



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2014

HIGHLIGHTS:

- WCC Board Meeting: March 19 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist
- March's heavy trash is **TREE WASTE ONLY**. Pick up is Thursday, March 13 for ALL of Westbury.
- Donate Now to help save the 7 acre site of the Westbury Community Garden, page 17

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White Elephant Community Garage Sale on May 3

Do you need to have a garage sale, yard sale or estate sale?

The Spring White Elephant Community Garage Sale will be held on May 3 in the Westbury United Methodist parking lot. The scheduled rain date is May 10 if needed. This is the biggest event that the Westbury Civic Club (WCC) provides its members. The White Elephant Sale allows residents the opportunity to sell unwanted items at a highly visible central location with security provided. The White Elephant Sale is well known in the area and in the city. It is very well attended with lines of people waiting to get in every time and almost all vendors go home happy with few items left!

Booth space will go on sale at 9:30AM Tuesday, April 1, for Westbury residents ONLY. The WCC office will have extended hours on Tuesday & Wednesday, April 1 & 2, from 5PM- 7PM for booth space purchase. You must be a paid current member of the Westbury Civic Club to purchase a booth. The means you had to have paid your 2014 WCC membership dues of \$40. The booth price for Westbury residents will be \$20-\$25. Booths will go on sale to non-residents on April 7. The booth price for non-residents is \$60-\$65. Payment by cash or check only. The WCC office is located at 5322 W. Belfort Ste 107. *The Civic Club provides security and publicity for the sale. The Civic Club does NOT provide tables, chairs or shade.*

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 1**— Booths go on sale for Westbury residents
- April 1 & 2**— WCC office open late till 7PM; Residents
- April 7**— Booths on sale for Non-residents
- May 3** — Spring White Elephant Community Garage Sale
- May 10**— Rain Date



It is a long-standing policy of the Westbury Civic Club that yard sales, garage sales, estate sales, moving sales, etc. are NOT ALLOWED at residential properties within Westbury. This applies to ALL sections of Westbury and Parkwest. 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.

Bittersweet Day in Westbury

Two Buildings at Westbury Square are demolished



From ruin to rubble. After years of legal battles, the demolition of two of the buildings at Westbury Square began in February. Two other remaining buildings are in equally poor condition. The Company on Stage is still operating from one of the more stable buildings. The owner of the property is evaluating his options.

See page 6 for more details and pictures.

Published by:
Westbury Civic Club, Inc
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Edited by:
WCC Publication Committee
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Westbury Civic Club Office

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30AM— 1:30PM*, Closed Fridays

Address: 5322 W Bellfort Ste. 107 Houston, TX 77035

Phone: 713-723-5437 **Office Manager:** Jennifer Edmondson

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

*The office is closed on all major holidays, weekends (follows HISD calendar)

FREE NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666

HPD Non-Emergency
 713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)
 713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront
 713-726-7126

Platou Community Center
 713-726-7107

Poison Control
 1-800-764-7661

Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)
 713-207-2222

District K Councilmember Larry Green
832-393-3016

District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen
 832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee
 713-755-6111

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

City of Houston 311 Hotline (for all Non-Emergency Issues)

Forestry Department
 Graffiti

Hazardous Waste Disposal
 Heavy Trash

Neighborhood Protection

Parking Management

Recycling

School Crossing Light Repairs

Water and Sewer Repair

Stay connected!

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President's Message

Spring is hopefully here. If you have felt that it has been an unusually cold winter you are correct. Both December and January were colder months than we have experienced since back in the late 1970s and early 80s. My dad, Jim Rucker, has tracked the heating and cooling degree days over the past 40 years and his charts are very interesting to see. December was 25% colder than the last 40 year averages and January was 16% colder. I know I am ready for warmer weather. You'll find springtime articles in this month's *Crier* from wildflowers to gardening to outdoor events.

Westbury is about to celebrate its 60th anniversary next year. For years I have been asking for stories and pictures from the past, and now is the time to get it done. On page 16 there is a list of questions that might help you write the history of your home and your time in Westbury. With the demolition of Westbury Square and the passing of more of our original Westbury residents; this task becomes more pressing with each passing day. It is a good idea to get our history

recorded. I know when my parents bought their Hennessee Homes model home on Cheena in 1961 they asked the builder to fix the fake fireplace. They couldn't imagine having a fireplace that did not work. Then about 10 years ago they put in a fake log system! I'm sure many of you have stories about your home and its history. We have *Criers* dating back to 1956 that need to be scanned that contain an incredible amount of history. Time does march on and it is amazing to think that the Beatles first appeared on television 50 years ago last month. I was a 5th grader at Parker Elementary and now my grandson could be starting kindergarten there this fall.

And, yes, that was the Los Vaqueros Trail Riders traveling through Westbury on February 28th, Go Texan Day. I know many of our residents came out to greet them as they made their way to Anderson Elementary, Parker Elementary and Westbury Methodist to greet the children. The trail riders have been coming up from

the Valley, leaving in mid-January, to come celebrate the beginning of the Houston Livestock and Rodeo since the 50s. Barbara Haverkamp likes to call the Los Vaqueros Trail Riders "living Texas history". They connect us with Texas' past. That's a chapter for our Westbury history project right there.

I hope you will join in on the Westbury history project, whether you have lived in Westbury since 1954 or just chose it as home in 2014. The Houston Library offered a class on Preserving your Neighborhoods history that several of us attended and I think we have the potential to write a great book! Westbury Square memories alone could probably fill a book. So if you would like to be included send in your stories. If you have pictures, we would especially love them.



Happy Spring!

Becky Edmondson

Volunteer Opportunities

- *Scanning past issues of the *Crier*
- *Keep Westbury Beautiful, April 5 (see page 18)
- *Help at next White Elephant Sale on May 3 (see page 1)
- *Backyard Tour homes, guides and volunteers

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

"This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done."

Board Notes—February 2014

- Discussed Variance request application for 5415 W Airport convenience store and canopy.
- Discussed the Capital Improvement Plan process and the need to bring lots of people to the mtg on Feb 27
- The Deed Restriction revision committee reported that the WCC has retained the services of Jonathan Clark from Hoover & Solvich.
- Membership Committee reported that the voluntary letters had been mailed out in the beginning of February
- The next board meeting is Wednesday, March 19 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist

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Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock

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

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

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Stretching Exercise Class

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



Portable Projects

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

MsBeeHaven Quilters

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

Games

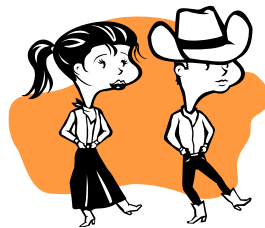
Weds., 10 AM to 12PM
Contact Wally at 713-729-9310

Line Dancing Class

Mondays, 12:30-1:30PM
For more information about this fun, unique workout class. Call 713-726-7107

County Western Dance Class

Mondays, 6:30-7:45PM
Learn 2 step & double underarm spins, Beginners welcome. Instructor is Robert Plimper. To register, call Dan 713-726-7107



TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Weight loss support group

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

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



March into shape at the Platou Center!

There are tons of great programs at the community center for all ages, come visit us and check them out!

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5039 Kingfisher
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What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar March 2014

Tues 4	Primary Election Day, State and Judicial Elections VOTE, VOTE, VOTE
Thurs 6	Westbury Meet & Eat at Teotihuacan @ 6PM 6579 W Belfort Open to all Westbury residents
Sat 8	Health Fair @ Fondren Middle School 9:30AM-12:30PM Fondren Middle School, 6333 S. Braeswood See page 11 for more information
Mon 10	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Westbury Community Garden pavilion
Sat 15	Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
March 17-20	WCC Office Closed for Spring Break
Mon 17	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Wed 19	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30AM Salem Lutheran - 4930 W. Belfort
Wed 19	WCC Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist Church Open to ALL Westbury residents
Tues 25	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Bldg
Thurs 27	Willow Waterhole General Meeting 7PM Westbury High School, public Welcome Speaker: Dr. John Lienhard
April 5	Keep Westbury Beautiful @ Hager Park 9AM See page 18 for more information

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City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

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

Help Keep Westbury Beautiful

Planning Calendar

April 5: Keep Westbury Beautiful at Hager Park 9AM

April 12: Music Fest @ Willow Waterhole 11AM-9AM

May 3: Spring White Elephant Sale

Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

March 2014

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

April 2014

Thurs 3	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 10	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 17	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

Important Trash & Recycling Info

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

Westbury Square Demolition

When Ira Berne developed the Westbury subdivision in the 1950s he envisioned a European Square in the center of the neighborhood and set aside a large triangle of property. This became the well-known shopping destination of Westbury Square. WCC Director Cindy Chapman noted, "It can be hard to visualize now, but when Westbury Square was built in the 1960's, it was a walkable and vibrant European-style shopping center with specialty shops and restaurants similar to today's popular Highland Village or the Rice Village shopping areas. Westbury Square was hugely popular and drew shoppers from across Houston and beyond." When Houston's economy faltered in the 1980s and indoor malls proliferated, Westbury Square's shops began to close. The property was eventually sold in the early 90s and declined into a state of dilapidated buildings. Conditions had declined to the point that in 2008 the city mandated that two buildings either had to be repaired or demolished. After years of legal battles, demolition of two of the buildings began in February of 2014.

The Westbury Civic Club and the entire Westbury community have been frustrated for years about the condition of these neglected buildings. Al Antonini, the owner of the property, and Becky Edmondson, WCC President, have had many discussions about Westbury Square. Becky spoke to Al after the demolition and asked him how he felt. He said "It was bittersweet: bitter to see the demise of an icon, but sweet to see the starting of a rebirth of what will become a new icon for Westbury." When asked about future plans for the site, Mr. Antonini said he was looking at several possible joint venture partnerships to redevelop the site. However, he said that there were no firm plans.

Councilmember Larry Green said " In past years, Westbury Square was the commercial anchor of the Westbury community. Now that demolition has occurred, we hope to regain this once vibrant commercial node and transform it into an exciting commercial center of commerce filled with quality retail development."

We thank CM Larry Green, Mayor Parker, the city Legal Department, and the many people in the city who have steadfastly pursued this problem for years. Westbury Square faces a major thoroughfare in a stable neighborhood. Our residents are eager to have more options.



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Greenspace Committee Hard At Work

Greenspace Committee

Members of the Greenspace committee (Hazel Potvin, Karen Schubert, Cindy Chapman, Becky Edmondson) met with Maintenance and Beautification director Carlos Mata this past month to make plans for the year.

Trees: Over the past several years the trees have been trimmed on Hillcroft, W. Bellfort and Chimney Rock. This year we are focusing on W. Airport. We would like to mulch all the existing trees again on Hillcroft. Through an Exxon Mobil grant earned by the Potvins more trees are going to be planted on W. Bellfort. Thank you to the Potvins.

Subdivision sign markers: The signs are being cleaned up and some plant materials are being removed and some are being added. Without irrigation, maintaining good looking plants is a challenge.

Rain Garden on Hillcroft: A big thanks to Bill Schubert and Allen Potvin who cleared the big weeds and grasses out of the rain garden and removed them. Bill put up stakes because the garden is lush with bluebonnets and they are out in the grass up the esplanade. Another big thank you goes to Donna Roberts for removing the gold-erod and moving it out for heavy trash pickup.

Wildflower Beds on Hillcroft: New signs and boundary barriers have been installed around the wildflower area to keep the flowers from being mowed at the wrong time of year.

Esplanade Beautification on W. Airport

The city owns the esplanades (medians) on major roads here in Westbury; however, the city basically just mows the grass. With approval by the city, the WCC hires contractors to make our city esplanades look nicer. For example, the trees and shrubs on our esplanades had gotten shaggy and badly needed trimming. Since there are about 7 MILES of city esplanades here in Westbury and we have a limited budget to work with, the WCC decided to split the trimming work over several years so that it could be paid for within our budget restraints. West Bellfort was done 2 years ago and Chimney Rock last year. This year Santoyo Tree Company trimmed the trees and shrubs along the entire stretch of West Airport in Westbury. The plan is to continue trimming trees and shrubs every year on a rotating basis so that our trees and shrubs continue to look nice.



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Johnston Middle School Traffic Safety Plan

In response to a safety audit at Johnston Middle School, the City of Houston, HISD, and HPD have partnered to develop an updated safety plan for this school. The location was investigated and reviewed during school hours to see what is occurring during this timeframe. Signage was posted in early February with a two week educational period. Ticketing of violators began on February 24. This is a "zero tolerance zone," meaning that anyone in violation will be ticketed first and then asked to move.



No Left Turn School Days 7:30-8:30AM and 3:00-4:30PM



No Parking or Standing Tow Away Zone



No Parking School Days 7:30-8:30AM and 3:00-4:30PM; Student Loading & Unloading Only Tow Away Zone



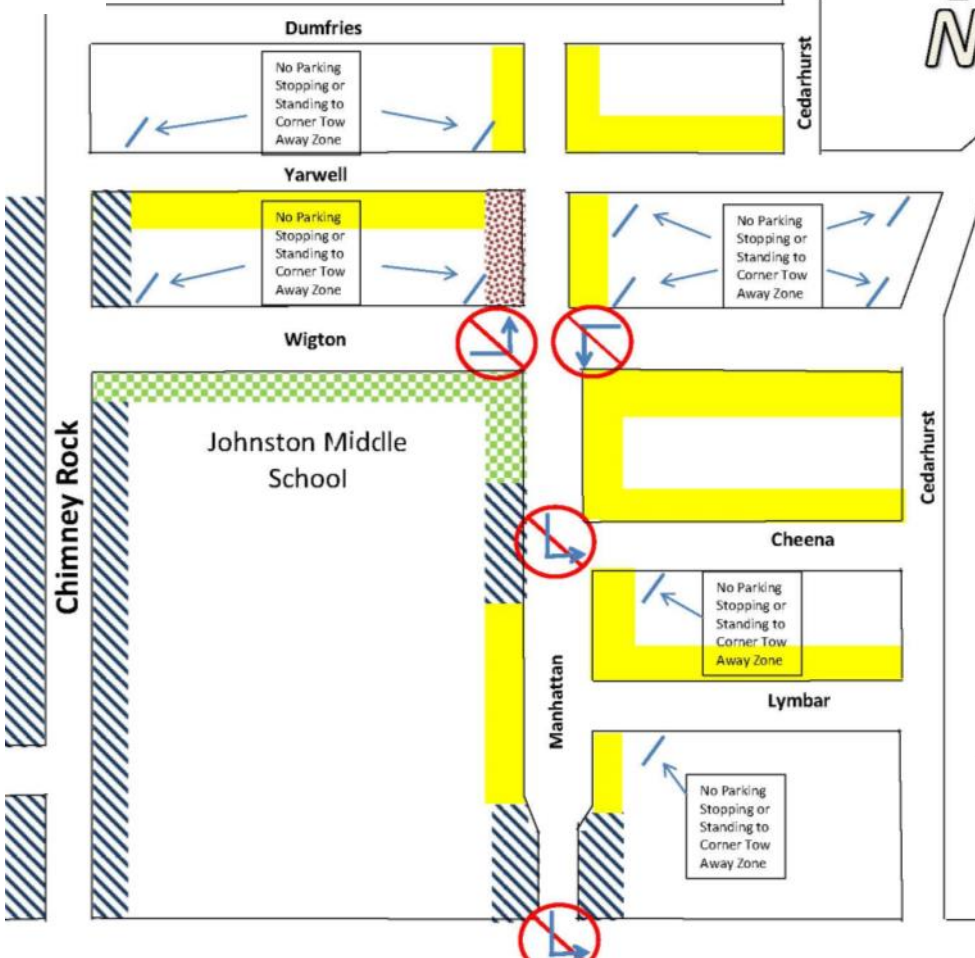
No Parking Stopping or Standing School Days 7:30-8:30AM and 3:00-4:30PM Tow Away Zone



No Parking Stopping or Standing School Days 7:30AM to 4:30PM Tow Away Zone



No Parking Stopping or Standing to Corner Tow Away Zone



Examples of Signs that will be posted around Johnston Middle School:



If you have any questions, please contact the following:

Johnston Middle School
713-726-3616
City of Houston Traffic Hotline
832-395-3000
District C Councilmember, Ellen Cohen
832-393-3004

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Area School Updates

Johnston Traffic Plan & Westbury

The safety audit at Johnston Middle School while needed and necessary has the possibility to negatively impact Westbury residents south of Willowbend near Johnston. WCC Directors Jennifer Edmondson and Cindy Chapman had a meeting with JMS Principal Wenden Sanders. Barbara Hite from District K joined the meeting to represent Larry Green and District K. The WCC and District K are working with the City of Houston traffic management to evaluate the traffic issues during school hours along Mahanattan and Creekend in Westbury 2. The photo below shows traffic on Manhattan between Creekbend and Willowbend on a typical afternoon. This photo was taken before the safety implantation. The WCC has concerns that the situation will worsen as parking becomes more limited north of Willowbend. The City needs your input. If you live in this area and have concerns, please contact the WCC office at 713-723-5437 or District K at 832-393-3016.



Parker Elementary Updates

***Update on the New School building:** During the last week of February, the architects will meet with the school project group for 2 days to kickoff the schematic design phase in a “group design charette”. For the first time, the group will see and comment on possible designs for the new school building and how the school could be situated on the site. Then HISD plans to hold several public meetings to get comments from parents and the community. Currently it is expected that the community meetings will be held in either April or May, before the end of the school year. If construction starts during the summer of 2015, then the new Parker Elementary school building will be completed in 2017.

***Kindergarten and PreK Class Added:** Parker Elementary will be adding one more additional pre-K class and one additional Kindergarten class for the 2014-2015 school year.

Johnston Middle School Updates

***New Track Lighting:** Approximately \$45,000 in athletic lighting was donated to JMS by Rice University. JMS does not currently have any lights installed on the athletic fields.

***Track Replacement:** The District is working on funding to pave a new track at JMS. The old track was deemed a safety hazard and removed.

***Sinfonia Orchestra—**Additional funding is still needed for the trip to Carnegie Hall. Deadline for donations is April 4. Contact Jennifer Martin at johnstonorches-tra@gmail.com for more info.

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Dual Language Comes to Westbury

Anderson Elementary to Add Dual Language Program

Starting next year, Anderson Elementary will start an optional “dual language” program for kindergarten students. Ever year afterward, another class level will be added until the dual language program will be available to all grades at Anderson Elementary. Anderson is one of 14 elementary schools selected by HISD to obtain a dual language program next year.

Here is additional information provided by HISD and Anderson Elementary:

All participating students receive instruction in language arts and content subjects primarily in Spanish in the early grades (K-2) with a grade specific amount of English as a Second Language/English Language Development instruction incorporated daily. English instruction is gradually increased through the grade levels (K-2) and by third grade instruction is presented in a 50% Spanish/50% English format. In grade five, instruction is delivered through a 50% Spanish/50% English mix. In grades 4-5 the language of instruction is determined by content area. In fourth grade language arts, reading and mathematics are taught in Spanish and Science, Social Studies, and English literature are taught in English. In fifth grade language arts, reading, mathematics, and science and taught in English and Social

Studies and Spanish literature are taught in Spanish.

How will my child learn in another language?

In the early grades, Dual Language teachers realize that their students will not understand everything they say. Therefore, teachers use body language, visuals, manipulatives, exaggerated facial expressions, and expressive intonation to communicate their meaning. To draw students into using the language, teachers use songs, useful phrases, chants, rhymes and carefully structure the day with familiar routines. In Kindergarten it is common for native English speakers to speak English with their peers and when responding to their teacher. As students move through the program, English speakers naturally use more Spanish and Spanish speakers use more English. All students are learning a second language, so they not only learn language and content from their teachers but also from each other.

What is the role of a parent in a Dual Language Program?

Parents quite often feel some anxiety about having their child educated in a language, which they themselves do not speak. They often worry about not being able to help with homework, or about not understanding their child’s difficulties. Immersion teachers know that the children often come from monolingual homes and consider this when assigning homework. English dominant parents should expect some

level of frustration to be expressed by their child. The calm support of parents facilitates the adjustment to a new language and instructional environment. It is important to realize that immersion provides a scholastic experience in Spanish. To attain a higher level of bilingualism, parents should look for Spanish language experiences outside of school: Spanish television, radio, films, sports activities, and summer camps are among the many possibilities.

The three most effective ways that a parent can prepare their child to succeed in school are:

- *reading together
- *talking together
- *answering your child’s questions about language.

Reading aloud with your child in your native language every day is very important. It creates an interest in books, it enlarges your child’s vocabulary and it broadens his/her experience. Visits to the zoo, shopping center, sports events, watching TV, cooking together and family chores all provide occasions for talking together. Research clearly demonstrates that second language acquisition is dependent upon the first language development. When you strengthen your child’s native language, he/she becomes more successful in learning the second language.

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Crime/Security

Sergeant Coming to Westbury Patrol in 2014

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

Crime Alert

There have been a rash of home and vehicle break-ins in neighborhoods near Westbury. Please be alert to strangers in the neighborhood or suspicious vehicles. Call the Precinct 5 dispatch number to report anything that seems suspicious. Many of these crimes involve people knocking on doors to see if anyone is home and then going around to the back to break in. Thefts from vehicles continue to occur. Do not leave anything of value in your car! Robberies have also occurred at area gas stations so again be alert.

Spring Health Fair

On Saturday, March 8 at Fondren Middle School from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Free fun for the whole family. There will be free yoga & fitness demonstrations, chair massages, health screenings, and vaccinations (bring shot record). Sponsored by US Congressman Al Green, Brays Oaks Management District, Christus Mobile Clinic, ECHOS, Westbury Community Hospital, and Barry Sigman RMMassage. Fondren Middle School is located at 6333 S Braeswood.



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

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	6	3	0	0	9
Theft	5	5	6	2	18
Auto Theft	0	3	0	0	3
Robbery	1	3	3	0	7
Assault	0	0	0	1	1
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	12	14	9	3	38

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

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 2/18/14)

Block	Street	Crime
5200	Arboles	Theft
6000	Bellfort	Theft
11500	Braewick	Burglary
11600	Braewick	Burglary
11500	Burdine	Robbery
5000	Creekbend	Burglary
5500	Effingham	Burglary
5700	Ettrick	Burglary
5000	Kingfisher	Burglary
5200	Kingfisher	Theft
11900	Landsdowne	Theft
5600	Ludington	Theft

Westbury HPD Storefront
713-726-7126

WAP Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666

Water Heaters:
Regular & Tankless

Disposals

Water Lines

Gas Lines

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Westbury Area News

Bluebonnets in Westbury

It is always fun to be surprised while driving through Westbury in March and early April to come upon a nice stand of blue bonnets, our state flower. The community garden has had lush bluebonnets growing in the butterfly garden in the 12500 block of Dunlap.

This year, Westbury should have bluebonnets in two locations on the Hillcroft esplanade. Look for them just south of W. Bellfort where Karen and Bill Schubert have tended a wildflower area. The space is roped off to protect it from city mowing. The other location is further south on Hillcroft near Burlinghall in what is known as the Rain Garden. The garden has been cleaned by some retired Westbury residents and will soon display bluebonnets in it and also on the esplanade. Share your Westbury bluebonnet pictures with us on Facebook.

"The Adventures of Robin Hood" at Company OnStage

by Michele Vacca, Directed by Stacy A. Bakri
February 22 – March 15, 2014

Performances will be held on Saturdays at 11:00am and 1:30pm. Tickets are \$10 each.

Seating is reserved. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call [713-726-1219](tel:713-726-1219) to purchase tickets or make reservations.

Westbury Meet & Eat

Come out to Teotihuacan Mexican Restaurant at 6579 W. Bellfort every 1st Thursday of the month to meet Westbury residents. This event is open to anyone who lives in Westbury. Ask for the Westbury group. Happy Hour will be extended for the time we are there. Over 75 people came to the February Meet & Eat.

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

April Meet & Eat: Thurs, April 3 @ 6PM

Variance Request for 5415 West Airport

In January 2014, signs went up at the convenience store located at 5415 West Airport (corner of Chimney Rock and West Airport) announcing a Variance Hearing to be held in February. The WCC office obtained a copy of the variance request application and carefully reviewed the application. This particular site has some quirky historical issues which warranted a close examination of the application. After a thorough review of the submitted materials, the WCC contacted the Planning Department and the office of District K Larry Green to let them know that the WCC had several concerns regarding the application. In particular, although the application was for a canopy over the fuel pumps, there was a side item which proposed to modify the building setback line from the existing 35 feet from West Airport (consistent with all the homes) to a lesser setback distance of 25 feet. The fuel pump canopy needed a variance whether the building line setback was 35 feet or 25 feet, so there was no apparent purpose to this proposed change. The variance hearing was delayed for 2 weeks to allow the applicant to review the WCC comments and concerns. As a result, the applicant opted to modify the variance request.

Remodeling your home? Adding On? Do you know your deed restrictions?

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

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



Kroger Gas Now Open!

The new gas pumps located behind the Kroger on W. Bellfort are now open. This is a very exciting addition to one of our closest grocery stores!

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2014 Dues/Assessments

Mission of the WCC

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

ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2

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

Benefits of Paying Your Dues

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

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

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

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



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CRIER.COM

2014 Westbury Civic Club Dues

*Please send this form in with your payment

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

**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
westburyccl@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		\$

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Or visit my web site at:

www.Larrymercer.net



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CM Larry Green Appointed Chair of City's Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure Committee

Houston City Council Member Larry V. Green, representing District K, has been appointed chairperson of City Council's Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure Committee (TTI) by Mayor Annise Parker.

The TTI Committee oversees the City's Information Technology, General Services, and Public Works and Engineering Departments, as well as the Rebuild Houston streets and drainage and water resources and conservation projects. In addition, the TTI Committee oversees the interest of the City of Houston relative to the Harris County Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO), and the Port of Houston Authority. The TTI Committee oversees revenues and expenditures garnered from the City's General Fund, Enterprise Funds and Special Revenue Funds.

For more information about the TTI Committee, e-mail Donald Perkins at donald.perkins@houstontx.gov.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Every year the Westbury Civic Club prepares a list of Westbury issues for the city to look at when the city prepares its plans for capital spending. This list is then formally presented to the city during a public CIP meeting. The WCC works closely with the office of District K Councilmember Larry Green to prepare for this public meeting, so that his office is aware in advance of what our requests will be. The WCC also strives to bring a large group of supporters to the CIP meeting to demonstrate to the various city department heads that our residents care about these issues.

The District K CIP meeting was held on February 27 at the Fountain of Praise church on Hillcroft.

The highest priority is the flooding problem that some of our homes were challenged with last year. If your home has flooded (at any time in the past), please fill out the form on page 19 and get it to the WCC office by March 13. This will help us document the flooding problems here in Westbury.

Street repairs are another major topic of concern. We continue to request repairs for Willowbend, Hillcroft, and Ludington. Please let us know if there are specific street locations that you want to report for repair. Provide the street name and exact street address.

Waterline replacements continue to be a main focus. We continue to reiterate our support to replace waterlines which have had frequent breakages, such as on Oasis & Cartagena. We also will request projects for our parks and public spaces.

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Westbury History Project

To commemorate our 60th anniversary we are hoping to preserve our history. Here are some questions that might help you create your Westbury history. We hope to create a book of Westbury's history. We have 58 years of Criers, but we'd like to have personal stories, too. If you'd like to be included please send your story to the WCC office. You can do it by email or regular mail or just drop it at the office. If you have pictures of the early days we can scan and return them.

*What is your name and address?

*How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

*How did you come to choose Westbury?

*What did you pay for your house?

*Who have been our neighbors through the years?

*What schools did your children attend?

*What do you like best about the neighborhood?

*How did you decorate the house for holidays?

*What has changed the most in Westbury since you moved here?

*What did you do during Hurricanes Carla, Allison, Rita, Ike?

*What are your memories of Westbury Square?

*Where did you attend church?

****Add more pages if needed.



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Help Save the 7 Acre Site of the WCG

Save the 7-Acre Site of the Westbury Community Garden

Thank you to all of our donors thus far. We have faith that this project is worth doing -- to protect this 7-acres of land as a public greenspace instead of yet another apartment complex built in southwest Houston. Donations received so far have totaled almost \$48,000. This is fantastic news and we are so grateful to everyone who made a donation. We still have a lot of money to raise, and we need your support to be able to save this land. Donations have ranged from \$10 up to \$5,000.

To make donations by check, make the check payable to "WAIC – Land Acquisition", and then clip the donation form and mail it to the address indicated. To make a donation by PayPal or credit card, go to the WCC website (www.westburycrier.com) and click on the blue button "DONATE NOW – Secure donations through Network for Good".

Please donate today. Donations are tax-deductible.

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

Donations by Credit Card: Make donations online using our fundraising service "Network for Good" using this link or by going to the Westbury Civic Club website www.westburycrier.org and clicking on the DONATE NOW button. Your receipt will be emailed from Network for Good. <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/SaveWestburyCommunityGarden>

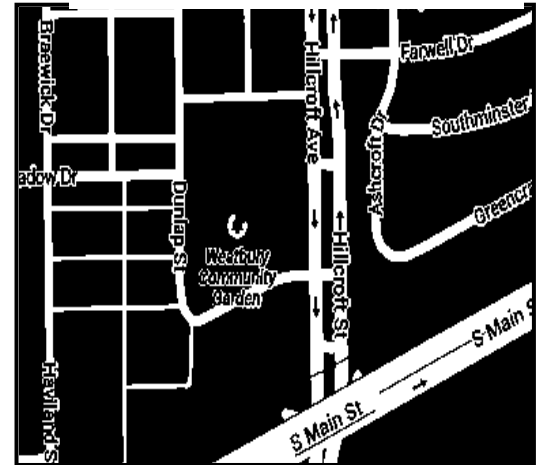
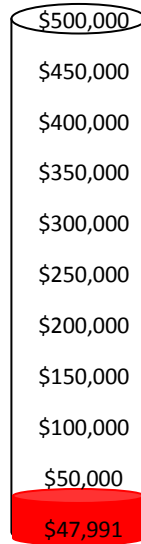


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Attached is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____	Donations of any amount (small or large) are welcomed and appreciated!	
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Address:	Contributor	\$100
Email:	Sustainer	\$250
Mailing Address for Donation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

Checks should be made payable to WAIC – Westbury Land Acquisition
Send donations to the Westbury Civic Club, 5322 W. Bellfort St., Suite 107, Houston, TX 77035

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Keep Westbury Beautiful

Keep Westbury Beautiful Day

April 5th is Keep Houston Beautiful day and we will be having our own **Keep Westbury Beautiful** day as part of **Keep District K Beautiful** day! Becky Edmondson is serving as Houston Clean City Commissioner on the KHB board as the District K representative. She had this to say about the upcoming work day: "KHB is celebrating 35 years of helping make Houston a cleaner, greener and more livable city. Westbury's partnership with KHB over the years has taken our beautification efforts from "Working on Westbury" to "Keep Westbury Beautiful". Without the support of KHB our parks and esplanades would not look like they do today nor would the Westbury Community Garden probably even exist. We owe them a great deal of thanks."



Keep Westbury Beautiful will focus on **Hager Park**. We will meet on April 5, at 9AM near the pavilion. Hager Park is the park next to Anderson Elementary which could really benefit from some beautification. Our plans include graffiti abatement, trash pickup, mulching and tree planting. Other locations may be added if we have volunteers to lead other teams. Please email our Volunteer/event coordinator Stephanie Lester at westburystephanie@gmail.com. Check Facebook, WestburyHouston, or westburycrier.com for more details closer to the event date.

Garden Beds Available

Have you been thinking about joining the Westbury Community Garden? Good news. There are currently 5 beds available for lease. We look forward to new gardeners joining this wonderful community. If you have ever wanted to know how to grow food sustainably, then there is no better place in Houston to do so. Our soil is healthy. Our gardeners are knowledgeable, and it is wonderful eating your own homegrown veggies. Homegrown food tastes great because it is fresh, plus you can grow varieties that are not commonly offered in stores.

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

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

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Address	Price	On Market	Status
2828 Bluebonnet 3 beds, 2 baths, 2011 sq. ft.	\$384,000 \$361 / S.F.	47 days	SALE
13622 Wilshire Dr 3 beds, 3 baths, 1612 sq. ft.	\$160,000 \$99 / S.F.	128 days	SALE
4517 Waycross 3 beds, 2 baths, 1657 sq. ft.	\$229,900 \$137 / S.F.	44 days	ON SALE
4926 Briarwood Dr 3 beds, 2 baths, 1787 sq. ft.	\$214,900 \$119 / S.F.	3 days	ON SALE
81 sq. ft.	\$227,000 \$196 / S.F.	44 days	ON SALE
82 sq. ft.	\$240,000 \$180 / S.F.	36 days	ON SALE
82 sq. ft.	\$160,000 \$160 / S.F.		SALE



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2014 PUBLIC INPUT
DRAFT '5+5 Year' ReBuild Houston Plan
 FY 2015 - FY 2024



Contact Information:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Houston, TX _____ (zip code)

Optional Contact Information:

Phone: () - _____
 E-mail: _____
 Neighborhood: _____

Storm Drainage Input

- 1) Has your home ever flooded? Yes No If Yes, which year(s)? _____
 Did you report this flooding to 3-1-1? Yes No
 Do you have Flood Insurance? Yes No
- 2) Has flooding ever made local streets in your neighborhood impassable? Yes No
 Has flooding ever made major roads (thoroughfares) in your area impassable? Yes No
 If yes, which one(s)? _____
 Did you report this flooding to 3-1-1? Yes No

Street & Traffic Input

- 3) How satisfied are you with the condition of our City streets?
 Very satisfied Satisfied Unsatisfied Very unsatisfied
- 4) In your opinion, name the City's street (including limits) that is in the worst condition: _____
- 5) Other observations/concerns: _____



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DRAFT FY 2015 - FY 2024 '5+5 Year' Plan
Public Input Period Ends March 16, 2014

The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the above information will be used by the Department of Public Works and Engineering to perform city-wide need prioritization. Requests for routine maintenance activities such as filling potholes, replacing missing signs, or repairing broken inlets should to be submitted to 3-1-1 to initiate corrective action.

_____, 2014
 Signature Date

Has Your House Flooded?

The WCC is aware that some homes in Westbury have flooded – either last spring or in the past. It is very IMPORTANT that the city gets information about which homes in Westbury have flooded. The WCC wants the city to allocate money to study and to fix the problem, but we need your help to document where the flooding has occurred and how many homes that have been affected. The city says that its records do not indicate any flooding problems in Westbury.

If you have ever had water in your home, then please fill out the “2014 Public Input” form to the left and take the completed form to the WCC office. You can put it in the office door drop slot, no later than March 13 so we can get it to the city before the city deadline.

Are you interested in volunteering on the WCC Board? The Director of Flood & Infrastructure position is vacant, apply today!

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Membership Committee Report By Kate Wilson

Thanks to a bunch of volunteers (some of whom don't even live in Westbury!), we stuffed, sealed, sorted, and mailed out over 4,300 annual dues notices in February. On February 6, the Portable Projects group gave up their project time to assist in stuffing and sealing envelopes. The following Monday, many of them returned, along with more volunteers, to finish the task. The Westbury members who assisted were Genie Mitchell, Hazel Potvin, Janie Schexnayder, Pamela Cook, Betty Romano, Barbara Rice, and Pat Metcalf. Non-Westbury residents who helped were Cindi Thiel, Alma Kelley, Lynn Dahlberg, Mayra Garza, and Louisa Jiminez. A special thanks goes to Pat Metcalf who delivered everything to the main post office downtown. You all are great!



CARE in Westbury

In the February issue of The Crier, a new Westbury group called CARE was announced. From the Crier, you know that we have a private group on Nextdoor.com that everyone is welcome to join. However, if you do not join Nextdoor.com but still have an interest in helping animals in Westbury we would love to have you join our efforts.

CARE, Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts, is a group started by a Westbury resident and comprised of primarily Westbury volunteers. The group was formed to fill a need in the community made evident by the number of lost, found, stray, and wandering animals in our wonderful neighborhood. CARE is made up of five committees that are working together to make a difference in our neighborhood. The committees are Foster & Transportation; Trap Neuter Release for Cats; Outreach & Education; Lost & Found Pets; and Event Planning. Contact the group's founder, Kerry Adams (kerryadamsart@yahoo.com) if you would like to join their efforts.

If you do not have the time to join but want to be a part of helping, there are other ways you can participate. For example, join the fundraising and awareness events as they are announced. Donate new or used items to CARE. We need dog and cat crates or carriers, feral cat traps, pet food, collars, leashes, pet toys, etc.

JACKIE ZEHL & TERESA LEWIS

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9414 Brooding Oak 4/2/2
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5427 Kingfisher 3/2/2
\$289,900



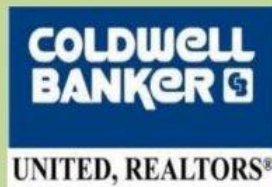
5622 Rutherglenn 4/2
+ Gameroom + Bonus Room



5422 Darnell 3/2/2 \$329,900



4311 Lemac 3/2/2 +Pool
\$464,750



Recently Sold

5735 Rutherglenn
5331 Darnell
5831 Braesheather
6110 Wigton
5443 Valkeith

Willow Waterhole New & Events

The 2nd Annual Music Fest at the Willow Waterhole will be held on April 12 from 11AM to 9PM. This event was loads of fun last year and everyone had a great time. There will be live music and food/drinks available for purchase. Come enjoy TEN hours of FREE live music in a relaxing setting. Bring the whole family and all your friends! Bring chairs and blankets. Parking will be off Dryad behind WHS next to Westbury Little League fields. Overflow parking at WHS. To learn more visit www.wgc.org.

Professional Artists:

- *Gisele & Friends (Latin Band with beautiful vocals)
- *Kelly Dean Band (Smooth Jazz & Vocal 5 Piece Band)
- *Kyle Turner (5 piece w/top Texas Tenor sax)
- *Texas Brass Band (New Orleans style Jazz w/Texas flair)
- *Warren Sneed Band (Traditional Jazz led by HSPVA Instructor)
- *Luther & the Healers (Top Texas Blues Band)
- *Mark Dini (Fusion w/Pop Rock & Jazz Mix)

Area Schools:

- *Parker Elementary, Johnston Middle School, Westbury High School, HSPVA



Where is the Willow Waterhole?



BARBED WIRE FENCE - UPDATE

The Flood Control District recently replaced sections of the barbed wire fence, which was installed along the eastern and southwestern boundaries of the 15-acre Willow Waterhole Prairie Management Area's North Sector in December. The barbed wire fencing was replaced with smooth wire in the following areas:

- ⇒ The sections of fence located near residents' properties from the District's property line to the south bank of the Beren Ditch
- ⇒ On the fence sections located directly adjacent to the pedestrian gate at the end of Windwood Drive

BACKGROUND: The fencing was installed to secure and protect the area – and to serve as a deterrent - because there have been unauthorized vehicular access and illegal dumping activities at the site. The incidences of dumping are continuous and ongoing and have occurred throughout the 15-acre Prairie Management Area, as well as the entire Willow Waterhole Compartment 3 site. These activities, and other unauthorized uses, present a threat to the endangered plant species, *Hymenoxys texana* or Texas prairie dawn and sensitive coastal prairie habitat, which the Flood Control District is required by law (Endangered Species Act (ESA)) to protect, conserve and enhance. The fence is meant to prevent further dumping activity in the protected prairie area and vehicular access across a pipeline easement on the property. Also, portions of the fence are adjacent to an area that will soon be under construction (estimated mid-2014), therefore reinforcing the need for the Flood Control District to secure and protect the Prairie Management Area. Construction activities, and other unauthorized uses, present a threat to the Prairie Management Area.

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Coming Soon at the “Westbury Centerette”

The “Westbury Centerette” property is a collection of boarded up buildings near the Autozone and Pizza Hut on about 3 acres of land at the northeast corner of Chimney Rock and West Bellfort. Most of these commercial buildings have been vacant for years. These vacant buildings detract from the appearance of our community and give a negative impression to those who are passing through Westbury.

A new owner purchased the land in 2013 and has been seeking a national retailer for the site. Although a lease has not yet been signed, we are excited to let you know that a well-regarded retailer with over 300 locations nationwide is interested in leasing this prominent location in Westbury for multi-million dollar, Class-A facility that would be about 35,000 square feet in size. If this deal goes through, then the current buildings

would be demolished to make way for the new facility.

We at the WCC have long believed that we are a GREAT neighborhood which has gotten little attention from national retailers. If one national retailer opts to locate here in Westbury, then this will entice other local and national retailers to take a closer look at opportunities in our part of town. We believe, and studies substantiate, that residents in southwest Houston spend millions of dollars at businesses in other parts of town. Why? We have a shortage of choices available to us here in Westbury and in southwest Houston.

The property owner and his retail representative have been in contact with the WCC, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC), and the Brays Oaks Management

District regarding the preliminary plans for the “Westbury Centerette” property. Change is coming, and we are hopeful that these open dialogues will ease stresses related to the transition.



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Trash Violations Explained

WCC Directors Jennifer Edmondson and Cindy Chapman attended a Saturday morning class on February 8th sponsored by District K Councilmember Larry Green and the Solid Waste Department to discuss ways to reduce dumping and trash problems here in District K.

Ed Zilton, Deputy Manager of the S. Post Oak Environmental Center, noted that the city spends 1 million dollars every year to clean up illegal dumping. The city trash truck drivers report illegal dumping that they notice while on their routes. If the Solid Waste Department (SWD) receives a complaint about illegal dumping, then it is investigated by the Department of Neighborhoods and an appropriate cleanup method is determined before SWD will clean the site.

Mayra Hypolite, Chief Inspector for the Department of Neighborhoods(DoN), discussed problems caused by trash violations. Trash violations can create dangerous situations and they can create a sense that neighbors don't care about their community. She reviewed some of the common problems related to weekly and monthly trash collection and then answered questions.

Ms. Hypolite emphasized that the city can and DOES issue tickets for trash violations. The tickets are just like tickets written by the police department. If a violator does not pay, then an arrest warrant can be issued. She also noted that a case is closed after a ticket has been written. If a violation happens again, then it needs to be reported to 311 again. Repeat as needed. Unfortunately, some violators need to receive multiple tickets before they decide to obey the law. A fine for trash violations is not less than \$50 for a first violation nor more than \$2,000. A subsequent violation is not less than \$250 nor more than \$2,000.



Common Issues related to Trash:

- * Location: Place trash for weekly or monthly collection at the curb (between sidewalk and street), and do not block the sidewalk.
- * Timing: Follow the rules on when you are allowed to place trash at the curb AND when to remove trash containers from the curb.
- * Trash containers should be stored away from the public view. If it can be seen from the road, then it is in violation. If the configuration of a house causes an issue, then call 311 and ask for a SWD representative to visit your house to discuss where to store your trash container.

- * If a resident is not physically able to move a trash can to/from the street, then call 311 and ask the SWD to review the situation. A resident can apply to have the trash collection driver move the trash container to and from the street.
- * Volume and type of trash. There is a maximum volume of heavy trash that will be collected. Also there are volume or number limits for certain types of trash, for example – tires.
- * Contractors are required to haul off trash that results from their activity.
- * Biodegradable bags for yard waste do not handle heat or humidity well for long periods, so do not store them in your garage. The city has asked the

manufacturers to revise the bag thickness and type of resin to make the biodegradable bags stronger, but there are still some of the older bags on store shelves.



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