



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Booths on sale for White Elephant Sale- Westbury Residents ONLY—Mon. 3/19
- Sunday Music in the Park, 3/25, 4PM @ Willow Waterhole, see page 12
- WCC Office open late 6-8PM on 3/19 & 3/21
- WCC Board Meeting: March 21, 7PM @ Westbury High School
- March's heavy trash is TREE WASTE

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Do You Need to Have a Garage Sale?

April 21 is the Spring White Elephant Community Garage Sale!

Yard sales, garage sales, estate sales, moving sales, etc. are NOT ALLOWED at residential properties in Westbury. This applies to ALL sections of Westbury and Parkwest. The Civic Club provides fall and spring community garage sale events to our members. The Civic Club will provide security and publicity for the sale. The Civic Club does NOT provide tables, chairs or shade.

Booth space will go on sale Monday, March 19, for Westbury residents ONLY. Booths will be on sale during the normal Civic Club office hours 9:30AM to 1:30PM. **The WCC office will be open late on Mon. March 19 and Wed. March 21, from 6PM to 8PM for booth space purchase.** You must be a paid current member of the Westbury Civic Club to purchase a booth. This means you had to have paid your WCC membership dues of \$40. The booth price for Westbury residents will be \$20-\$25. Booths will go on sale to non-residents on March 27. The booth price for non-residents is \$60-\$65.

The Westbury White Elephant Sale allows residents the opportunity to sell unwanted items at a highly visible central location with security provided. Most crimes are crimes of opportunity, so the fewer non-residents that we invite down our streets on the weekends, the fewer weekday crime problems we have to contend with.

So, have fun, make money, be safe and be a good neighbor. Plan on having a booth at the Westbury White Elephant Sale!

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 19**— Booths go on sale for Westbury residents and WCC office open late 6-8PM
- March 21**— WCC office open late from 6-8PM
- March 27**— Booths on sale for non-residents
- April 21**— White Elephant Community Garage Sale
- April 28**— Rain Date



SPRING 2011 WHITE ELEPHANT COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

NOTICE TO PET OWNERS

Due to an increase in stray dogs and several pet killings by loose dogs in Westbury, we are actively asking the City of Houston to enforce the City Municipal Code Chapter 6 on Dogs and Cats. Responsible dog owners have had their animals attacked while walking them on leash; other walkers have been terrorized by dogs, both large and small. Some of these animals are strays, but some of these animals belong to other Westbury residents.

For more information regarding City Ordinances and what to do, if you witness a wild animal roaming or attacking, see page 9.

Gardens Needed for Backyard Garden Tour

Would you like to showcase your backyard for Westbury's annual Backyard Garden Tour? Despite last year's drought, many gardens are going to look great thanks to the dedication of their owners. We need five gardens for the tour on Saturday, May 5, from 12:30 to 4:30 PM. Proceeds benefit Westbury beautification efforts. Please call Hazel Potvin at 713-729-4568 to volunteer.

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Westbury Civic Club, Inc
Editor: WCC Publication
Committee
Printing: Hutson Enterprises

Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

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Parkwest 2	Peter Zografos	Parkwest2@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 3	Joe Niles	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

Westbury Civic Club Office

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

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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

City of Houston 311 Hotline

(for all Non-Emergency Issues)

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

**THE WCC DOES NOT
 ACT ON
 ANONYMOUS
 COMPLAINTS.
 PLEASE MAKE SURE TO LEAVE
 YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

WCC Office will be closed March 12-16 for Spring Break. Messages will be checked.

President's Message

Where do you see Westbury in the next 30 years? This was the question posed at the Houston Galveston Regional Plan session I attended in February. Our region is expected to see 4 million new residents in the next 30 years. Yikes! How will this affect our quality of life? Look on page 15 of the *Crier* for information on how you can give YOUR input through the month of March.

Thinking back to 1956 and the beginnings of our neighborhood 56 years ago, I'm proud that we are still a viable, safe, secure neighborhood where property values are on the increase, yet homes are affordable. Did you see Lisa Gray's column in the *Houston Chronicle* on February 19th about mid-century modern architecture in Houston? She gave a shout out to Westbury that our "ranch house neighborhoods were coming back into fashion." We have to work diligently to protect our neighborhood to keep it thriving. **We enforce deed restrictions** and city ordinances, but there are a few people who violate the rules and drive their neighbors crazy and threaten property values. Every day, people at their wits end call the WCC office for assistance with their neighbors. We keep all complaints made to the WCC confidential. However, we do not act on anonymous complaints.

I address those residents who violate city ordinances and deed restrictions and think it's no big deal because no-one has the right to tell them what to do: Please take a moment and think about your neighbors.

It is against city ordinance and/or your deed restrictions to operate a business or other noxious activity on your property; to park cars in the yard; to let dogs run loose; to have visible trash prior to collection day; and to allow your yard to have growth over 9 inches. Maybe y'all haven't thought about how these practices affect your neighbors. Believe me, they do.

We see so little of our neighbors nowadays that it's easy to forget them. I ran across a picture from 1962 and I know why we knew our neighbors back then; there were no trees, no bushes, and no fences. We have plenty of stress in our lives today, please don't needlessly add to it. Please be a good neighbor and ask yourself, "Am I a good neighbor?"

It is time for a big THANK YOU to all of you who have sent in your dues. They were printed for all Westbury households before the January payments were applied. If you received a bill, but had already sent your check, then know they crossed in the mail. Thanks to all who attended the METRO meeting or sent comments as we prevailed and the Chimney Rock 49 bus line remains unchanged. (see letter on page 15).

Spring arrives this month and I think I speak for many of us that our yards need some TLC (see page 13 for some help). Let's make Westbury sparkle green!

Happy spring,
Becky Edmondson

Board Mtg. Notes

- Capt. Martin of the Beechnut HPD station spoke for an hour and answered questions. Martin stated crime was up in Westbury in Jan.
- Moved that the WCC support Super Neighborhood 36 in its opposition to the construction of low-rent housing rather than the repair and update of existing, housing.
- Security plans were discussed: Citizens on Patrol and the Block Captain system.
- Thank you to Janie Schexnayder and her amazing membership team for stuffing 5,000 envelopes.
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

WCC Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 21
7PM-9PM
Westbury High School

2012 Westbury Civic Club Dues

***Please send this form in with your payment**

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

MANDATORY DUES PW 1 & PW2 PAST DUE

Thank You Westbury!

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

Make checks payable to: Westbury Civic Club, Inc.
Mail to:
P.O. Box 975182
Dallas, TX 75397-5182
Online payment:
paypal.com—Send Money to westburycc@sbcglobal.net
Make sure to include your address or account number

Sending multiple payments?
Circle your payment choice

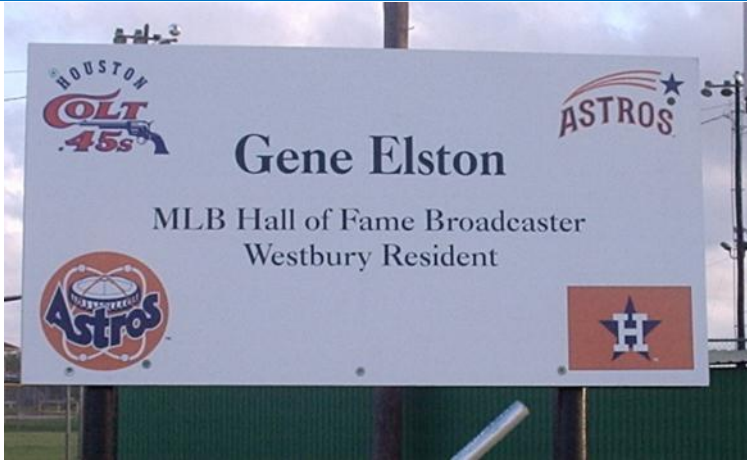
2 payment of \$147.50

3 payments of 98.34

**Call the office for more payment options or questions

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

Faces Around Westbury



Gene Elston, a long time Parkwest resident, was recently honored by the Westbury Little League with a sign at its ball field. Elston's baseball broadcasting career spanned 47 years. He delivered baseball to Houston fans as the lead voice of the Houston Astros for 25 years, from their beginnings as the 1962 Colt .45s, through their 1986 National League West Division championship. He was the voice of the Houston Astros. In 2006, Elston was awarded the Ford C. Frick Award from the Baseball Hall of Fame. The award is given annually to a baseball announcer who has given major contributions to the game. Elston also created a unique scorebook, Gene Elston's Stati-Score Baseball Scorebook, and has authored two books, including the 2001 release, *A Stitch in Time: A Baseball Chronology, 1845-2000*.

Dabney Kennedy, a Westbury resident since 1965 who serves as President of the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation and Vice-President of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy, received the 2012 National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) Outstanding Eagle Scout Award on February 29th. The recognition is granted to Eagle Scout Alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and service at the local, state, or regional level. Dabney Kennedy has spent sixty-five years committed to Scouting and its ideals and in 2006 the Order of the Arrow presented him with the third-ever Legacy of Servant Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award. Over his impressive career as an adult in the Order, Kennedy spent 22 years as a Section Adviser, 20 years as a Lodge Adviser, and 40 years on the National OA Committee in numerous capacities. Dabney and his wife of 52 years, Peggy, are proud of their two Eagle Scout sons, who both graduated from Westbury High School. Son David, his wife, Silena, and three daughters live in Westbury. Second son Mark, his wife, Tammie, and their two children live nearby in Bellaire. Peggy and Dabney are members of Westbury Baptist Church. They also volunteer at the Hobby Center and the Alley Theater as ushers. Kennedy retired from Dow Chemical in 1993 after 30 years of service.



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5811 Portal
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\$239,000



10906 Braewick
3 bed/2 bath
\$219,000

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

What's Happening in Westbury

March 2012 Events & Meetings Calendar

Mon 12	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:15-7:45PM Platou Center—11655 Chimney Rock Open to the public
Sat 18	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow Open to the public
Mon 19	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow Speaker: Carroll Parrott Blue
Mon 19	Booths on sale for the White Elephant Community Garage Sale Open to Westbury Residents ONLY WCC Office—open normal business hours and from 6-8PM
Wed 21	WCC Office open late 6PM-8PM for White Elephant Community Garage Sale Booth sales. Open to Westbury Residents ONLY WCC Office—5322 W Bellfort #107
Wed 21	WCC Board Meeting 7PM– 9PM Westbury High School - 10911 Chimney Rock
Sun 25	Sunday Music in the Park 4PM-5PM Gazebo at Willow Waterhole—approx. 5300 Dryad Featuring Johnston Middle School
Tues 27	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South

WCC OFFICE CLOSURE
March 12-16—WCC Office Closed for Spring Break
March 26—WCC Office Closed

March 2012 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

Thurs 8	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Tues 20	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY (South of W. Bellfort)
Wed 21	Heavy Trash—TREE WASTE ONLY (North of W. Bellfort)
Thurs 22	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
APRIL	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE

Important Trash & Recycling Information

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

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



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Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock

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

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

Stretching Class

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

Aerobics

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



TOPS:Take Off Pounds Sensibly Weight Loss Support Group

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

Spring Break Week Schedule

March 12-16

Activities for children will be available.

Wednesday, March 14 will be a park clean-up day from 10AM to Noon. Youth are encouraged to help trim hedges, rake leaves, wash windows for service credit. Call 713-726-7107 to sign up.

LINE DANCING CLASS

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

Enrollment is open for the Parks and Recreation Summer Program. Meet the staff and see the Platou facility.

Notice: After School Enrichment from 3-6PM still have space available.

"Like" us on
Facebook at Platou
Community Center

Free Ballroom Dance Lessons

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



Westbury Quilting Bee

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

Games

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

Portable Projects

Any kind of handwork: knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, scrapbooking, etc.
Thursday, 9:30- 11:30 AM
Contact Hazel at 713-729-4568

This could be your ad! Call the WCC office to inquire about ad space in the Westbury Crier.

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Security / Crime

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37 * 30 days preceding February 22, 2011

	Single-Family Residential	Apartment/Condominium	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	4	4	3	0	11
Theft	8	9	4	0	21
Auto Theft	1	3	0	0	4
Robbery	1	2	0	0	3
Assault	2	2	0	1	5
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	16	20	7	1	44

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 2/22/12)

Block	Street	Crime
12400	Ashcroft	Theft
12000	Braewick	Burglary
5700	Benning	Theft
10900	Cedarhurst	Theft
10900	Chimney Rock	Assault
5800	Duxbury	Robbery
5500	Ettrick	Auto Theft
5800	Fontenelle	Burglary
5800	Greencraig	Theft
5900	Lattimer	Burglary
5800	Ludington	Assault
12400	Renwick	Theft
5700	Stillbrooke	Theft
5900	Vickijohn	Theft
5700	W. Bellfort	Theft

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

Citizens on Patrol

The Houston Police Department is committed in using volunteers to enhance the delivery of police service to the citizens of Houston through the department's Police Volunteer Initiatives Program (VIP). An important component of the Police VIP is the Citizen Patrol program. Due to the overwhelming response of the Westbury community, the District K council office is willing to co-sponsor (in conjunction with HPD) a Citizens on Patrol class for the Westbury community.

Before HPD can offer a class, there are two steps required by HPD: **Step 1: Complete the application; Step 2: Must pass a background check**

To learn more about the program and to get an application visit our website. www.westburycrimer.com or go to http://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/vip_citzpatrol.htm. After these two initial steps are met, then Sgt. Sutton will coordinate with the District K council office to facilitate a class for the Westbury community. **Please submit all completed application forms to the Westbury Storefront, ATTENTION: Sgt. Timothy Sutton 5600 S Willow Dr., Houston, TX 77035.**

Sgt. Sutton will collect the forms and begin the background checks.



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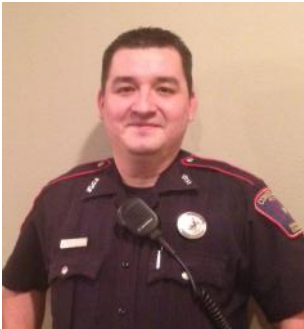
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Faces of the Westbury Area Patrol



Deputy David Addison has been with Precinct 5 for 22 years and on the Westbury Patrol for the last six years. He was raised in Westbury and still has close ties in the community. Deputy Addison graduated from Westbury High School in 1980 and has lived in Houston for over 50 years. He has been married for 30 years and has a daughter. Deputy Addison knows the Westbury Area very well and truly enjoys patrolling his old stomping grounds.



Deputy Fernando Hernandez is the newest deputy to the Westbury Area Patrol having joined our patrol in April 2011. Deputy Hernandez has been with Precinct 5 for 6 years. He and his wife have three children. Deputy Hernandez is a huge Texan fan! After 11 months of protecting Westbury, he says he really enjoys working in the Westbury Area and meeting the residents.



Deputy Mo Nurriddin has been with Precinct 5 for seven years. He has been on the Westbury Patrol for four years. Deputy Nurriddin and his wife have lived in Houston for the past 10 years. He was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Florida. Deputy Nurriddin says that "Westbury is a great area with nice people".

GUN SAFETY by Westbury resident Ross Asher

The February 2012 newsletter mentioned that a Westbury 2 resident had found a bullet in a bedroom wall, which the police reported happened after a neighbor fired a weapon to deter an attempted motor vehicle burglary. I've had a lifetime of interaction with firearms. I've been an Army Infantry officer, recreational shooter, licensed concealed handgun instructor, and I have carried a concealed handgun every day for many years.

The law gives us a right to defend ourselves against aggression, and to protect ourselves against attack. But the mere possession of a gun does not mean that we are prepared to exercise these rights. It is also the duty of each armed citizen to learn to use a gun in a safe, responsible, effective manner should the day ever come when such becomes necessary. While it may sound cold and calculating, this, in part, means learning to know your target and to effectively engage ONLY your target, and not endanger innocent persons nearby. Always remember that even in a self defense situation, you are still responsible for HOW you protect yourself, and whether you inadvertently injure an innocent person in the process.

It also means keeping weapons in a safe manner in the home. What is safe? That depends upon your situation. A home with only adults present may safely keep guns in a manner which may be unsafe for a home with small children. Each of us must assess our own situation, as the law, as well as common sense, makes us responsible if a minor has access to a firearm in our home and causes injury with the gun.

Fortunately, there are numerous resources available to provide training and guidelines for the safe, effective ownership, possession and use of firearms, both for recreational and self defense purposes. Seek out an experienced instructor who can assist you not only in the safe, effective use of your gun, but in safe, effective storage techniques.



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Pet Owners

City of Houston Code of Ordinances regarding Pets

Sec. 6-2. - Owner's responsibility for animals at large.

An owner or any other person having the right of possession of an animal shall ensure that such animal does not run at large in violation of this chapter and shall be subject to punishment under this chapter without regard to whether he was acting with a culpable mental state.

Sec. 6-3. - Running at large of domestic animals or fowl prohibited.

(a) The running at large of domestic animals or domestic fowl, within the city limits is hereby declared to be a nuisance and it shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any such animal or fowl to permit the same to run at large within the city.

(b) It shall be a defense to prosecution under subsection (a) above that the animal was: (1) A dog in an off-leash site established under section 32-11 of this Code; or (2) A feral cat that has been subjected to a trap, neuter, and return program approved by the director.

Sec. 6-86. - License required.

(a) No person shall own, keep, possess, or have control over any dog or cat within the city unless such person has a current city license

Sec. 6-87. - Tag to be worn.

(a) It shall be the duty of each person having ownership of a dog or cat for which a license is required to be issued under this article to ensure that the license tag furnished by the licensing authority in conjunction with the issuance of the animal's license is worn by the animal at all times. It is a defense to prosecution hereunder that the dog or cat was confined within a building or other totally enclosed structure under the ownership, possession or control of the person having possession of the animal at the time that the animal was not wearing a license tag.

Sec. 6-101. - Running at large prohibited.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having in his possession any dog to allow such dog to be at large without the owner or person in charge thereof having direct physical control over such dog. An owner or person having in his possession a dog may allow the dog to be at large on property that does not provide the animal with access to a sidewalk or street.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under subsection (a) of this section that the dog was in an off-leash site established under section 32-11 of this Code,

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having in his possession a dangerous dog, as defined in section 6-151 of this Code, to allow that dog to be at large. A person who violates this subsection shall, upon conviction, be assessed a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,000.00. Each day that any violation of this subsection continues shall constitute and be punishable as a separate offense.

Notice to Pet Owners (Continued from pg 1)

Responsible Pet Ownership Begins With the "4 L's". LICENSE, LEASH, LATCH, LOVE. The "4 L's" are the basis of responsible pet ownership and the key to creating a safe, secure environments for your pets to live in. License your pet. Leash your pet. Latch your gate. Last, but certainly not least, give your pet lots of love and attention.

Please report pet killings, dangerous animals, or packs of stray dogs both to BARC (the City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Facility) and to our City Council Member (CM) Larry Green's District K office. CM Green is concerned about reports of dangerous animals from across District K. Contact District K via districtk@houstontx.gov or 832-393-3016. Contact BARC at 713-229-7300. The city allocates resources based on number of complaints received and only one BARC inspector serves the entire city for stray dog reports.



If you are interested in adopting an animal which needs a good home, BARC now has a Facebook page which features profiles of Adorable Adoptables, such as cute Foxy in the photo. The Facebook page also shows photos of Lost Animals which have been reported to BARC, and has a photo album of BARC Buddies who have found new homes. Search Facebook Places for BARC Houston or find it from their website www.houstonBARC.com.


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Is Westbury Urban or Suburban? Chapter 42 Changes Coming

Most people in Houston have never heard of Chapter 42, but the City plans to make changes in the near future which could have a dramatic impact on Westbury and similar communities. Right now, Westbury is defined as a SUBURBAN area when developers create new developments or properties. The City proposes to reclassify all areas between Loop 610 and Beltway 8 as URBAN, including our own Westbury community.


What does this mean to you? The population of Houston is expected to increase in the future, so the Planning Department proposes to define more areas in Houston as URBAN so that higher housing density can be implemented. Although our Westbury homes have a minimum square footage requirement per lot, there are many properties in the area which are not protected by deed restrictions. The URBAN classification will allow up to 62 single-family townhome properties on one acre of land. Developers will not have to provide on-site parking if new townhomes have less than six units and do not face a major thoroughfare. For example, the 900 foot by 60 foot flood control easement property on Burdine across from Westbury Square had been appraised at 1 dollar, but recently went on the market for \$45,000.

Have opinions or questions, contact all At-Large City Councilmembers and District C & K Councilmembers and the Mayor, before this goes to a vote.

Public Information Hearing: March 8 6:30-8PM @Trini Mendenhall Community Center ___ Wirt Rd.



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Security Tips by long-time Westbury Residents

Very recently a new young neighbor asked some of us seasoned Westbury folk how to be safe in our homes. While we cannot guarantee safety, we can offer some tips.

House: Are the locks a good quality? Can you see out of your peephole? Do you have an alarm system and do you use it? Never open your door unless you can identify the person outside. **Do respond to the person to let them know the house is not empty.** If they do not go away, you should call the constable or the police.

Being away: Make your house seem occupied. Light timers for lamps are a good investment. A timer to play a radio or the TV can help. Make sure newspapers and the mail are collected by a trusted neighbor when you are away for a long period of time.

Emergency Numbers: Have the constable number in your cell phone as **AConstable** which makes it immediately accessible in the phone directory. People who work in your home should have the emergency numbers too and should be instructed to use them without hesitation.

Children: Talk to your children, even young children, about always calling a parent to answer the door. Explain about the constable, police and fire department and that they help us in emergencies. Talk to a housekeeper or baby sitter to be sure they know what to do if someone comes to the door.

Neighbors: Get to know your neighbors and share phone numbers with those you trust and who have been helpful. Share email addresses so you can give each other advance notice of being away or having repair work done. Open shades in the daytime, at least partially. Look out your windows. Look at your neighbors homes. Get used to the routines of the street. Take walks and talk to people on the street.

Vehicles: Park your car(s) in the garage. Know the VIN numbers and know your license plate number. Never leave valuables in cars and especially your purse not matter how quick you think you will be away from the car.

If the Worst Happens: Cooperate with the intruder(s) and give them the money and valuables wanted in order to protect yourself and your family.

Westbury is a good place to live. But every resident should take steps to be personally secure in their homes. Part of security is to know people around us. We need people to turn to and others need us. Neighborliness enriches and makes life safer in Westbury.

WAP 281-463-6666

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Sunday Music in the Park



After a week of dreary winter rain, a beautiful day emerged with bright sunlight and blue skies on February 19 – a perfect day for “great music in a beautiful setting” featuring a concert by talented musicians from Parker Elementary. Over 400 people were at Willow Waterhole to enjoy this event and soak up the music and sunshine at the waterfront venue.

The concert was emceed by president of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy, Howard Sacks, who spoke about the importance of the Willow Waterhole reserve, its purpose, flood water overflow, and about its importance to our community as a place to enjoy jogging, walking, bird watching, some peace and quiet, and cultural events like Sunday Music in the Park.

The concert started with a performance by a group of Parker violin students. Parker Elementary is the original music magnet school of the Houston Independent School District and is located in Westbury. Strings (violin and cello) students at Parker are taught the Suzuki Method. The next set featured pieces by the Parker Advanced Band. The final set featured the Parker Jazz Band. If you had closed your eyes, you would never have known these performers are in elementary school.



The **next** “Sunday Music in the Park” event will be on **March 25 at 4 PM** featuring music students from Johnston Middle School, a fine arts magnet school. JMS is located immediately north of Westbury; Parker is one of its feeder schools. Ideally we’ll have another perfect day.

Left: WCC Pres. Becky Edmondson, District K CM Larry Green, WCC VP Marcia Hartman
Right: Violinists from Parker Elem. on 2/19



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Greenspace

Restoring Our Yards

Many yards have suffered badly from the drought last summer. March is the month to start working on your lawn to promote good growth through the summer. You may be tempted to use an herbicide to get rid of weeds. Not all herbicides will take care of the weeds we are seeing. Many weeds are typical springtime visitors but, because of lots of bare ground, we have a big production of tall spiky things known as **sow thistle**. If sow thistle is allowed to bloom, then seeds will spread the weeds more widely in your yard. Cutting them down and bagging them is one way to get them under control. A better way, but more labor intensive, is to dig weeds out at the root, bag them, and dispose of them with yard waste. This is a good job for kids. Give them a narrow trowel and show them how to go to the base of the plant to dig down to remove the carrot-like tap root.

If you have any St. Augustine grass left in your lawn, it needs fertilizer but it also needs places to grow. Raking off weeds and dead grass will make space for St. Augustine runners to reach out and gradually take over from the weeds. If that is too slow a process, you can turn to having your whole lawn re-sodded either by yourself or by a landscaper.

Whatever you do, there is a lot of work and expense ahead to get back weed-free green lawns. Try not to overuse fertilizer or herbicides. Be patient. St. Augustine is a hot weather grass which will perform well as we get into the summer months. Let's hope that more rain will fall this year!

Westbury Community Garden

This month marks the 2nd birthday of the garden. It's hard to believe that in two years the garden has grown from 40 raised beds, to 61, and more important, from a group of people who were just meeting each other, to a vibrant community of gardeners and friends, supporting each other in many ways.

The garden now includes a beautiful pavilion with an 'in-memory-of' and 'in-honor-of' walk, a 1,500 gallon cistern, a sturdy information kiosk, a series of compost bins, a fruit tree orchard, a blackberry orchard, a shed and a native habitat garden. There are many teams working on various garden tasks and plans for expansion. Stay tuned as we may be offering interesting opportunities for those of you who are not necessarily gardeners but interested in community building and continuing to make Westbury a desirable place to live and play.

With a new year, came new changes. The new president of the garden is Westbury resident, Dita Geary. The newly elected vice president is Diane King. They are jointly working to continue the great successes of the Westbury Community Garden.

For more membership information or to inquire about bed availability, please westburycommunitygarden@gmail.com.

Do you like to drive around Westbury and look at pretty yards and homes? Do you want a great volunteer opportunity?

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Neighborhood and Area News

OUR Region, OUR Vision, OUR Future

The Houston Galveston region is expected to see 4 million new residents in the next 30 years. Where will those residents live? How will this change affect quality of life? How will they get around? The Houston Galveston Regional Plan for sustainable development is an important chance to look forward and find ways to keep our communities prosperous, healthy and attractive for generations to come.

The 13-county plan explores opportunities to improve the region's most important resources, including clean air and water, good jobs, safe and attractive neighborhoods, affordable housing, transportation choices, and open spaces and parks. **Your input through March of 2012 will help set goals and priorities for the plan.**

To submit your ideas, go to <http://ideas.ourregion.org/> which will take you to the Houston-Galveston Region Plan "Mind Mixer" site, an online conversation about people, places and prosperity. They are looking for practical and creative ideas to improve our communities and our region. Interested individuals and organizations can also help to get their communities connected to the planning process by being part of Community Ambassador Teams (CAT).

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Meeting in Westbury

The City holds public meetings to obtain citizen input before preparation of the operating budget and capital improvement plan. One of these meetings will be in Westbury. Mayor Annise Parker and District K Councilmember Larry Green and representatives from major city depts are scheduled to attend the District K CIP meeting on March 20, at Westbury High School from 6:30 –8:30PM. During the meeting, the city will be seeking ideas and comments for city capital spending projects for upcoming fiscal years 2013 – 2017. The plan is approved annually by city council as part of the budgeting process. The Westbury Civic Club will prepare a list of capital requests, so please submit your issues to the Westbury Civic Club so that we are aware of your concerns.

Johnston Wins Sportsmanship Award

Johnston Middle School's Coaches are proud to announce that, for the second year in a row, their students have been awarded 1st place and the Tom Shaw Sportsmanship trophy. This award recognizes students' outstanding behavior on and off the field and their character and their sportsmanship conduct when participating in sporting events. High schools and middle schools both are considered for this award. Coaches Robert C. Beverly, William Aust, Don Marion, Jr. and Eric Joyce have worked to make these young people not only better players in the sports world, but also better people in the social realm. JMS teachers and parents are Johnston Proud of these young people!

Thank You METRO

Westbury spoke up. METRO listened. In December 2011, METRO announced that it planned to discontinue the #49 Chimney Rock bus route. Due to comments from the community and the Westbury Civic Club, METRO decided to hold a community workshop at Westbury High School in January to obtain more information about area concerns. The METRO liaison for the Westbury area contacted local schools, businesses, and social-service organizations served by the route. More than 60 people submitted comments to METRO as part of the workshop. As a result of community feedback, the METRO board decided to keep the #49 Chimney Rock bus route and two others. Thank you METRO for listening to feedback from the community.



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