



Westbury Crier

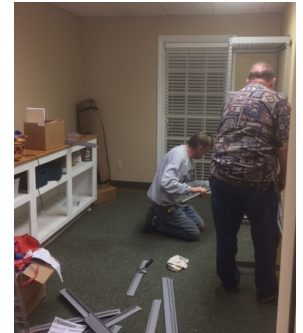
VOLUME 62, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2017

Westbury Civic Club Office Has Moved!

We have moved! After 25 years in Suite 107 in the Westbury Professional Building at 5322 West Bellfort, we have moved to Suite 100. We will be having an Open House in March once we get completely settled. This space is a bit larger with a better layout. We hope to offer even more services to members and function more effectively in the new space.

One lesson learned during our past 60 years is the importance of having not only historical memory but historical documentation. It is amazing the number of problems/obstacles that we seem to face on a recurring basis. How many times has the lane expansion controversy come up? It's nice to be able to put our hands on the work done 10, 25 and sometimes 50 years past.



The new office space allows Board Directors to have a place for files to help make transition for new board members more seamless. There is also a room that can be used for meetings. A Resident Resource room will have deed restrictions and other documents readily available. There are plenty of walls for maps that can be permanently left up to track data such as flooding, needed road improvements, green space



improvements, crime trends, etc. The sister organizations of the WCC, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, and the Westbury Super Neighborhood will share a space, along with the Westbury Community Garden.

A big thank you to the board members who helped sort and then move everything: Donna and Tony Robert, Ray Mora, Virginia Livingston, Eugene Sirls, Marcia Hartman, Laura and Hailey Falk, the whole Edmondson Family; Bill, Becky, Jennifer and Connor! Thanks to all these great volunteers, our move was almost a no cost move. Please bear with us as we get everything in order. Our annual membership mail out will be done mid-February. In the meantime, anyone wishing to pay their dues before then can use the form on page 17. Look in the March *Crier* for the Open House date!



**Westbury High School
Community Meeting**
Feb. 8, 6:30PM, WHS Lecture Hall
WHS GROUNDBREAKING
Feb.16, 10AM, WHS Atrium



For more information, see page 6



HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE

February—JUNK WASTE

➡ Thursday, February 9

March—TREE WASTE ONLY

➡ Thursday, March 9

April—JUNK WASTE

➡ Thursday, April 13

DO NOT PLACE TRASH ON CURB UNTIL WEEKEND BEFORE HEAVY TRASH DAY

New Funding to Complete Project Brays!

Read more about this exciting news on page 12.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE *NEW ADDRESS

5322 W. Bellfort #100, 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.....9:00AM-1:00PM

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 Rodney Ellis>>.....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

2017 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.....Marcia Hartman

Secretary.....Dan Vega

Treasurer.....VACANT

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Communications.....VACANT

Community Relations.....Cindy Chapman

wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com

Deed Restrictions.....Jennifer Edmondson

westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Donna Strom

Greenspace Beautification.....Matt Funk

Membership.....Jeff Benavides

Security.....J K O'Brien

Volunteer & Event CoordinatorRobert Montgomery

rmontgomery002@comcast.net

SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1.....Nancy Stewart

Westbury 2.....VACANT

Westbury 3.....Tony Robert

Westbury 3.....Recy Dunn

Westbury 4.....Judy Overton

Westbury 4.....Eugene Sirls

Westbury 5.....Virginia Livingston

Westbury5E@westburycrier.com

Westbury 5.....VACANT

Westbury South.....Sunny Davis

Parkwest 1.....William Grimsinger

Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss

Jweiss@txchiro.edu

Parkwest 3.....Joe Niles

parkwest3@westburycrier.com

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Published by.....Westbury Civic Club, Inc.

Editor-In-Chief..... Jennifer Edmondson

Edited by.....WCC Publication Committee

Advertising..... 713-723-5437/ westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Ad Disclaimer: The WCC neither represents nor endorses an advertisement in the newsletter. Perform your own due diligence before contacting any advertiser.

President's Message

The New Year always seems to begin with a vengeance. This year was no exception! This January included moving decades worth of documents and materials belonging to the Westbury Civic Club (WCC) into our new office space a few doors away from our old location. We are now in Suite 100. When you look at what happened to other commercial properties in Westbury versus what has happened at the Westbury Professional Building where we office, you can see what a difference ownership makes. I have to applaud Don and Helen Bryan on their pride of ownership. Don was a long time board member of both the WAIC and WCC and we thank him for his years of service as a volunteer, as a resident of Westbury, and as a business owner in Westbury.

I am very excited about our new space as it will allow us to be more effective in all the areas as we improve the appearance of the neighborhood and promote the civic, cultural, educational and general welfare of the residents here. We have touched on all those categories in January! Arbor Day was celebrated in late January as we worked to improve both Westbury Park and the Willow Waterhole Greenway. On the municipal front, the mayor was the guest at the SWHouston 2000 breakfast and the WCC attended a mayoral press conference on flooding and a City Council public hearing on the civility ordinance. Check out pages 7, 12 and 15.

On the Education front, there are several articles in this *Crier*. We congratulate our HISD Board Trustee, Wanda Adams, on

her election as President of the HISD Board. In February, Westbury High School will hold a community meeting to unveil where and how YOUR \$40 million of HISD 2012 Bond money will be spent. Please make an effort to attend this meeting on February 8 at 6:30PM.

Let's talk about the power of showing up. If we can fill the lecture hall with people, then we will show HISD that Westbury cares and that we are watching. HISD promised that they would expand the Westbury High School campus as part of the 2012 Bond, the board voted in open session to acquire the properties, and then the board reneged on that promise and spent the funds elsewhere. Our unhappiness with HISD's untruthfulness remains unabated, and we intend to work with the new superintendent to right those wrongs. **But we need YOU!** Please answer the call and attend a meeting if we ask. We will get a bus, if we need one, to go to an HISD board meeting. Right now, I just need you at Westbury High School on February 8!

While you are marking your calendars, please mark March 9. This is the District K Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) City meeting where we advocate for big ticket items like new streets and new drainage. Do you want new streets and new drainage? Do you want less flooding? Then YOU need to show up on March 9! It cannot just continue to be the same handful of people who stand for Westbury residents on a regular basis. Yes, I am happy to do it, as are the others who serve on the WCC and WAIC boards.

But sometimes we need YOU. Won't you give a few hours of your time to just show up and be seen? Wouldn't new streets, new drainage, and less flooding be wonderful?

As for flooding, you will read on page 13 that the January 18 rain event which brought over 5 inches to Westbury in two hours caused NO structural flooding. Isn't that amazing? We are so appreciative of the City and the County for the work that has been done in the last year.

The 2017 Willow Waterhole Music Fest is going to be the best one yet and will include a real art show. The Company On Stage, Westbury's beloved theater, has found a new home. It, too, has sponsorship needs and you can read all about it on page 10. And if that isn't enough culture, the Westbury Community Garden was in the audience at the Great Day Houston television show in January!

And, last but not least, a big thank you to all of you who paid the dues and even contributed extra to the Westbury Area Patrol. We paid our way in 2016 without borrowing on the WAP savings! This is very good news. The 2017 dues statements are delayed due to the office move and will be mailed out in February. If you want to pay your voluntary dues with the form on page 17, please do so.

Looking forward to working together to make Westbury the best that it can be.

Becky Edmondson



CM Larry Green, WHS PTO President Princia Thomas, WCC President Becky Edmondson, WCC VP Marcia Hartman, and WWCG Bill Burhans at the WHS Baseball dedication



Westbury Civic Club Board Notes January 2017

- ⇒ Flood Report – No known high-risk homes reported flooding on January 18.
- ⇒ Speaker was Bill Burhans of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.
- ⇒ The Westbury Civic Club Office has moved as of Jan. 20. The new office is in Suite 100 in the same building at 5322 W. Bellfort.
- ⇒ New board members nominated and approved— JK O'Brien as Security Director and Nancy Stewart as the Westbury 1 Section Director.
- ⇒ Motion to approve 2017 Budget as presented. Motion Passed.
- ⇒ Motion to donate \$500 to WWGC Music Fest, in addition to 3 months of ads in the Crier to be a logo sponsor for the event. Motion Passed.
- ⇒ Motion to donate \$500 to the WWGC Pier Project. Motion Passed.
- ⇒ Motion to donate \$250 to the Company On Stage. Motion Passed.
- ⇒ The next WCC Board meeting is Wed., February 15, at 7PM at Westbury Baptist Church, 10425 Hillcroft

NEXT WCC Board Meeting
Wed., Feb. 15, 7PM
Westbury Baptist

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock
 Hours: Mon-Thurs 12PM—8PM; Fri 11AM-7PM
 Supervisor: Jayla Godbolt, 713-726-7107
 Email: Jayla.godbolt@houston.tx.gov

Meyer Neighborhood Library

5005 W. Bellfort
 Phone: 832-393-1840 /
 www.houstonlibrary.org

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
 Read more about TOPS on page 16 in this month's *Crier*.

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
 For more information, contact Janie at 713-721-5526

GAMES—Wed., 10AM to 12PM
 For more information, contact Wally at 713-729-9310

LINE DANCING Mondays @ 1PM
 For more information, contact Platou Center, 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.

Family Fun Day

Sat., Feb. 25, 10-2PM
 Theme: Birds. Look for different birds in the park and along the bayou.

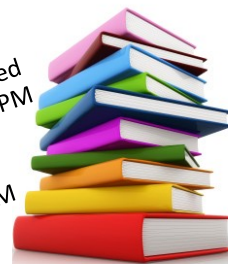


Westbury Martial Arts

Mon. & Weds. 6-7PM
 Kids of all ages can learn martial arts, fitness & conditioning, confidence, and self-defense. Classes with WMA are a great way to become active in a fun and safe environment. Please visit the website, westburymartialartsandfitness.com or call 832-475-1554 for more info.

LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday & Monday - Closed
 Tues. & Weds. 10AM-6PM
 Thursday 12PM-8PM
 Friday - 1PM-5PM
 Saturday - 10AM -5PM



WEEKLY EVENTS FEBRUARY 2017

Baby Playtime

Tuesdays, 10:30am – 11:15am
 Come for creative and collaborative play!
 For children ages 0-18 months.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30am – 11:15am
 Stories, songs, activities that will help develop toddler's social, motor, and literacy skills. Intended for ages 18-36 months.

Preschool Playtime

Wednesdays, 1:30pm – 2:15pm
 Creative, collaborative play experience that will help prepare your child for school readiness. Intended for ages 3-5 years.

Kids Craft Time

Thursdays, 3:30pm

Westbury Pool

**CLOSED
 UNTIL MAY
 2017**



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 City of Houston Pool

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

What's Happening in Westbury

Events/Meetings Calendar FEBRUARY 2017

Wed. 1	Mandatory Assessments Due for Parkwest 1 & 2	
Sun. 5	Super Bowl in Houston	
Wed. 8	WHS Community Meeting 11911 Chimney Rock, Lecture Hall 2012 Bond Construction Update	6:30PM See page 6
Wed 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting Salem Lutheran Church— 4930 W. Bellfort	8:30AM
Wed. 15	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft	7PM
Thurs. 16	WHS Groundbreaking 11911 Chimney Rock in the Atrium More information, see page 6	10AM
Sat. 18	Audubon Society Bird Survey Meet at the Gathering Place parking lot 5310 S. Willow	8AM
Mon. 20	Brays Bayou Association Meeting The Gathering Place—5310 S Willow Speaker: Russ Poppe, Director of Flood Control See page 19 for more information	7:30PM
Sat. 25	Platou Center Family Fun Day Theme: Birds See page 4	10AM-2PM
Tues 28	SW PIP (HPD Positive Interaction Program) Meeting	
March 3	Go Texan Day!	
March 7-26	Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo	
March 13-17	HISD Spring Break	

PLANNING CALENDAR

March 9—District K CIP meeting

April 8—Keep Westbury Beautiful Day
Keep Houston Beautiful Day

April 22-23—Willow Waterhole Music Fest

April 29 – Friends of Westbury HS Gala

Heavy & Recycling Trash Calendar

February 2017

Thurs 2	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY	
Thurs 16	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS

March 2017

Thurs 2	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY	
Thurs 16	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS
Thurs. 30	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS

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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City & Neighborhood News

Trouble at a City Park

The City of Houston tennis courts at Westbury Park are for TENNIS. After receiving reports of soccer being played on the courts, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) will be installing signs that read "tennis only".

If you witness a problem at one of the city parks, you can call HPARD Dispatch (832-395-7100) to request a Ranger.

Street Trees Removal

If you witness the removal of trees from street easements, please call HPARD (832-395-7100) immediately so they can check for permits and avoid unnecessary street tree loss. This phone line is answered 24 hours a day.

Outback Steakhouse in CLOSED

The Outback Steakhouse restaurant in Meyerland closed in January permanently. The building will be demolished and replaced with a 2-story commercial center. Stay tuned to future Criers for more information about commercial properties in and around our area.

District IX Trustee Wanda Adams Named 2017 President

The HISD Board of Education voted unanimously to name District IX Trustee Wanda Adams president for 2017.

A Kashmere High School graduate, Adams was first elected to the school board in 2013. She previously served six years on the Houston City Council. Trustee Adams is very excited about the success that the HISD Board has accomplished thus far and is very enthusiastic about leading the Board in making educational advances to benefit all of HISD's students, faculty, and administration.

Other Board of Education officers for 2017 are Diana Dávila, first vice president; Jolanda Jones, second vice president; Rhonda Skillern-Jones, secretary; and Anne Sung, assistant secretary. Two new trustees - Anne Sung and Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca (Ocampo) - were sworn into office.

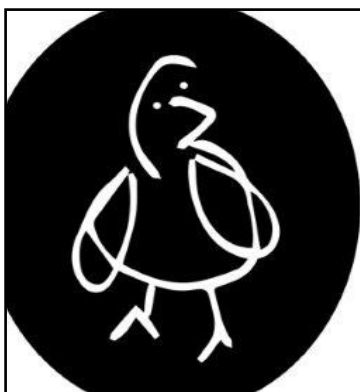


Westbury High School Community Meeting

Neighborhood schools can either be the neighborhood's biggest selling point or their biggest shame.

On February 8, HISD will hold the Westbury High School community meeting to unveil where and how YOUR \$40 million of HISD 2012 bond money will be spent. HISD promised that they would expand the Westbury High School campus as part of the 2012 bond, the board voted in open session to acquire the properties, and then the board reneged on that promise and spent the funds elsewhere. Our unhappiness with HISD's untruthfulness remains unabated, and we intend to work with the new superintendent to right those wrongs. We need to FILL the auditorium with people to show HISD that Westbury cares and that we are watching. Please make an effort to attend this meeting.

⇒ **WHS Community Meeting**
Wed., Feb. 8, 6:30PM, WHS Lecture Hall
11911 Chimney Rock



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.

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 Or contact us today: booncare@gmail.com or 713.936.2623



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Municipal News

Platting Standards Committee

Cindy Chapman is the representative from Westbury and District K on the city "Platting Standards Committee". The Planning Commission on Platting Standards will consider issues and potential revisions to Chapter 42 platting standards and related ordinance changes. This committee of the Houston Planning Commission is comprised of neighborhood, development and other technical representatives. The committee will consider and make recommendations on potential changes to the platting standards in Chapter 42. They will consider and make recommendations on establishing a predictable process for regularly reviewing and revising development codes administered by the Planning and Development Department.



Cindy Chapman (left) along with several other members of the Committee

Mayor Featured at SWHouston2000 Breakfast

The nonprofit SWHouston2000 is an advocacy group on behalf of the greater southwest area of Houston. Mayor Sylvester Turner was the featured speaker for the January 2017 Breakfast and spoke in front of an audience of about 200 at an event held at Houston Baptist University. As usual, the Westbury Civic Club sponsored a table for the Westbury Super Neighborhood.

Mayor Turner noted that Houston is the most diverse city in the USA and has the 4th largest population. After a year in office he noted that more than 40,000 potholes have been fixed and 97% of potholes are now repaired within 24 hours. The process has been streamlined and now Public Works is able to work on more concrete panel replacements. Drainage and flooding issues are moving forward. The city is working with the state Water Development Board, Harris County, and the federal government to make faster progress to complete Project Brays. Also, the city will start attacking small drainage projects the way they did potholes. The city has already identified at least 60 local drainage projects. Each year they will select 2 local drainage projects in each council district (22 per year) to work on.

Regarding Public Safety and Pension Reform, Mayor Turner noted that we are short 600 police officers, so he reassigned 375 desk jobs to patrol duties. Some officers may retire as a result of pension reforms. The city has \$7.9 billion in unfunded pension obligations so it is important to create a pension plan that is reliable, sustainable, and dependable that is "fair to everyone". A plan is supported by the pension holders, city council, and the Houston business community that will be filed with the state legislature for approval.

The breakfast program also included a presentation by students from Westbury High School who have received a Leadership Grant from Cheniere Energy.



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Susan sells more homes in Westbury than anywhere else in town. With more than 15 years experience as a licensed Broker and Realtor[®] you might say she's been around the block.

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> Real Estate

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2017 WCC GENERAL OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS

Income

Mandatory Assessments	100,000
Voluntary Dues	54,500
Donations Civic Club	3,500
Westbury Area Patrol	
Voluntary dues (restricted)	245,000
Additional WAP dues (restricted)	10,000
Community Garage Sale	2,000
Crier Advertising Fees	50,000
Refinancing Fees	3,000
Transfer Fees	35,000
Resale Certificates	1,000
Interest Income	1,500
Total Income	505,500

Expenses

Westbury Patrol Expenses

Harris County Pct 5 Constable Fees	316,925
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Program Expenses

Crier Printing & Expenses	45,000
Community Garage Sale	2,000
Programs & Hospitality	2,500
Membership Expenses	5,000
Deed Restriction Revisions	1,000
Deed Restriction Enforcement	2,500
Yard of the Month Program	500
Greenspace Monthly Maintenance	15,000
Water, Plants, Supplies & Equipment	10,000
Total Program Expenses	83,500

General Expenses

Books, Subscriptions, Dues	600
Postage, Mailing Service	1,000
Printing & Copying	1,500
Supplies	7,500
Training & Education	1,000
Contributions to Ext Orgs	1,975
Bank & Pay Pal Fees	3,800
Computer Expense	6,000
Insurance	6,600
Payroll Expenses	52,100
Contract Services	4,000
Facilities and Equipment	18,000
Conferences & Meetings	1,000
Total General Expenses	105,075

Total Program & General Expenses 505,500

The 2017 Westbury Civic Club (WCC) budget was approved at the January 2017 board meeting.

Mandatory Assessments for 2017: Residents of Parkwest 1 and Parkwest 2, who bought their homes after 1993 & 1994, have mandatory assessments. Mandatory Assessments are adjusted annually for inflation. Mandatory assessments did not increase and remain at \$233.50 for 2017.

Westbury Civic Club Dues: The WCC Dues (encompassing all operations, programs, and services including greenspace, except patrol services) will remain at \$50. The 2017 budget includes increased funding for supplies due to our move to a new office space and includes some additional payroll for the possibility of a second part-time employee.

Westbury Area Patrol (WAP): The requested dues for the Westbury Area Patrol remain at \$285. This amount is similar to what is paid by residents of Maplewood N/S and Meyerland for their mandatory patrol assessments. The board will investigate additional fundraisers to support the WAP program. The good news is that in 2016, all contributions received covered the cost of the WAP patrol!

Voluntary Dues TOTAL: The total sum of Westbury Civic Club Dues plus the Westbury Area Patrol is \$335.

Other Fees: Our other fees remain the same as 2016: Transfer fees \$125. Refinance fees \$75. Resale Certificate is \$100, while a rush Resale Certificate request will be \$150. These fees are charged for the research and paperwork that is needed to fulfill the requests.

Special thanks: We thank all of you who paid monies toward the WAP Patrol this year. The cost of the WAP contract of \$316,925 was covered in full this year! That is \$233,547 in payments from the voluntary sections plus \$61,162 from the mandatory assessments and \$22,216 from residents who sent in special contributions. Several residents made \$1,000 payments to the WAP patrol. Together we do make Westbury safer for everyone! Please see page 14 for additional security information.



MELTON'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

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ROOFING - SIDING - CARPENTRY - PRESSURE WASHING

Recycle RIGHT! Don't Leave a Mess

Recycling Mess at Church

Westbury Residents Help Church

Westbury United Methodist Church (WUMC) graciously allows its property to host paper recycling bins and a glass recycling bin.

GLASS- only bottles and jars should be placed in the bins. No lids, tops, or corks, etc. When the City first made the glass recycling bins available and WUMC was chosen as the site, we made an appeal to recyclers to please help keep the area free of broken glass and trash. Recently people have left items outside the bin such as paint cans and mirrors. **Please do not leave anything outside the bins.**

WUMC agreed to be the site for glass recycling in the spirit of community service. They do not receive funds from glass recycling.

Paper and cardboard bins - Please flatten boxes before dropping them in the bins.

DO NOT leave anything stacked outside the bins. The paper bins are sometimes the scene of illegal dumping by folks who mistakenly think recycling means dumping a bunch of boxes and household trash on the ground around the bins.

The recycling companies don't police the area. A truck comes and picks up the containers, empties them and drives away. The driver may never even leave the cab. Anything left on the ground is left to the pastor of this church to pick up.

As Christmas Eve approached, the site was really a trashy mess and, thanks to several area residents, the area was spic and span before Christmas services were held. A big thank you to the Strom family, who cleaned up the area on Dec. 27, and to Steve Goldberg, who cleaned up on January 10.

Illegal trash dumping is why recycle bins are no longer available at Westbury Square, the Platou Center and Willow Meadows Baptist Church. If you want to be able to recycle paper and glass we need to help keep this area clean.



Meyer Library Special Events

Lego Robotics—

Sat., Feb. 4, 10:30-11:30AM

Creative Knitting—

Thurs., Feb. 9, 6-7PM

Mystery Book Club—

Thurs., Feb. 16, 1-2PM

Teen Craft—Thurs., Feb. 16, 6-7PM

Read with Paws-itive Pups—

Sat., Feb. 18, 10:30-11:30AM

Pajama Storytime—

Thurs., Feb. 23, 6:30-7:15PM

Para Los Ninos—

Tues., Feb. 28, 4-5PM

**BRAND NEW
SUMMER CAMP
COMING IN
2017**



Students ages 3-12

Details and Registration:
westburychristian.org/summerprograms

Questions? 713-551-8100 ext. 2013 or
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Westbury Christian School
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Out and About the Neighborhood

Remodeling your home? Adding On? Do you know the deed restrictions on your lot?

Every residential lot in the Westbury/ Parkwest subdivisions has restrictions placed upon the land through its deed of trust. It does not matter whether you have mandatory assessments or voluntary dues, every lot has valid and active deed restrictions.

In Parkwest 2, NO building or decorative appurtenances shall be erected, placed or altered on any building plot in the subdivision until the building plans, specifications and plot plan showing the location of such building or decorative appurtenances have been approved in writing. ALL OF PARKWEST 2 MUST SUBMIT PLANS TO THE WCC OFFICE.

Westbury 2, Westbury 3, and Westbury 5 have a 25-foot rear setback for the main structure. Every section has a minimum percentage of brick requirement. Every lot has a front building set back line in front of which you cannot build. Every lot has side setback lines. Corner homes have different setbacks than middle lots. The setbacks are measured from the property lines as documented on the property survey and the recorded plat.

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. We want you to find out about possible violations before it costs you time and money. 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. All deed restrictions are available online at westburycrier.com and in the WCC office.

I AM Company On Stage Fundraiser

For 40 years, The Company On Stage has had one mission – to provide high-quality, affordable theater for children and adults and the opportunity for anyone in the community to participate in all aspects of production. After losing their long time home at Westbury Square, in September 2015, and performing in borrowed space, it has found a new home. This spring, it will begin the transformation of the former Family Life Center, on the campus of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church at 4930 W Bellfort, into The Company On Stage.

A fundraising goal of \$70,000 has been set, which will enable Company On Stage to replace the air conditioning unit and to build out the stage, as well as improve the lighting, seating, dressing room, storage and workshop in its new home. This new performance space will enable it to continue serving the nearly 2,000 patrons who visit each year for its children's series, and resume the presentation of the popular evening series for adult audiences, which was suspended after the move from

Westbury Square. Without the community, there would be no theater. Company On Stage is inviting everyone to partner with it in keeping the arts alive in Southwest Houston. Every dollar makes an impact. Please contact Kathryn Noser Hartzog at president@companyonstage.org or visit them at www.companyonstage.org to make a donation.



The Pied Piper of Hamelintown

By Hank McNally

Directed by Alan Gardiner-Atkinson

January 21 - February 11, 2017

Performances @ 11:00 and 1:30

5020 West Bellfort

St. John's, McPhail Hall



Only RAIN in the Drain

Only RAIN in the DRAIN!

As it rains in Westbury, water begins to build up along the street edges and gutters. It's here that it begins its long journey to the sea. The first destination on this journey is to the storm drain inlet on your street. Clearing the path to the storm drains is essential. Once it reaches the inlet it flows into the storm drains and eventually ends up in one of the drainage ditches or Willow Waterhole Bayou then off to Brays Bayou, then the Houston Ship Channel and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico.

It's very important that you prevent debris from blocking the flow of the water to the storm drain inlet. It is vital to keep the water flowing in the storm drain pipes under the streets that we don't see.

Solid debris takes up space in the storm drain pipes making them less effective in transporting storm water to our ditches and bayous. Small sticks, leaves, newspapers, and other trash become wrapped together and could clog and slow the draining on your street. Our storm drains in Westbury are old. They are original to the neighborhood and should be treated with care.

Only rain in the drain!!! Our trees are old and have huge roots that are bound to have popped through, combine this with leaves and other debris, and water just can't flow at the rate it should. If the rain is falling very rapidly (as it has



many times in the past several years), our water on the streets needs to flow as fast as it can to the bayous.

Here are some things you can do to help.

- ⇒ Sweep & BAG your leaves out of the street.
- ⇒ Ask your yard crew to NOT blow the leaves and grass clippings down the street or into the storm drains.
- ⇒ Clean the storm drain inlet in front of your home (if you have one)
- ⇒ Pick up the newspapers that are thrown in your yard. Even if you don't want to read it, pick it up & throw it in the recycling can.
- ⇒ Street gutters are city property. If your neighbor doesn't sweep, do it yourself. It's worth protecting your own home with a little street sweeping.

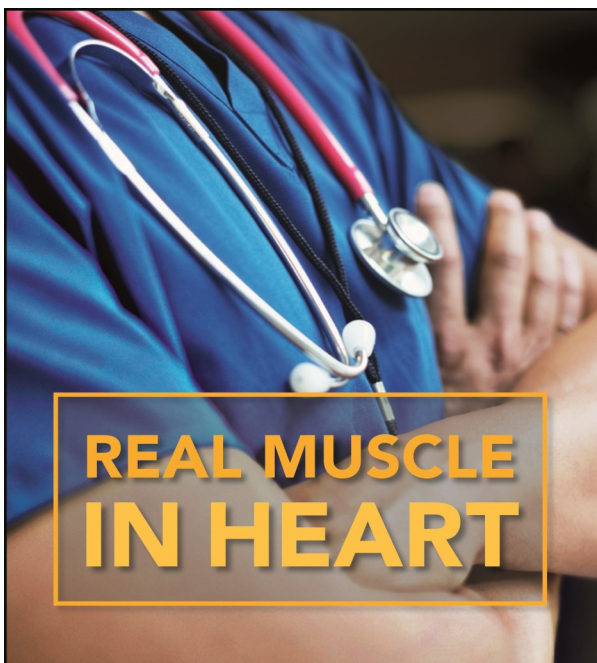
Talk a walk around your block or just down the street and look around. What do you see in the streets... cigarette butts, cans, food wrappers, plastic bags, paper and especially news papers that are not picked up, leaves, yard clippings and animal feces.



Residents clearing debris along Landsdowne and the Willow Waterhole Bayou during Tax Day 2016 Floods.

KHB Pick up One Piece of Litter Challenge!

Snap a picture of you or a friend picking up trash and message Keep Houston Beautiful on Facebook directly or send it to contact@houstonbeautiful.org. The first 99 submissions will receive a voucher from Shipley Do-Nut for 1 FREE glazed do-nut or 1 dozen do-nut holes, as well as 1 FREE small coffee or hot chocolate.



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Project Brays Funding Solution

Agreement Reached to Fast-Track Brays Bayou Flood Relief

On January 24, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett announced an agreement involving the city, county, state, and federal government, which will fast-track the long-awaited flood relief for Houston families in the Brays Bayou watershed.

According to a press release from CM Ellen Cohen’s office, “The new intergovernmental funding agreement seeks to solve cash-flow challenges that have delayed the Harris County Flood Control District’s (HCFCD) ability to complete Project Brays, a series of planned improvements including channel-widening, bridge replacements, and new stormwater detention basins.”

At the Mayor’s behest to expedite these needed drainage improvements, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has agreed to loan the City of Houston \$46 million. After approval by City Council, the City will then advance the funding to the HCFCD to assist in construction to improve Brays Bayou. Once the project is complete, then HCFCD will be reimbursed by the federal government, and will in turn repay the loan to the City of Houston.

Attending the press conference on the banks of Brays Bayou were WCC Office Manager, Jennifer Edmondson, and Westbury Super Neighborhood Co-President, Cindy Chapman. They were able to thank the City for the local drainage project to repair four collapsed outfall drains along the Willow Waterhole Bayou and to advocate for more work on other collapsed outfalls to the west. They also expressed concerns regarding stormwater design standards used when new developments are built, noting that other nearby counties have more stringent requirements.

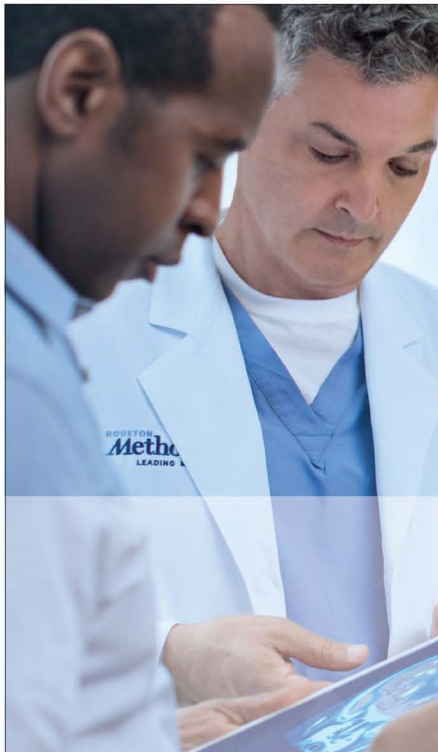


Flooding along Brays Bayou looking south toward Meyerland from the S. Post Oak exit bridge during the Tax Day Flood April 2016

At the City Council meeting on January 25th, the city council passed a resolution to authorize the submission of a loan application to the Texas Water Development Board (Clean Water State revolving fund program).



Cindy Chapman, Art Pronin, CM David Robinson, and Jennifer Edmondson after the press conference



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Major Jan. 18 Rain Event: How Did Westbury Fare?

On Wed., January 18, the City of Houston experienced another major rain event. As we go to print, no Westbury homes reported any structural flooding during this rain event. Westbury is a large neighborhood and flooding occurs in different parts for different reasons. **What was different this time that helped Westbury homes?**

➡ Gary Zika of Project Brays reported that even though Project Brays is not yet complete, it is further along than it was since we experienced water in some of our homes during the 2016 Tax Day Flood. Project Brays helps all of Westbury because it will help Brays Bayou stay within its banks.

➡ The City did a local drainage project to repair four collapsed outfalls on the WWB. This project helped residents east of Hillcroft. One resident on Cartagena reported "the street drained much better than in the past. It seems the repair work helped out." Another resident on Ludington, who has experienced

flooding multiple times, had NO water in his home.

➡ Harris County commissioner's Court approved the de-silting of their drainage ditches in 2015 and that work (with the exception of some ongoing work on the southern end of the Braewick ditch) is now complete. This work benefitted all areas of Westbury.

➡ Less rain fell in the whole Brays watershed and Brays Bayou did not overflow.

➡ The Willowbend asphaltting project also included curbs and gutters and repairs to a drainage line. Two residents on Willowbend, one of whom who had experienced structural flooding in the past, both reported that the water drained more quickly.

Our streets are designed to hold water and we had serious STREET flooding. It is important that unless you absolutely have to be somewhere, **don't drive through**

flooded Westbury streets. Gawkers in big trucks have pushed water into more than one Westbury house in the past. Other drivers have seriously rutted esplanades and yards when they drive off road to avoid high water.

The City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meetings are coming up on March 9 and we will continue to STRONGLY ADVOCATE for the new streets and storm drainage that Westbury so desperately needs.

If you experienced water entering your home on Jan 18 or if water came perilously close to your home, please email wccpresident@westburycrier.com. Please call 311 to report if the following things occurred on Jan. 18: sewage backup in your house; sewer manhole had storm water bubbling out of it; water came into your home or your street was slow to drain.

Please mark your calendar for March 9 so that you can attend the CIP meeting that evening.

Event	Rainfall	WWB @ Willowbend	WWB @ Landsdowne	Brays @ Rice	# Flooded Westbury Homes
4/27/2013	7.20" (3.64" in 1st hour & 5" after 2)	48.10'	55.10'	48.72'	175-200
5/26/2015	7.48" (6.16" in 4 hours)	51.70'	56.70'	52.90'	420-450
10/31/2015	8.32" (5.04 in 2 hours)	48.56'	Not given	46.57'	80-100
4/18/2016	6.72" (4.8 in 3 hrs; 5.44 after 4 hours)	50.68'	55.55'	51.36'	25-35
1/18/2017	5.12" (3.68" in 2 hours)	48.57'	53.59'	49.26	0



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Crime & Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days January 15, 2017

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	5	2	0	0	7
Theft	6	6	11	8	31
Auto Theft	2	3	1	3	9
Robbery	3	3	2	1	9
Assault	1	1	1	1	4
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	15	15	13	60

*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 Jan. 15, 2017

Block #	Street	Crime
11400	Ashcroft	Robbery
11500	Burdine	Theft
5600	Cartagena	Burglary
10600	Clematis	Auto Theft
10600	Doud	Burglary
11000	Doud	Theft
5700	Effingham	Robbery
5800	Effingham	Burglary
6000	Fontenelle	Burglary
10900	Hillcroft	Assault
12000	Hillcroft	Theft
5700	McKnight	Auto Theft
12300	Nesmith	Burglary
5900	Portal	Theft
5700	Stillbrooke	Robbery
5900	W. Airport	Theft
5300	Willowbend	Theft

Crime Prevention Tips

The WCC Security Director, working with a committee and law enforcement, has a list of tips to share. Most of these have been shared in past Criers, but they bear repeating.



- Know your neighbors.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Put the constable number (281) 463-6666 in your cell phone. Set it as A Constable or set it as a Quick Dial. At home, tape the number to your phone.
- If you see something that doesn't look right, call the Constables. It may not be anything, but there is a car parked in my neighbor's driveway, and it's backed up to the garage, and you don't recognize them. Call Pct 5 Constables!
- Put your car keys by your bed on the nightstand. If you hear something that sounds out of the ordinary, press the car alarm on your remote control on your keys. Then call the police/constables.
- Install good outdoor lighting in the front and back yard. Consider installing different types of lights: Motion lights, lights that come on at dusk and go off at dawn, or always on. Lighting tends to discourage thieves.
- Lock your garage doors, and lock your back gate. If you don't have a back gate – install one. Put a lock on it, and keep it locked.
- Get an alarm system (monitored or unmonitored). Monitoring is normally \$20-25/month on a month to month or contract basis. If you pay the annual dues for the Westbury Area Patrol service, then Pct. 5 recommends that you put the constable number as the first number dialed. Put yourself second and HPD third. However, if you do not pay for the WAP patrol, then HPD should be called. Be sure that you have an unexpired alarm permit issued by the City of Houston.
- Park your car in the garage. If you can't, don't leave anything visible in the car.
- Get a dog. Barking dogs can discourage crime.



Westbury Area Patrol 281-463-6666
Westbury HPD Storefront 832-394-7520
HPD Non-Emergency 713-884-3131

Don't forget Vacation Watch!

For residents who pay the WAP patrol dues, a special Vacation Watch may be requested from Pct 5. The form is available online. Sign up at www.constablepct5.com/vacation-watch/ If you want to request a Vacation Watch, but do not have access to a computer or internet, please call 281-463-6666 for assistance.



Stay connected with what is happening in Westbury right now! "Like" our Facebook page, Westbury Houston, to stay updated on neighborhood issues. Other nearby neighborhoods also have Facebook pages that alert their residents of crimes; it's a good idea to follow them as well. Nearby neighborhoods on Facebook include Marilyn Estates, Meyerland, & Sharpstown.

Civility Ordinance Status

Greater S. Post Oak / W. Belfort Civility Ordinance

A public hearing was held at City Hall in Council Chambers on January 25 as part of the petition process for the creation of the South Post Oak/ West Belfort civility zone. The City has a process where neighborhoods/areas may petition the city to come under the civility ordinance, which prohibits laying or sleeping on the sidewalk between the hours of 7AM and 11PM.

This grass roots campaign started over two years ago. Aggressive panhandling in this area had become a pervasive problem. And as it went unchecked it just became worse and worse. Trash, public urination, and blatant drug use were visually disturbing. But it was also a real problem for the nearby businesses as people began to view the areas as unsafe and began to avoid the area. People couldn't access the pedestrian right of ways without fear. People who use public transportation were impacted, kids who used to walk home from school were impacted, and adults who used to walk to the grocery store or to the fast food places were impacted. The pedestrian walkways were impassable. Even in our cars they would scream at us and sometimes bang on our cars.

Residents from nearby neighborhoods went to the District K council member and to the Houston Police department. Marilyn Brown, executive director of houstonhomeless.org spoke at a Westbury Super Neighborhood meeting. We looked for answers and solutions.



Three neighborhoods: Willow Meadows, Westbury and Meyerland worked up a one page public service campaign asking people not to give to the panhandlers. We heard Mayor Turner tell us to **just say no to the panhandlers**. Giving money may make one feel good, but it is not helping the individuals out working the streets.

CM Green hosted an important meeting with all the stakeholders: neighborhoods, TxDot, HPD, Metro, and more. Petitioning for this civility zone was seen as another tool in our toolbox. Dozens of people worked to collect signatures and the coalition met the criteria of 20% of the landowners by square footage and 100 signatures. Over 800 signatures were collected.

Captain Anthony of the Southwest Patrol Division of HPD made a crime presentation to council. Steven Paletz, of Willow Meadows, and Becky Edmondson, of Westbury, spoke on behalf of the civility zone during the public comment period. The next step will be for the petition to be put on the Council agenda and have the Council vote to approve it.

WAP Constable Calls for January 2017

Accident/Speeding	48
Alarm	23
Animal-Aggressive	6
Burglary Home	2
Burglary Car	3
Child Custody	3
Criminal Mischief	3
Discharge Firearm	18
Disturbance	11
Illegal Dumping	1
Meet the Citizen	25
Mental Case	2
Open Door/Window	3
Contract Check	424
Robbery—Aggrvated	3
Stranded Car	4
Suspicious Person	21
Vacation Watch	99
Suspicious Vehicle	39
Stolen Vehicle	2
Welfare Check	3

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Westbury Area News

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Submitted by Eva Quearry, Westbury Resident

As a 28-year Westbury resident, I have always read the Westbury Crier to keep up with what's happening in our neighborhood. Every month I would see an item under "Platou Community Center" for a weight loss support group called TOPS and wondered what in the heck that was all about. Asking around I discovered that I knew a lot of people who were familiar with TOPS. Finally, in January 2012 I made myself go to a meeting, dreading that I'd have to weigh in front of strangers (I don't even weigh in front of my husband!). To my relief, the ladies were warm and welcoming, and encouraged me to try TOPS. Caveat: There is a weigh-in but only the Weight Recorder knows the number.

Because TOPS Club Inc. is a structured organization, there are chapter meetings, with very reasonable annual dues, as well as national dues, all for less than \$1.00/week. Members are in charge of programs, so we take turns presenting something of value to the group related to healthy living, which could be a topic on food, nutrition, exercise, diet, weight loss myths, and so on. We also enjoy occasional contests, which encourage weight loss or weight maintenance.

While I'm sure each TOPS chapter has its own personality, I definitely did not want to be in a judgmental environment. I have found TOPS to be exactly as described in its mission - "support our members as they take off and keep off pounds sensibly," and to promote successful, affordable weight management with a hands-on approach.

2016 was a banner year for our chapter: We had 10 regular members, and a net loss of 134 pounds for the year - that's an average of 13.4 pounds lost per member! Why don't you consider joining our chapter and begin making real changes toward a healthier lifestyle in a supportive environment? The New Year is a great time to start!

Meetings: Tuesday, 5:30-7:00PM at the Platou Community Center

Contact: Dorothy Rosenbaum, 713-723-4441, Naomi Schwartz, 713-988-2233

Discount Tire Closes

The Discount Tire on Chimney Rock permanently closed on Saturday, January 21.

WCC President Becky Edmondson called both the regional and corporate offices for Discount Tire. She told them how important and well appreciated the Westbury location has been for almost 30 years. To have the store close without so much as a thank you or farewell seemed at odds with their customer service. They apologized for the short notice and said they looked forward to serving their customers at another location. Calls to the former Westbury location are being routed to the store at Stella Link and 610, and your records can be accessed from any store. The WCC has called the property owner, but at press time our phone call had not yet been returned.

Links for Lost & Found Pets

Nextdoor Westbury - www.nextdoor.com
 Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook
 Westbury CARE- Contact at westburycare@gmail.com or at www.westburycare.com, Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts is located in Westbury.

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.

February Meet & Eat: Thurs, Feb 2, 6PM

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2017 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 2017 Mandatory Assessments is \$233.50. The 2017 Assessments are due by February 1, 2017.

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 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.

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

Please send this form in with your payment

2017 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.

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 2 payments of \$167.50 is \$335/yr
 3 payments of \$111.67 is \$335/yr
 4 payments of \$83.75 is \$335/yr
 5 payments of \$67 is \$335/yr
 12 payments of \$28 is \$336/yr

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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Flood Mitigation and Greenspace: A Three Part Series

This is the first in a series of three articles about how the Brays Bayou Association, the Willow Waterhole Project (March) and the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy (April) came to be and how they have impacted life in Westbury.

Part One: Brays Bayou Association

Source: an article by Bob Schwartz

Each month the Crier lists the meeting information of the Brays Bayou Association (BBA), which takes place the third Monday of each month. Their purpose is to reduce the risk of flooding in the Brays Bayou watershed, one of the 22 watersheds in Harris County. Westbury is located in the Brays Bayou watershed, since Willow Waterhole Bayou is a tributary of Brays Bayou.

The BBA was formed in 1984, after Hurricane Alicia hit in August 1983, followed in September by a major thunderstorm with 9 inches of rain, which resulted in extensive flooding in the area. (Similar to the Memorial Day flood of 2015) About 1,800 homes were flooded, many in Meyerland. To fund the organization, Bob Marshall of the Meyerland Community raised about \$60,000, largely from Meyerland residents. Ann Lee of Maplewood South/North was the first president. There was a lot of finger-pointing about who was responsible for the 1983 flooding.

The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were soon in the organization's sights. The BBA funded a study by Professor Phil Bedient, and BBA and several developers co-funded an engineering study by Pate Engineers.

In the late 1980s, Commissioner's Court replaced HCFCD Director Jim Green with Art Storey. Harris County Commissioner's Court proposed a countywide bond issue for a variety of county needs, among them flood control. The BBA considered the proposed figure for the flood control component insufficient and went to Commissioner's Court and suggested \$250 million would be more appropriate. The Court agreed and the BBA said it would campaign in support of the bond issue. BBA sponsored a large public meeting where attendance was estimated at 750. The bond issue passed with about 62 percent approval.

In the early '90s, HCFCD contracted a study on the Brays Watershed to determine the best strategy to reduce flooding risk for the upper part of the watershed. At the same time, Ken Bentsen, our area Representative in the U.S. Congress, began to solicit input from HCFCD, BBA and others, concerning issues affecting flooding in the Brays Watershed.

The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96) included language which permitted a competent local authority such as HCFCD to plan, design, and construct local flood control projects under Corps of Engineers' oversight and monitoring, according to federal rules, regulations and guidelines, and allowed for aesthetic considerations. Then the project could receive federal reimbursement up to about 50 percent. The three Texas projects were all in Houston; Brays, Greens and Hunting Bayous.

In late 1996, the BBA supported a proposal by Westbury resident, Russell Schexnayder, that a storm-water detention site be constructed adjacent to Willow Waterhole Bayou. [The story of the Willow Waterhole project will run in March.](#)

The BBA continues to work closely with HCFCD and the City of Houston on various flood risk-reduction issues. It has worked closely with the

city on changes to Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances dealing with flood-prone areas, and other regulatory documentation. The BBA has been establishing links with those involved on issues affecting flooding by inviting speakers to our meetings and staying in contact with groups such as The Park People, Trees for Houston, The Bayou Preservation Association, The Quality of Life Coalition, and the Citizens Environmental Coalition.

The January 2017 BBA meeting was well attended. The speaker was Gary Zika, Project Manager of Project Brays, with an update on Project Brays as well as for the Willow Waterhole (WW) detention project. For the WW detention, new connecting boxes and new overflow weir control structures are the final stages needed to complete the WW project. The connecting boxes will connect the newest ponds to existing ponds (pond 6 to existing pond 4 and pond 1 to existing pond 2) underneath South Willow Drive. Also, larger drainage boxes along the pipeline easement that run through Westbury between Kingfisher and Spellman will go out for bid this first quarter of 2017 and are scheduled to be complete by August of 2018.

The majority of flooding we see in Westbury is from water that is trying to get into the bayou, not from the bayous or ditches overflowing their banks. Enlarging the city's storm drains won't help if the bayous don't have the capacity to take the water. One way to slow down storm water is to build detention ponds that will hold it until the bayous are ready. The BBA has been asking the City of Houston for years to consider buying land for future use as a detention "bank," which would help reduce risk of flooding in the Brays watershed. We need more detention upstream of Westbury (to the west of us) to alleviate flooding from too much water trying to get to Brays Bayou and the Willow Waterhole Bayou.

Part Two: Willow Waterhole Detention Project will appear in the March Crier

Brays Bayou Association Meeting Notice

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:30PM

The Gathering Place, 5310 S. Willow Dr.

Executive Director of Harris County Flood Control District, Russ Poppe, will discuss his recent appointment to replace Mike Talbott, who served as HCFCD Executive Director for the past 35 years.

- ⇒ What is next for the Brays Watershed after "Project Brays"
- ⇒ What the citizens can do to help promote future flood risk reduction projects
- ⇒ The importance of working with the city to provide not only a reduction in the flood risk, but also amenities such as trails and parks along the bayou greenways.

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Willow Waterhole Conservancy Receives Urban Forestry Grant from the National Football League, Houston Super Bowl Host Committee, and Trees for Houston

WWGC was one of ten environmental organizations awarded \$4,000 Urban Forestry Grant by the NFL and the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee for tree planting projects. Additionally, WWGC was the recipient of 20 mature trees and 80 seedlings from Trees for Houston.

The trees were planted on three workdays in January:

- ❖ On January 7, scout James Huff led volunteers on his Eagle project to plant 10 trees on the banks of Levitt Lake near Southern Crushed Concrete (see right)
- ❖ On January 14, Unitarian Universalist church members were joined by residents of the local community and the Host Committee in planting 80 hickory oak seedlings at two locations – on the eastern bank of Westbury Lake and along an AT&T chain link fence bordering the Greenway on South Willow
- ❖ On January 28,, as part of Westbury Arbor Day festivities, WHS Honor Society students and local residents planted 10 more trees at the same site on Levitt Lake.

Bill Burhans, Conservation Director at WWGC, stated: “this assistance provided by the NFL, Host Committee, TFH, and volunteers will go a long way towards improving several areas at the Greenway. The tree plantings will serve as natural screens along the borders with industrial sites. Additionally, the donated monies can be used to purchase mulch, tree stakes, tools, and watering needed for plantings and ongoing maintenance. We are so grateful to these generous organizations and happy that Houston was selected as a Super Bowl city.”



This is the new sign placed at the tip of Triangle Lake (the fork in the road at Gasmer/South Willow). There is a new trail on the right hand side along the bank of the lake. These improvements were a result of a grant received in 2013 from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program. The Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and Houston Parks and Recreation Department were awarded the grant based on conservation and educational programs at the Greenway.

Eagle Scout Project at Willow Waterhole

James Huff (at far right in the photo below) completed his Eagle Scout project on Saturday, January 7, at the Willow Waterhole Greenway. James is a member of Willow Meadows Troop 740 and a student at Westbury High School. The workday started at 8AM with 23 degree temperatures. Despite the cold, many friends, fellow scouts, and parents assisted James in planting 11 large loblolly pines and bur oaks. Trees and supplies were donated by Trees for Houston and the National Football League as part of a grant received by the Conservancy connected to Super Bowl activities.



Many thanks to volunteers from the Unitarian Universalist Church and the local community for coming out on January 14 to plant 10 new trees, spread mulch and wildflower seeds, and prune many existing trees at Triangle Lake. Trees and materials were donated by Trees for Houston, Verizon, the Houston Host Committee, and the NFL as part of Super Bowl activities.

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Westbury High School

New WHS Baseball Field Dedication

After days of rainy weather, the morning of Saturday January 21 brought sunshine and blue skies to Westbury. This made it the perfect day for a ribbon cutting and flag raising ceremony for Westbury High School's new baseball and softball fields.



New Westbury High School Baseball Fields

The WHS ROTC kicked off the ceremony by posting the colors and raising the flag. The WHS Band, fresh from a first place win last weekend, played a rousing National Anthem. Principal Susan Monahan and CM Larry Green did the honors cutting the ribbon and the new fields are ready for a full season of spring ball. CM Larry Green presented a City of Houston proclamation.

Becky Edmondson thanked the WHS Baseball Booster Club, parents and students on both teams for their delivery of the Westbury Crier. Coaches Chris Dusablon, Robert Lyle and Lauren Gustartis were on hand with all their players and hope Westbury residents will come on out to support them this spring.



Larry Green with Principal Monahan with the WHS Baseball coaches

WHS Awarded Leadership Grant

The Student Council at Westbury High School has been awarded a Youth Leadership Enrichment and Development (LEAD) grant of \$20,000 from Cheniere Energy. Cheniere launched the LEAD Program in Louisiana and Texas in 2014. It is designed to engage the next generation of leaders in community service by empowering students to make project decisions, coordinate work, and allocate budgets. The Student Council wanted to work on a project near the school that would benefit the environment, students, and the surrounding community. They have chosen a project to build a pier at the Willow Waterhole Greenway to be used for fishing, kayak/canoe launching, and environmental sampling. The grant requires the project to be completed by April 2017.

The students made a presentation at the Southwest Houston 2000 breakfast where they received a warm welcome. Along with this grant and generous donations from the WAIC and the Southwest Rotary Club, the students need to raise \$10,000. Those who wish to help on this project can do so by calling the WWGC at (713) 729-1122, donating online at www.willowwaterhole.org or mailing a donation to the WWGC 11415 Chimney Rock, Houston, TX 77035 noting "Pier project" on your check. WWGC is a tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

Thanks to WHS ROTC

Last year, Jackie and Wayne Murray and Kendyl Maurer of Weichert Realtors donated 8 flags to the Westbury Civic Club to post at our subdivision markers on appropriate flag days. (They have actually donated 9 because someone stole one of the first 8.) We put out a call for volunteers to fly the flags last year. Thankfully, the Westbury High School ROTC, led by Chief Frank, heard our plea and we are happy to report that the ROTC will be placing the flags for us as a community service project. What a great program! What great young men and women in the program!

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Westbury Community Garden / WAIC

Westbury Gardeners on Great Day Houston



On Monday January 21 the Westbury Community gardeners were in the audience for the taping of the Great Day Houston show. The topic of the day was gardening and our gardeners had a chance to ask questions and get answers from experts.



The Houston climate is suitable for growing food every month of the year. Spring gardening time is just around the corner. Do you want to grow your own organic veggies? Join the outstanding gardeners at Westbury Community Garden.



If you are new to organic gardening, the WCG will partner you with an experienced mentor to get you started and offer garden advice when needed. A garden bed at the Westbury Community Garden is approximately 25 ft by 4 ft totaling about 100 square feet of area. Consider inviting a friend or neighbor to share a bed to split the work and the rewards.

Check our website www.WestburyCommunityGarden.org or contact our Membership Chair, membership@westburycommunitygarden.org

Westbury Area Improvement Corporation and Westbury SuperNeighborhood 37

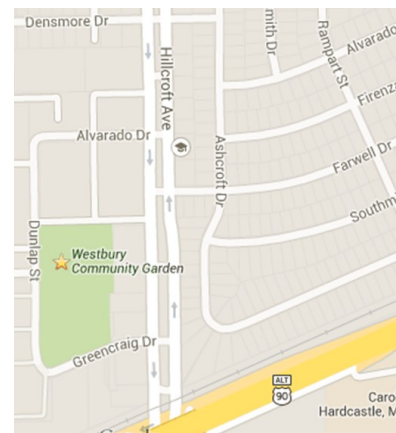
The non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) and the Westbury Super Neighborhood canceled their joint January 2017 meeting due to widespread street flooding on January 18.

Donations to the WAIC are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and are used to benefit the geographic area designated as the Westbury Super Neighborhood. For those who make donations, please note that we have a NEW address! Donations may be sent to: Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, 5322 West Bellfort, Suite 100, Houston TX 77035. Please specify whether the donation is intended for the following categories: Greatest Need, Westbury Community Garden project, Westbury HPD Storefront, or Youth and Education.

Projects include: the Westbury Community Garden, support for the Westbury HPD Storefront, donation to the WHS PTO, and a \$2500 donation to the WHS Student Leadership Project to build a pier at the Willow Waterhole Greenspace.

WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

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



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