissioner El Franco Lee.....713-755-6111

Graffiti.....www.braysoaksmd.org

Shopping Cart Removal.....www.braysoaksmd.org

Brays Oaks Mgmt. District - Use "report a problem" link

Poison Control.....1-800-764-7661

Harris County Tax office.....713-368-2000

Harris County Appraisal District.....713-957-7800

2016 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*If no contact information is provided, contact the WCC
Office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net or 713-723-5437*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Becky Edmondson

wccpresident@westburycrier.com or 713-443-3951

Vice President.....Leslee Cross

Secretary.....Dan Vega

Treasurer.....David Cummins

westburytreasurer@gmail.com

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Communications.....Libby Mondello

Community Relations.....Cindy Chapman

wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com

Deed Restrictions.....Jennifer Edmondson

westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Jeff Benavides

Greenspace Beautification.....Marcia Hartman

Membership.....VACANT

Security.....Kevin O'Brien

Volunteer & Event Coordinator VACANT

SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1.....VACANT

Westbury 2.....Rocio Lara

Westbury 3.....Robert Montgomery

rmontgomery002@comcast.net

Westbury 3.....VACANT

Westbury 4.....VACANT

Westbury 4.....Eugene Sirls

Westbury 5.....Virginia Livingston

Westbury5E@westburycrier.com

Westbury 5.....VACANT

Westbury South.....VACANT

Parkwest 1.....William Grimsinger

Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss

Jweiss@txchiro.edu

Parkwest 3.....Joe Niles

parkwest3@westburycrier.com

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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President's Message

January got off to a quick start after a lull in meetings in December. 2016 began with the City's Inauguration festivities. Cindy Chapman and I attended the inauguration as well as the City Council Open Houses that followed as it gave us a chance to visit with many of the council members and their staff. My husband and I attended Mayor Turner's inauguration celebration that evening and it was a wonderful evening. I believe the next four years will be challenging for the city as it struggles with monetary issues, but I have faith in our system and truly believe that we have many talented people working to find solutions. I was especially pleased to hear Mayor Turner mention in his inaugural address that flooding is a high priority. The Mayor is aware of Westbury's flooding issues. It is especially gratifying to know that people have heard our concerns.

Cindy Chapman and I both attended the January Super Neighborhood Alliance meeting where Mayor Turner reiterated his commitment to neighborhoods. The rest of the month was filled with more opportunities to come together as a community. Members of the Westbury Civic Club attended meetings of the Brays Oaks Management District, Southwest Houston 2000, Neighborhoods to Trails-Southwest, Westbury Civic Club, Westbury Area Improvement Corp, Project Advisory Teams for Westbury High School and Parker Elementary, Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy, Brays Bayou Association, Westbury Community Garden, and more!

As you can see there are plenty of ways to become involved in the community. The dates and times of these meetings are in the *Crier* each month and are open to the public. Drop in some time!

The Westbury Civic Club kicked off its 60th anniversary on Arbor Day by planting 60 trees and bushes in the esplanades and parks. It was a great day and you can read all about it on page 22-23. We will do more greening in April for Keep Houston Beautiful Day. In February, we have an Eagle Scout doing a 60th anniversary preservation project. Learn more about this on page 7. There will be festivities all year long. Keep checking the *Crier* for upcoming events or our Facebook page, Westbury Houston.

Please plan to attend the Westbury High School community meeting on February 18 to show HISD that we care about our neighborhood high school. It is important that

HISD knows that our whole community is engaged and watching where and how the 2012 bond money is being spent. We still want those promises made prior to the vote honored. Read more on page 10.

As we celebrate 60 years, I would love to feature your stories of those early years in Westbury in the *Crier*. Are you an original owner? Send in a picture and a brief story of life in Westbury in the fifties and sixties. Here is mine: My dad, Jim Rucker, was transferred by British American Oil from Midland to Houston in August of 1961. They closed on their house on Cheena (one block north of Westbury) the day before Hurricane Carla hit. Can you imagine a family of 5 (kids aged 8, 6 and 5 months) riding out the hurricane in a motel room on South Main watching through the sliding glass door that had a big X of masking tape? The house that they paid \$18,000 for and required a second mortgage for the down payment withstood the storm just fine. Flash forward 55 years, that house that my mom was worried about being so far out of town, is now "close in" and while mindboggling to my almost 90 year old dad, worth upwards of \$400,000!

I'll close by personalizing for Westbury something that the Mayor included in his inaugural address:

Westbury, this is our neighborhood, let us preserve it. Westbury, this is our home, let us protect it. Westbury this is Houston, let us invest in it. And together, let's move forward to make this the best neighborhood in the best city.

Won't you join me in keeping Westbury wonderful?

Becky Edmondson



WCC Community Relations Director Cindy Chapman, Newly elected CM Amanda Edwards, and WCC President Becky Edmondson

Westbury Civic Club Board Notes—January 2016

- ⇒ Lt. Hutter and Sgt. Hernandez from the Constable Office discussed security issues. Security Director O'Brien and Security Committee will investigate implementing a Crime Watch program in Westbury with Precinct 5. Resident feedback about the Constable Patrol should be directed to Sgt. Hernandez.
- ⇒ List of upcoming meetings was discussed, with explanation about each of the meetings. Board members were encouraged to attend.
- ⇒ WCC website is under review. Also, a regional website is being discussed.
- ⇒ Motion APPROVED to donate \$500 to Westbury Baptist Church in appreciation of having monthly and annual WCC meetings hosted there.
- ⇒ Recently elected CM At-Large 4 Amanda Edwards spoke about Infrastructure and Flooding. She is on the City Infrastructure Committee and Budget /Fiscal Affairs Committee.

NEXT
Westbury Civic Club
Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 17
Westbury Baptist
7PM

Sixty Wonderful Years
Westbury Civic Club

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock
 Hours: Mon-Thurs 12PM—8PM; Fri 11AM-7PM
 Supervisor: Dan Reilly,
 Daniel.reilly@houstontx.gov or 713-726-7107

Meyer Neighborhood Library

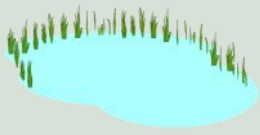
5005 W. Bellfort
 Hours: See box below
 Phone: 832-393-1840 /
 www.houstonlibrary.org

Family Fun Day

Feb. 27, 10:15AM—2PM

Program topic: **"Pond Life. Life in a Drop of Water"**

Edith Smith and the Hollingsworth Science Center Director will explore all the wonderful elements that exist in pond water. We will have many activities and the participants can use a microscope, too. Refreshments on hand as well.



Meyer Library Comes to the Platou Center

February 22, 10–11:30AM

Lauren Ray, with the Meyer Library, will lead activities for day care age children, ages 18 months to 5 years old. The activities will include story time, rhyming, sing-a-long and arts and crafts. This is a new exciting partnership. All activities will be free. Please contact Dan Reilly to RSVP for the activity, space is limited to 25 kids.

STRETCHING EXERCISE CLASS

Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9-9:45AM

Improve your flexibility by joining this non-strenuous exercise class. No registration required.

MsBEEHAVEN QUILTERS -Tues., 10AM - 2PM

GAMES—Wed., 10AM to 12PM

For more information, contact Wally at 713-729-9310

PORTABLE PROJECTS- Thurs., 9:30-11:30AM

For more information, contact Hazel at 713 -729-4568

LINE DANCING Mondays @ 12:30PM

For more information, contact Dan at 713-726-7107

Ping Pong Leagues—Wednesday & Friday

Open adult ping pong will be on Fridays from 11AM to 2PM. Open adult and teen play on Wed., from 6-8PM.



Like us on Facebook
 "Platou Community Center"
 TODAY!

February 2016 Events

Baby Playgroup

Tuesdays | 10–10:45 AM
 Ages 0 – 18 Months. Playgroup includes music, singing and toys! Babies will learn socialization and motor skills as they play and have fun with each other.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays | 10- 10:45 AM
 Ages 18 – 36 Months. Join us for stories, songs, crafts and playtime for toddlers.

Pre-K Storytime

Wednesdays | 11-11:45 AM
 Ages 3-5 years. Join us for stories, songs and rhymes for children and their caregivers.



Arts & Crafts for Kids

Thursdays | 3:30-4:30 PM
 Ages 4-10 years. Come by after school and enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts.

Tween & Teen Zone

Thursdays | 4:30-5:30 PM
 Ages 10-17. Come by after school and relax with your friends at the library. There will be craft projects, homework help, test prep and special workshops!



HOURS

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 10AM-6PM
 Wed.: 10AM-6PM
 Thursday: 12PM-8PM
 Friday: 1PM-5PM
 Saturday: 10AM-5PM
 Sunday: Closed

Special Library Events on page 6

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

A Weight Loss Support Group Tuesdays 5:45-7PM

Drop in to preview or call Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or Naomi at 713-988-2233

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What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar February 2016

Mon. 1	Mandatory Assessments Due for Parkwest 1 and 2
Sat 13	Willow Waterhole Volunteer Work Day 9-12PM Meet at Gathering Place for more information, see page 20
Mon. 15	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow Speaker: Jason Iken, COH Wastewater Management
Wed. 17	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30AM Salem Lutheran Church— 4930 W. Bellfort
Wed. 17	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft
Thurs. 18	Westbury HS Community Meeting—Bond Update 6:30PM Westbury High School 10911 Chimney Rock For more information, see page 10
Sat. 20	Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at the Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Tues. 22	SW PIP Meeting - Time and Location TBA
Thurs. 25	Horseshoes from the Heart Campfire 5:30 PM-8PM Westbury Little League baseball fields—5200 Dyrad Event is open to the public, more information on page 6
Fri. 26	Los Vaqueros Trail Riders at Westbury Area Schools 8AM More information, see page 6 GO TEXAN DAY!
Sat. 27	Parker Groundbreaking of New School Building 10:30AM See page 8 for more information
Sat. 27	Family Fun Day @ Platou Center 10AM-2PM For information, see page 4 in green box

PLANNING CALENDAR

*April 23—Friends Of Westbury High School Gala

*April 23-24 –Music Fest at Willow Waterhole

* Late April/May—White Elephant Sale



Happy Valentine's Day from the Westbury Civic Club! We hope you love living in Westbury!

RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH CALENDAR



February 2016	
Thurs 4	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 11	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 18	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
March 2016	
Thurs 3	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 10	Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 17	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 31	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday. Recycling is every other Thursday. Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- ♻️ 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 be placed starting 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.
- ♻️ **Environmental Service Center - 11500 S. Post Oak** Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM. Accepts Hazardous Household & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com or www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

February	Junk Waste	March	Tree Waste
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February Events in Westbury

21st Annual Campfire & Trail Ride

Horseshoes From The Heart Foundation and the Los Vaqueros Rio Grande Trail Riders will hold their 21st annual Westbury Neighborhood Campfire on Thursday, February 25, from 5:30 PM to 8PM, 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 26 and winds through Westbury. The route will include stops at Anderson Elementary, Parker Elementary, St. Thomas More Parish School and Westbury United Methodist Preschool/Church then passing by Johnston Middle School, Kolter and Lovett.



All of the money raised at this event will go straight to the children of Horseshoes from the Heart. Horseshoes from the Heart founder is Westbury resident, Kent Crawford. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions about the organization, or how to donate to Horseshoes from the Heart, please feel free to email us at horseshoesfromtheheart@gmail.com.

Campfire: February 25, 5:30-8PM

Trail Ride: February 26, 8AM

Meyer Library Special Events

Pledge Quilt Craft for Kids

Thursday, February 11,
3:30pm – 4:30pm

Celebrate African-American Heritage Month by making a quilt square! Create your own pledge to stand up for what you believe in and make it a part of the HPL pledge quilt. Ages 6-12.



Ruby Bridges Storytime

Saturday, February 13, 10:30am – 11:30am

Families are invited to this African-American Heritage Month Storytime! Come read picture books about Ruby Bridges and other famous African-American women who have changed history. Be inspired by the journeys of these brave young women to persevere through great times of change.

Faithful Paws Storytime

Saturday, February 20, 10:30am – 11:30am

Come and read with our trained dogs! Faithful Paws is now at the Meyer Library every 3rd Saturday of the month. Children are invited to read their favorite picture books alongside canine companions from Faithful Paws. All ages welcome.

When Were You An Activist:

Comic Book Craft for Kids

Thursday, February 25, 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Kids can imagine what kind of activist for social change would they be while exploring the world of comic books! Young children and tweens alike will have fun creating their own comic strips depicting their own story of standing up for what they believe in.

*For regular weekly story times,
library hours and contact
information, see page 4.*

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

Westbury 60th Anniversary

Eagle Scout Project for Westbury 60th Anniversary

Nelson Amaya, from Boy Scout Troop 197, has begun a project to restore the historic cement street posts located in Westbury. He will be contacting homeowners who have a post located on their properties, then power wash and straighten if needed. This prep work will then enable the letters to be painted for better visibility. Civic Club President Becky Edmondson is excited about yet another 60th anniversary project, "These original street posts are unique, but over the years many have been removed or damaged. The restoration work by Nelson will bring those still in place back to their original condition and be something Westbury can be proud of."

Nelson has identified 12 posts thus far and would like any homeowners who have a post not on the following list, email coolnelson123@gmail.com.

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sanford/Mullins | Bankside/Atwell | Benning/Renwick |
| Briarbend/Cedarhurst | Redstart/Moonlight | Moonlight/Creekbend |
| Creekbend/Manhattan | Belrose/Atwell | McKnight/Gaymoor |
| Warm Springs/Gaymoor | Kinglet/Checkerboard | Checkerboard/Hummingbird |

Sixty Wonderful Years Westbury Civic Club



Photo taken in 1965. Mr. John Fogarty and two of his sons, Jim and Jerry, planting grass in the backyard of 5918 Beaudry. No fences, no street lights, no trees.



Before



After

60th Anniversary of the WCC

This coming year marks an exciting time in Westbury's history, as it is the 60th anniversary of the Westbury Civic Club!

Interested in how you can participate in the festivities? We are busy setting up committees for our celebration as well as other events and will be asking for volunteers soon. Look for updates in the *Crier* and on social media.

WE NEED YOUR WESTBURY PHOTOS!

We are still looking for photos from the 1950's-2000s depicting life in Westbury. You can drop them off in an envelope with your name, phone number, and address to the Civic Club Office or you can scan them and email them to at westburycc@sbcglobal.net. The photos will be on display at our celebration party as well as in the *Crier* throughout the year. If you have any questions, call Jennifer at 713-723-5437.

WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

1 IN 3 WOMEN DIE FROM HEART DISEASE. EARLY DETECTION CAN PREVENT IT.

The signs and symptoms of coronary heart disease in women are not easily recognizable. At Houston Methodist, our expert cardiologists offer the most advanced technologies and specialized treatments to help women avoid the disease. By assessing the individual risks of every patient and helping establish a plan to maintain greater heart health, we're preventing heart disease in women before it can even begin.

To learn if you're at risk, visit connect.houstonmethodist.org/heartquiz and take a heart disease risk assessment, or call **713.790.3333** for a physician referral.



Parker Elementary

Help the Parker Performing Strings Travel to Minnesota!

The Parker Elementary Performing Strings has been invited to perform at the prestigious national Suzuki Association of America Conference in Minneapolis, MN, in May 2016. Parker, an HISD Music Magnet, has maintained a national reputation for excellence of its Suzuki program for decades. Parker Elementary is located in the Westbury neighborhood at the corner of Willowbend and Atwell.

The Performing Strings group is made up of 4th and 5th grade violinists and cellists. The young musicians are primed to perform, showing the strength of fine arts education at Parker Elementary, in HISD, and representing Houston as the international city that it is!



The cost of the trip is \$80,000. The school is asking for donations to help make this trip a reality for their students. Donations (tax-deductible to the Parker Elementary PTO) can be made online at <https://www.gofundme.com/78dcr6x8>. Donations in the form of checks may be sent. Please make checks payable to: Parker Music (MN trip). Send checks to Parker Elementary, Attention- Alean Zufall (Parker Music MN trip), 10626 Atwell, Houston, TX 77096-4925.

Attention Zoned Kindergarten Students for 2016-2017

It's time to register/enroll at Parker Elementary.

Please come on February 9th, 2016 for Parker Zoned Kindergarten visit/enrollment day at 8:30AM in the Parker Cafeteria. Learn all about your school and the award winning Magnet program. We want you to have a guaranteed seat in Kindergarten for 2016-2017 at Parker. Please bring the below items.

- ❖ Bring a copy of your child's Birth Certificate
- ❖ Proof of residency (Utility bill or rent receipt, no phone bills)
- ❖ Current Health Record
- ❖ Parent's Texas Driver's License
- ❖ Student's Social Security Card



Save the date Kindergarten Round-up April 5, 2016 | 8:30 a.m. Meet the teachers and have some fun!

*Pre-K Registration Begins Feb. 15 to March 21
Notification March 28th*



**Parker
Elementary
Ground-
Breaking for
New School Building
February 27 at 10:30AM**



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What is in a name...?

“What’s in a name...?”

A bit more than Shakespeare bargained for.

By Barbara Haverkamp

There was a community meeting with District V HISD Board Member Mike Lunceford on Wednesday, January 20. The HISD Board is currently considering changing the names of eight schools within HISD which honor people with any links to the Confederacy. Mr. Lunceford asked for the Board to wait for feedback from parents and community members. The majority of Westbury homes are zoned to Johnston MS.

His opening remarks told of HISD’s \$114 million budget short fall next fiscal year. The Legislature still is holding the State to its Robin Hood rule, take from the rich school districts and give to the poor school districts. For years, the Legislature has taken a sizable chunk of HISD revenue and given it to poorer districts. Currently, by law, the HISD Board is forbidden to raise taxes. The deficit is going to be quite a problem. Lunceford told of his conversations with legislators and assorted high up government officials who agree the system needs change. Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier retires at the end of February. So far, no committee has been formed to find a new Superintendent for HISD.

In the midst of these personnel and budgetary problems came the notion of politically correct school names. There is the issue of, if the name is changed, who will pay for the new signage, new uniforms, new music stands, etc. It would appear the board jumped on its new name mission without considering the cost.

Albert Sidney Johnston served as a general in three different armies: the Texan (*i.e.*, Republic of Texas) Army, the United States Army, and the Confederate States Army. He saw extensive combat during his military career, fighting actions in the Texas War of Independence, the Mexican-American War, the Utah War, and the American Civil War. He graduated from West Point Military Academy. He was Secretary of War for the Republic of Texas from 1838 to 1840.

In 1926, the first Johnston Junior High opened on a ten acre wooded block of land. Initially 652 pupils were taught by 20 faculty members in 32 classrooms. The current JMS campus was opened September 1959 to answer the growing population of SW Houston. There are currently roughly 1,700 students at JMS. The level of diversity is close to perfect. At this point in time, Johnston Middle School has a stellar reputation as a Fine Arts Magnet.

It was said that this could be turned into a teaching moment for the students. Mr. Sanders reported he had already been working with some students. He’d asked them to do a creative writing exercise on the subject of the Sidney Albert Johnston. He was impressed by their writings. Most, 28, were in favor of leaving the name as is, with two students against.

It was also noted that the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) is currently circulating a poll on Survey Monkey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CrierJMS>, to get a consensus for what residents think about a name change. Results will be sent to Mr. Lunceford and also JMS Principal Sanders.

All presenters had spoken. Mr. Lunceford said he’d be taking our community opinions back to the Board of Trustees. The next step is up to the Board.

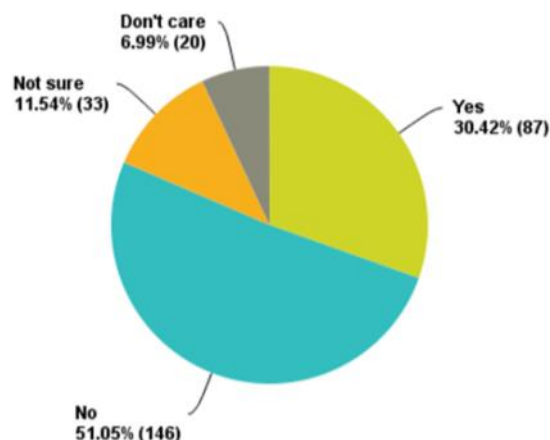
JMS Name Change Survey Results

HISD Trustee Mike Lunceford wanted the community to have input into the school’s name changing decision. Johnston Middle School principal, Wendon Sanders, reached out to the WAIC (Westbury Area Improvement Corp) and asked for feedback from the Westbury community. To that end we created a survey which will remain open for your input. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CrierJMS>

Of the 286 responding from links by email, Facebook and nextdoor.com 62% responded that they were zoned to JMS and 76% either attended, had someone in their family that had attended or planned to attend. The comments were thoughtful and we passed all of the results to JMS.

Q1 I support changing the name of Albert Sidney Johnston Middle School.

Answered: 286 Skipped: 0



Community Members’ Comments at Meeting

- ⇒ Many don’t even think about the school’s name or know the history of Albert Sidney Johnston.
- ⇒ The idea of spending money on a problem that many don’t think is an urgent problem, in light of the continuing need for campus maintenance, didn’t make the name change seem logical or fiscally responsible.
- ⇒ Several people were 100% in favor of name changing.
- ⇒ Others were adamant that the name not be changed.
- ⇒ Others pointed to the success of the Fine Arts Program as the more important issue. The name is not an issue in light of the fine arts & academic education available.
- ⇒ One person said she almost didn’t send her child due to the words of the JMS Song. (*An undercurrent of “There is a song?” went through the audience.*)
- ⇒ Then someone else defended the JMS pledge as being made to the school NOT the man. (*A similar undercurrent of “What pledge?” spread through the audience.*)
- ⇒ The idea that it should no longer be named after any person, so the subject would never come up again, was thought worthy.
- ⇒ The idea of “Southwest Middle School for the Performing and Visual Arts” was brought up, then one person suggested it could cause trademark issues with Southwest Airlines. A snatch of laughter rippled through the audience. A bit of humor was good.

Westbury High School Community Meeting

If you are a regular reader of the Westbury Crier, then you will know how unhappy we as a community have been with HISD's treatment of Westbury High School with the 2012 bond monies. We were promised much that has not been delivered. Let's show HISD that we care about the kids that attend and the school that bears our name! Come to the meeting on February 18.

Though it is not all that we had hoped it would be, the work that HISD has agreed to do is moving forward. The second community meeting to highlight the Additions and Renovations project at WHS will be held February 18 at 6:30 PM at Westbury High School.

The Project Advisory Team (PAT) made up of teachers, administrators, students and community members has been meeting for over a year with the architects and HISD Bond team. Members of the PAT team are pleased with the designs for a new school wing. Also, ground has been broken for new baseball and softball fields for WHS. These ball fields will be constructed first, so that the new school addition can be built on the existing baseball field. The new ball fields will be located a block away from the school.

If you think this meeting doesn't matter because you don't have children that will attend, please reconsider. Every property owner in Westbury should come to this meeting to see how your HISD tax dollars are being spent. The quality of neighborhood schools in HISD strongly affects your property values.

What are continued concerns about this project?

❖ The community members of the PAT continue to be concerned that the WHS bond project does NOT (at this time) include dedicated funding for badly needed renovations or replacement facilities for the Fine Arts areas of WHS. We believe that HISD from the very beginning did not allocate sufficient funds for the WHS project because HISD completely missed the problems in the Fine Arts areas of the school. We believe that it is not sufficient that funding will be provided to mitigate problems in the Fine Arts area of WHS if extra funds are left over. In January 2016, the HISD board voted to make WHS a Fine Arts magnet. How can WHS be an outstanding Fine Arts magnet with decrepit and substandard Fine Arts facilities?

❖ HISD had promised the community that it would purchase two apartment complexes adjacent to WHS as part of the 2012 bond. The 2012 bond project originally included millions of dollars to accomplish the purchase of these two apartment complexes. The HISD Board of Trustee voted to proceed with land acquisition, without putting much effort into attempting to purchase the two properties, and then a year later voted to renege on its promise and to defund land acquisition. Part, but NOT all, of these millions of dollars that had been promised to WHS for land acquisition have been allocated instead toward the new softball and baseball fields at WHS. WHS has been

Community Meeting for WHS Thurs., Feb. 18, 6:30-7:30PM

2012 HISD Bond Update

HISD will be holding the 2nd Community Meeting about the Additions and Renovations project at Westbury High School. This project is part of the 2012 HISD Bond.

- ⇒ Presentation on the project status including status of construction with the ball fields
- ⇒ Presentation of the proposed design improvements including renovations and additions
- ⇒ Presentation of information on the overall projected project construction timeline.

The meeting will be held at Westbury High School, Lecture Hall, 11911 Chimney Rock Rd, Houston, TX 77035. The Lecture Hall can be accessed from the front Chimney Rock parking lot by the Atrium.

shortchanged funds that had been promised to the school. At the time of the bond, HISD was aware that WHS (along with other HISD schools) was not in compliance with federal Title 9 requirements for sports facilities. The scope for WHS should always have included improvements to WHS sports facilities, without having to raid the land acquisition funds. Money that should have been allocated for WHS has been allocated elsewhere in HISD.

❖ We remain concerned that insufficient classroom capacity is being built for WHS. This has been a problem for years at WHS.

❖ We remain concerned about flooding issues in the general area of Westbury High School at Chimney Rock, Ludington, and Gasmer.

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Westbury High School News

Fine Arts Magnet Program Returns to Westbury HS

The newly seated HISD board voted at their January 2016 meeting to reinstate the Fine Arts magnet program at Westbury High School. We applaud this decision!

For many years, Westbury residents and community leaders begged HISD to create a Fine Arts Magnet program at WHS to allow local students, who have participated in the excellent Music Magnet program at Parker Elementary (or nearby Lovett Elementary) and the excellent Fine Arts Magnet program at Johnston Middle School, to be able to continue with an outstanding Fine Arts Magnet program at WHS. HISD finally agreed to allow a Fine Arts Magnet at WHS just a few short years ago and the program had been growing. We saw the WHS Fine Arts Magnet program as vital to attracting both ZONED and NON-ZONED students to WHS; however, HISD put the WHS Fine Arts program on a death watch and eliminated all magnet funding for WHS in 2014.

When HISD announced plans to defund the local magnet programs in 2014, including ours at Westbury High School, we thought this was a poor and short-sighted decision. It is vital to the Westbury Community that the high school, which shares our name, continues on its path to become a school of choice with a stellar reputation. We are awaiting news on funding from HISD.

22nd Annual Gala Friends of Westbury High School

The Friends of Westbury High Foundation's (FWHS) 22nd Annual Gala will be held at Braeburn Country Club on Saturday, April 23, 2016. This year's honorees are the 1966 Westbury Little League World Champions and Robert Lyle, teacher and baseball coach at WHS and a WHS Class of 2000 graduate. Since 1994, FWHS has provided 211 student scholarships valued at \$316,500. This year, another dozen \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving seniors from Westbury High School. For more information or to join the fun-filled evening, please contact Gala Chair, Sheryl Namee, at (713) 385-0454 or EMJmom@att.net or FWHS President, Kaye Griggs, at (713) 594 - 0816 or LKG1125@gmail.com. Donations and auction items are always welcome. We hope to see you there!

Westbury High Students Give Back

Westbury High School Health Occupational Students of America, (HOSA) were in the spirit of giving this past holiday season. The HOSA students collected over 500 canned goods, 100 pairs of socks, and Christmas cards to give to nursing home residents as well as the homeless population. After performing their 2nd Annual Holiday Program at Autumn Leaf Nursing Home, they delivered care packages to the homeless under the bridge in downtown Houston. From there, they delivered canned goods and nonperishable items to the Houston Food Bank where they volunteered one hour of their time. Marari Cantu a sophomore stated, "I will never forget the experience of giving to the homeless people." Senior Alexis Bichon commented, "It felt good to give back to people that are not as fortunate as others."

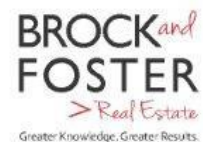


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Westbury Area News

Johnston Middle School Beautification Day—March 5

Johnston Middle School (JMS) Parent Teacher Organization needs your help with our Beautification Day. This will be an event where the entire JMS community will work together for a common goal that will provide a tremendous opportunity for collaboration, creativity and fun.

The purpose of this beautification project is to improve, renew and upgrade the appearance of JMS, specifically the front of the school and courtyards. This will help to aid the perception of the school and its public appearance. As we all know, perception starts with the first impression, mostly visual perception. JMS students spend much of their day at school so we can only imagine how this project will enhance their pride about the school they attend.

Remember that JMS beautification will not be successful without your support. Your contributions can be in the form of merchandise donations, gift certificates for products or services and/or monetary donations. We appreciate any amount, however large or small. All donations commitments need to be received by February 14th, 2016. We are a non-profit organization and your donations will be tax deductible.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please email the PTO at jms1caldwell@gmail.com or annieguerra@att.com.



Westbury Area Improvement Corporation News

The Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) and Westbury Super Neighborhood Council meeting was held on Jan 20, 2016. The board approved a donation to Salem Lutheran for hosting our meetings.

S. Post Oak (SPO) area – Barbara Hite from District K said that CM Larry Green is working to get a city ordinance revised regarding homeless sleeping on esplanades/ road right of way. Ramona Creighton from METRO noted that METRO is evaluating how to balance providing shelter and benches at bus stops with homeless sleeping at bus stops. A speaker from Houston homeless outreach will be invited to a future WAIC meeting. WAIC President Chapman noted that the Brays Oaks Management District did a clean-up project in December on our side of SPO (west side) along the Centerpoint easement to improve appearance.

Infrastructure—City now aggressively patching potholes – procedures discussed. Concerns expressed about Willowbend repaving project underway – a meeting with contractor is requested. Mary Seymore, representing Texas Representative Borris Miles, will relay concerns about delays with TxDOT repairing the Hillcroft bridge over Willow Waterhole bayou. Discussion about Public Works transition committees – general agreement that more public engagement is desirable earlier in the project process.

Greenspaces – Brays Oaks Management District will now be collecting trash and bandit signs on Westbury area thoroughfares on Fridays. Issues at Willow Waterhole Park and on Hillcroft were discussed.

Other – The Westbury Community Garden, a WAIC project, has received a \$10,000 grant from United Way toward master planning efforts.



Westbury Civic Club, Inc.

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4730 Creekbend 3/2/2 + Gameroom/Study



MARILYN ESTATES - \$419's
5518 Cheena 3/2/2



MARILYN ESTATES - \$390's
5531 Cheena 4/2/2



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5626 Lymbar 4/2/2 + Pool + Gameroom



BRAEBURN TERRACE - \$250's
5834 Ariel 3/2/2

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5639 Benning	9906 Bob White
10302 Willowgrove	4518 Kingfisher



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City Services

Report Potholes to 311

As stated in Mayor Sylvester Turner's inaugural address, infrastructure will be a high priority for his administration.

Starting in mid-January, potholes that are properly reported to the City's 3-1-1 Help and Information System will be assessed and addressed by the next business day. The goal is to effectively, efficiently and safely repair each reported pothole within a 24-hour period. (Note - For quality reasons, asphalt paving is not laid during wet conditions or when the temperature is too cold).



To report problems using the 3-1-1- system:

- ⇒ Use the "Houston311" app available for free in the iTunes and Google app stores.
- ⇒ Report online at <http://www.houstontx.gov/311/>
- ⇒ Call 311 to speak with an operator.
- ⇒ Email 311@houstontx.gov



Willowbend Asphalt Overlay

What in the world is happening on Willowbend?

That's the question that many of us have been asking. Willowbend Blvd. from Albury to Chimney Rock was slated to receive an asphalt overlay. Work began in December and seemed to be progressing slowly.

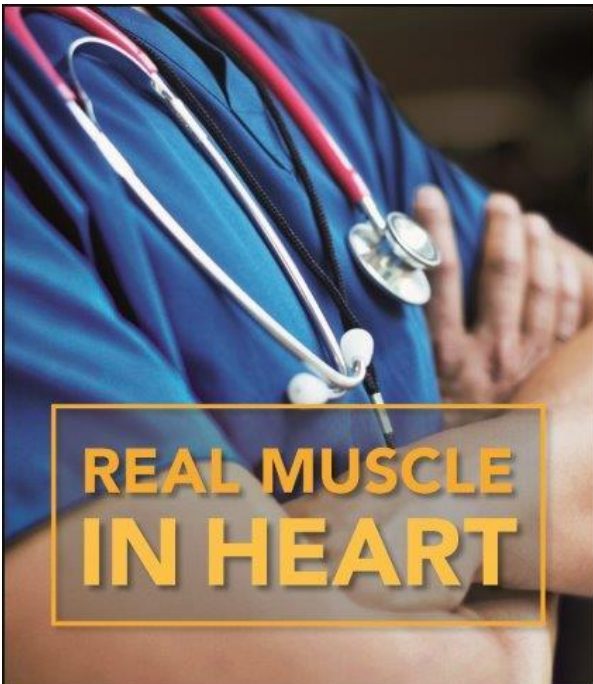
The WCC met with the project manager to find out what was actually happening. Due to the flooding concerns along Willowbend, the scope of the project was expanded to include curbs and gutters. One of the problems with an asphalt overlay is that the curbs and gutters can be covered by many inches of asphalt. The revised design now includes new gutters and curbs where they are needed. They are currently working on the portion of Willowbend that is West of Hillcroft.

Construction is expected to last until May. Please make note of this construction and adjust your routes accordingly. Expect delays, detours and rerouted traffic around the area due to the construction.

Fondren Reconstruction Proposed

District K CM Larry Green hosted a community meeting on January 26 for the Public Works Department to display proposed early designs for a reconstruction of Fondren from Braeswood down to West Airport. The road will be entirely rebuilt, including: an additional lane of traffic each way, new sidewalks (which will be wider to better accommodate pedestrians), new stormwater drainage, five revised intersections, and new traffic signals.

The presentation is available at the Brays Oaks Management District website <http://www.braysoaksmd.org/articles/> in a news article dated January 27, 2016. Send your comments, questions, or concerns about this project to pweplanning@houstontx.gov no later than Friday, February 26.



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Crime & Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days January 21, 2016

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	1	4	2	0	7
Theft	18	9	2	7	36
Auto Theft	5	3	2	0	10
Robbery	2	2	3	1	8
Assault	0	1	1	0	2
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	26	20	10	8	64

*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 by block number, not exact address. Stats for 30 days preceding January 21, 2016

Block #	Street	Crime
5500	Arboles	Theft
11400	Ashcroft	Theft
10800	Atwell	Theft
11000	Atwell	Theft
5700	Benning	Theft
10600	Burdine	Robbery
11000	Burdine	Burglary
5600	Burlinghall	Theft
5600	Cartagena X2	Theft
5800	Cartagena x2	Theft
5700	Cerritos	Theft
5300	Creekbend	Theft
5500	Dryad	Robbery
5900	Dryad	Theft
6000	Duxbury	Auto Theft
6000	Duxbury	Theft
6000	Effingham	Auto Theft
5900	Ettrick	Auto Theft
5700	Fontenelle	Theft
11100	Hillcroft	Auto Theft
5100	Kingfisher	Auto Theft
6000	Ludington	Theft
10600	Mullins x2	Theft

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Westbury Area Patrol / Constables

281-463-6666

Westbury HPD Storefront

832.394.7520*

*new number

HPD Non-Emergency

713-884-3131

Crime in Westbury

Every December there is an increase in property crimes. Reading social media, one could get the impression that crime is rampant in Westbury. Does crime occur? Yes, and every month we publish the numbers. The WCC Director of Security, Kevin O'Brien, spent time analyzing HPD crime data for the single-family residential area patrolled by the Constable Westbury Area Patrol (WAP). For the 30 days ending January 20, there were 29 crimes reported. Of these 29 crimes, most (17) occurred on the driveway/sidewalk or street. We have 5,000 homes and while no crime is acceptable, the numbers are small.

Most local crimes are crimes of opportunity, without much planning. The criminals are seeking easy items of value, especially items near the street. What can you do to reduce crime? Be aware of your surroundings. Make sure you are not followed, especially after leaving a bank or purchasing valuables. If possible, park your car inside your garage. If you must park on the street or driveway, don't leave items visible in your car, valuable or not. Set up a home security evaluation (call the constable dispatch number to make an appointment). Have packages delivered at a location where someone is available to accept the package, or post a note to not leave packages. Secure your home and set your alarm when you are away. Request a vacation watch. Get to know your neighbors. Exchange contact information with your neighbor. Call the WAP dispatch anytime you see something that seems suspicious. "See something, say something!"

Also, remember to financially support our constable security patrol program. Vigilant and observant neighbors who report suspicious activity need a fast response for their concerns. The constable patrol (WAP) provides fast response for suspicious activity reports that would be low-priority, non-emergency service calls for HPD.

Q: When should I call the Precinct 5 Westbury Constables?

A: Call ANYTIME you see suspicious person(s) or vehicles in the single-family residential areas of Westbury and Parkwest. Call to report minor crimes. Call to report minor vehicle accidents. Call to set up an appointment for a home security review.

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 at 832-394-7520?

A: Report yard parking violations. Arrange home security review.

Q: When should I call HPD non-emergency number at 713-884-3131?

A: Noise complaints, minor crimes and suspicious activity in commercial locations or **outside of Westbury**. Parking violations.

Do you hear sirens?

Go to <http://>

cohweb.houstontx.gov/

[ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx](http://cohweb.houstontx.gov/ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx)



Crime & Security

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.**

Thank you to everyone that has contributed to the Westbury Area Patrol this year. We need everyone to support this great program. The 2016 dues form is located on page 17.

Thank you!



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.

Additionally, both Precinct 5 (if you are a member of the WAP patrol) or HPD officers will come to your home to conduct a Home Security checkup. Call to set up an appointment. Call the HPD Westbury Storefront at 832-394-7520. Or, if you support the WAP Security Patrol, call Precinct 5 at 281-463-6666 to schedule your home security inspection.

When planning your vacation, make sure to fill out a Vacation Watch form, available online at Precinct 5. If you are a member of the WAP patrol, make sure your home security alarm system calls them first.

Gun Safety

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. A while back, 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.

Be sure and secure your guns safely at all times. An area teenager recently died as a result of an accidental shooting.

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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Phone: 713-981-9576

Email: Philsbats@att.net

Westbury Area News

Save Money on House Taxes

Several tax exemptions are available to homeowners to reduce house property taxes. If you are a recent homeowner in Westbury and lived in your home on January 1 of 2016, make sure that you have taken steps to apply for a "Residential Homestead Exemption" for your home. This exemption will save you money in TWO ways: it will reduce your house property taxes and it will also put a cap on how much the taxes can increase each year.

Or, if you have turned 65 or become totally disabled, you also qualify for special tax exemptions on your home.

For a regular homestead exemption, file your application by April 30 to allow the Harris County Appraisal District time to process it before your tax statement comes out in the fall. If you miss the April 30th deadline, you can still apply up to one year after the date taxes became delinquent for the year (usually February 1 of the year following the tax year).

If you turn 65, become totally disabled, or acquire a property during the year, you can apply and have the over-65 or disability exemption activated for that year. The deadline to apply for an over-65 or disabled person's exemption for the year in which you qualify is the first anniversary of the date you qualify. If you have missed the deadline, go ahead and submit the application, but the tax bill will only be adjusted back for a certain amount of time.

For more information, or to obtain the necessary forms, go to the Harris County Appraisal District at www.hcad.org

Westbury is HOT!

The Houston Business Journal notes that Zillow has released a new report that predicts the hottest Houston neighborhoods to watch in 2016. Homes in the Bayou City are expected to grow between 3 percent and 3.5 percent in 2016, which is much slower than the 8 percent home value growth seen in 2015, said Svenja Gudell, Zillow's chief economist". But not all areas of Houston have slowed.

Westbury is hot! Here are the hottest home neighborhoods to watch in Houston this year, according to Zillow with the percent of forecasted home value growth:

- *Spring Branch North: 6.1 percent growth
- *Westbury: 6 percent growth
- *Woodlake – Briar Meadow: 5.2 percent growth
- *Eldridge – West Oaks: 5.1 percent growth

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.

March Meet & Eat: Thurs., March 3 @ 6PM

April Meet & Eat: Thurs., April 7 @ 6PM

Links for Lost & Found Pets in Westbury

- Nextdoor Westbury - www.nextdoor.com
- Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook
-<https://www.facebook.com/westburyhoustontexas?ref=nf>
- CARE- Contact at westburycare@gmail.com or at www.westburycare.com, Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts is located in Westbury.

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2016 Dues/Assessments

ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2

Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments.

The amount of the 2016 Mandatory Assessments is \$233.50. The 2016 Assessments are due by February 1.

If you have any questions or did not get your invoice, please contact the WCC office at 713-723-5437 or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

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").

Why Should I Pay My Dues? What are the Benefits?

- 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 esplanades, parks, and green spaces.
- Advocates for City services and infrastructure improvements
- Hosts two White Elephant Community Garage Sale events each year
- Organizes community get togethers such as Coffee with Constables and National Night Out

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

Yes, this is correct! We have you mail your payments directly to our bank's processing center. This allows your payments to be processed immediately.

Please send this form in with your payment

2016 Westbury Civic Club Dues

By filling out this form, you are giving the WCC permission to send you communications. We DO not sell your information or give it out to other entities.

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

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 Westbury Civic Club, Inc.**

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Westbury Civic Club Dues*	\$50	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$285	\$
Subtotal	\$335	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Westbury Area Patrol (WAP)		\$
Total		\$

*The Westbury Civic Club Dues encompasses all operations, programs, and services including greenspace, of the Westbury Civic Club, except patrol services.

Thank you for supporting the Westbury Civic Club and our important programs. We can't do it without you!
 To contact the WCC Office, email westburycc@sbcglobal.net or call 713-723-5437.



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WCC Mailbag

What is happening at Westbury Square?

As we go to print on January 27, an excavator has been delivered and demolition of one building (the building damaged by a fire years ago) is imminent according to owner, Al Antonini. His estimate of the first week of January did not come to fruition.

Why does the WCC have to pay for constable security patrols? Aren't they free? I am confused!

The county Sheriff's Office patrols unincorporated (outside of city limits) parts of Harris County. However, the Sheriff's Office is an entirely different organization than the Constable's Office. The Constables are allowed by the county commissioners to provide Security Services to the public streets of single-family residential communities under approved PAID contracts. The WCC has a PAID contract that specifies a patrol service zone and the number of patrol officers paid to patrol our zone. A total of 4 patrol officers are paid by our service contract. (Not 4 at a time, but 4 in total). If one of our 4 patrol officers is not available, then the constable dispatcher will send a patrol officer from another area (but the response time will be longer).

What is happening with the lane closure on the Hillcroft bridge over the Willow Waterhole Bayou?

According to the City of Houston, the interim repair plans for this project are 100% complete. The COH construction group has some issues and concerns about the helical piles (support piers) and would like to discuss and resolve them before the project moves forward. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, to discuss the concerns. We will be able to provide a more accurate update in the March newsletter. The replacement of the bridge is scheduled for the year 2020. We are anxious to know when the repair project will begin as the road as been in this condition for months.

What is happening with the old "Centerette" (the vacant land near the northeast corner of West Bellfort and Chimney Rock) property?

The owners of the property have not responded to our inquiries, but surveyors were on the property in mid-January. We will continue to monitor the situation.

What happened with the Southern Crushed Concrete permit?

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) held a two-day contested case hearing in Austin regarding an air permit application for a concrete batch manufacturing plant to be located at 5001 Gasmer at the Southern Crushed Concrete site next to the Willow Waterhole Park (Docket 582-15-0460).

The Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy (WWGC) was granted party status to protest this permit late last year and participated in this hearing. As a result of the contested hearing, the storage of the concrete rubble at the Gasmer site has decreased. "The day after our testimony was presented, Southern Crushed began removing the huge rubble pile and trucking it to other company locations," said Mr. Rieger of the WWGC. "We have always believed that this pile, which sat there for six years, was violating the law." I see this as a victory for our community," said Mr. Rieger. However, the air permit for the proposed concrete batch plant was approved by the Judge.

Do you have any questions you would like answered? Call 713-723-5437 or send an email to the Westbury Civic Club Office at westburyc@sbccglobal.net.

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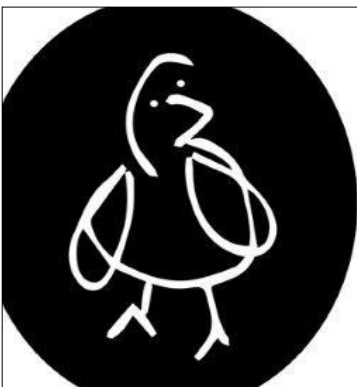
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Greenspace News

Green Team in Action Hillcroft at Willowbend Beautification

Have you seen the Westbury marker sign at Hillcroft and Willowbend? Many thanks go to the Westbury Green Team members, Hazel, Karen and Diana who recently planted in the newly irrigated area. They purchased 7 trays of cold hardy plants including ornamental kale with white on the leaves, dusty miller, white snapdragons, purple argeratum, pale blue pansies, and neon dianthus which sends up a tall spike. The plants were fertilized with bone meal and cotton seed meal. If the sprinklers do their job, Westbury should have a nice display of color!



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.

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. Don't have any roses? February is rose planting time. You will find abundant choices in local nurseries.



Become Part of the Westbury GREEN Team Today!

Please contact Marcia Hartman, Director of Beautification for the WCC at mmhartman@hotmail.com to become a part of this great group. No skills or expertise needed.

Willow Waterhole Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, February 13, 10AM—Noon

Meet at the Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow

Every 2nd Saturday, students from local schools have been helping Board Members and volunteers on landscaping and clean-up projects. If you are interested, please join us.

No experience is necessary.

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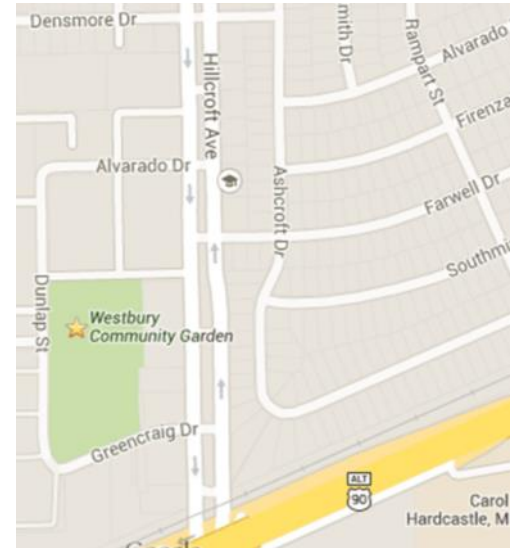


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Westbury Community Garden



WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

12581 Dunlap (77035) is off Hillcroft between W. Airport and South Main. Heading south on Hillcroft, turn right onto Greencraig, follow it around the bend where it turns into Dunlap. The large blue roof on the WCG Pavilion is readily visible. Street parking.

Resolve to go Local in 2016! Join the Westbury Community Garden

You may not be able to grow a 7 pound sweet potato, but at the Westbury Community Garden you will be able to grow organic vegetables that are nutritious and taste great. Instructions and guidance are always provided for those new to gardening, or new to gardening in semi-tropical Houston.

Beds at the Westbury Community Garden are available and will rent quickly, since spring planting time is near. Don't miss this chance to grow your own organic vegetables.

When you rent a bed, we furnish the soil, water, and organic fertilizer. You get to do the fun part of planting and harvesting delicious organic vegetables. To learn more about the Westbury Community Garden and how to rent a bed, send an email to Info@WestburyCommunityGarden.org. For more information about us, visit our website www.WestburyCommunityGarden.org or go to Facebook (Westbury Community Garden Houston).

Beds are available and rented on a first come first served basis.

Weekly Farm Shares Available

Farm shares are available at WCG, if you would rather buy your organic produce.

You can make an incredible difference in your family's health and in the lives of refugee farmers right here in Houston by purchasing a farm share of fresh local vegetables from Plant It Forward Farms in 2016. Plant It Forward empowers refugees to earn a living wage farming small plots of urban land. The vegetables are grown in Houston and sold as Farm Shares. Farm Share members receive a weekly supply of farm fresh, chemical-free produce, enough for a family of 3-5. Most is harvested the very same day as delivery for optimum nutrition and freshness. For more information, contact <http://plant-it-forward.org/>



Get your groceries from the garden in 2016

Provide your family with freshly picked chemical free produce at a reasonable price by becoming a registered Plant It Forward farm share member. Every 30 farm shares provides a refugee farmer in Houston with a living wage.

Farm share pick-up in the Westbury Community Garden on Saturday mornings from 9 am—12 pm every weekend!

Register for the Westbury pick-up location at www.plant-it-forward.org today and get produce for your family this week!

Shares are valued at \$25/week and feeds a family of 3-5 with a variety of fresh produce picked by our farmers.



Brighter Futures Begin at WCS

To take the first step, attend a "Wildcat Wednesday" open house tour first thing - beginning at 8:40am - the first Wednesday each month, through May 2016.

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2016 Arbor Day

Westbury Kicks Off 60th Anniversary

On January 23, District K Councilman Larry Green hosted an Arbor Day Celebration. They partnered with Trees for Houston, the Brays Oaks Management District, Centerpoint Energy and Keep Houston Beautiful to plant trees along the esplanades within the Brays Oaks and Westbury communities. In Westbury, we planted 60 trees and bushes to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Westbury Civic Club. The trees donated by Trees for Houston and Centerpoint were planted on Chimney Rock, Hillcroft and West Bellfort. The other 30 plants were planted at Westbury Park along the fence line to screen the construction that will soon be starting on Parker Elementary. The bus lane will be located along this fence line so the plants will screen for the future air and noise pollution.

Leading the planning and planting effort in Westbury were Bill Burhans and Marcia Hartman. Countless hours of preparation went into this day from locating the spots to plant; gathering volunteers; gathering supplies and working out the logistics of planting with a hundred volunteers in four spots. Bill Burhans led the effort to plant 20 trees on Chimney Rock with volunteers from Westbury High School's Student Council, ROTC and National Honor Society

with the extraordinary Jennifer Kuelhman. Joining Bill was WWGC president Ralph Reiger. Virginia Livingston single handedly planted the 2 trees on West Bellfort. Kevin O'Brien led a team in planting the 8 trees on Hillcroft. Karen and Bill Schubert led the team of volunteers at Westbury Park, which included many members from the Westbury Community Garden (WCG), WCC board members and Westbury residents.

The morning was cold as volunteers gathered for a short program. On hand to kick it off were newly elected Mayor Sylvester Turner, CM Larry Green and his whole council staff led by Chief of Staff Donald Perkins who put the event together; and CM David Robinson. Sponsors were represented by Barry Ward of Trees for Houston; Gary O'Neil the

forester for Centerpoint; Richard Rodriguez from the BOMD and Becky Edmondson representing Keep Houston Beautiful. A contingent of Westbury Community gardeners, WCC board members and residents were on hand for the program, who then headed off to the different planting sites.

By noon all 60 trees were planted and the volunteers all gathered at Westbury Park to celebrate and enjoy pizza and snacks provided by the Westbury Civic Club. Thanks to Marcia Hartman for coordinating the food. A surprise guest and planter was CM At-Large Jack Christie, who has wielded a shovel more than once in Westbury during his time on council. A big thank you to everyone who participated.



Great group of volunteers at Westbury Park for Arbor Day



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2016 Arbor Day



Mayor Turner with WCC President Becky Edmondson, Westbury Community gardeners; CM Larry Green; CM David Robinson; Ralph Rieger, WWGC president

When is the Best Time to Plant a Tree? Twenty Years Ago!

Thankfully that is what happened in Westbury 60 years ago and continues today. In 1956, there were very few trees in this area that once was home to rice fields. The developers of Westbury wrote into the deed restrictions that every home should have two trees planted in the front yard. Soon 10,000 trees had been planted. Did you know that almost every one of the thousands of trees planted on our 7 miles of esplanades and in our parks were planted by the Westbury Civic Club members and volunteers funded in most part by your civic club dues? In 1956, Westbury was a treeless coastal prairie and now we are an urban forest. Those beautiful oaks in the 10600- 10700 block of Hillcroft were planted in April of 1964 and came from Teas nursery.

The work didn't stop then. In 2004, the WCC realized that, based on their aging tree canopy of declining and dying Ash and the air quality issues brought on by the Fort Bend Tollway and the South Main expansion, Westbury needed a community forestry plan to: educate residents, inventory trees, and devise a tree replacement program.

In 2008, the WCC adopted an Urban Forest Compact and created the Westbury Tree Print proposal. The segment of Hillcroft from Portal to West Bellfort had been planted with Chinese Tallow trees. The City of Houston removed these invasive trees in 2008 and we planted the trees you now see growing there. In just ten years they have grown nicely. In the last twelve years hundreds more trees have been planted and thousands more given away to residents. It's time to plant for the future today.



David and Colleen Cummins planting at Westbury Park



Volunteers including Ray Mora and Kevin O'Brien planting along Hillcroft

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