



Westbury Crier

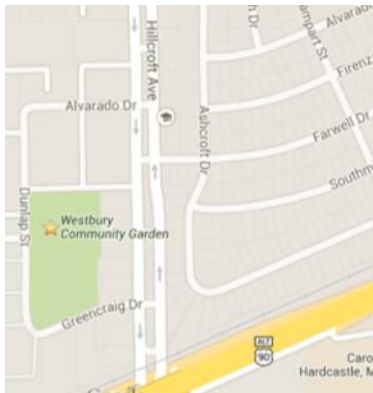
VOLUME 60, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2015



Westbury Community Garden 5th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, March 28, 11AM—2PM
12581 Dunlap (see directions to left)



WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

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

FREE Activities Include:

- *garden tours
- *children's activities
- *straw hat contest
- *educational booths
- *food trucks

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Coffee With the Constables

The WCC outreach program, "Coffee with the Constables" is back! It allows Westbury residents to meet the constables who provide security in Westbury. The next coffee will be in Westbury 1 at the home of Andy & Meg Horner at **5223 Kinglet** on Wednesday, March 11, from 7:30AM to 9AM. Stop by and say hello!



Wed., March 11 @ 7:30AM

CITY OF HOUSTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN MEETING : March 5

District K Meeting is March 5 from 6:30-8PM at Fondren Middle School

We would like to have a LARGE crowd from Westbury at the District K meeting. Do you want better streets? Do you want a new library? Do you want a new community center? Do you want improvements made to Hager Park? This is YOUR opportunity to tell the City what YOU want.

Spring White Elephant Sale: May 9
Sign up for your space starting April 1*
See details on pgs 18-19.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11 : Keep Westbury Beautiful Workday Make sure to check the next Crier for all the details.

April 25: Music Fest at Willow Waterhole See page 20.

April 25: Friends of Westbury High School Gala, see page 11.

H	HEAVY TRASH for MARCH is	T
E	TREE WASTE ONLY. Pick-up for ALL of Westbury is	R
A	Thursday, MARCH 12 DO NOT PLACE TREE WASTE ON CURB UNTIL MARCH 7	A
V	More info, see page 5	S
4		H

Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman	wccvp@westburycrier.com
Secretary	Mark Knoblauch	
Treasurer	David Cummins	westburytreasurer@gmail.com

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Community Relations	Cindy Chapman	wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com
Deed Restrictions	Jennifer Edmondson	wccoffice@westburycrier.com
Flood Control & Infrastructure	Jeff Benavides	
Greenspace Beautification	Carlos Mata	
Membership	Kate Wilson	
Security	Leslee Cross	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Stephanie Lester	westburystephanie@gmail.com

Section Directors

Westbury 1	VACANT	
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Westbury 3	Robert Montgomery	rmontgomery002@comcast.net
Westbury 3	Charlsey Porcarello	charlsey@swbell.net
Westbury 4	Eugene Sirls	
Westbury 4	Amanda Bess	
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	Heath Campbell	
Westbury South	Robert Capps	
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	
Parkwest 2	Jeffrey Weiss	jhweiss@yahoo.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)

NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appointment

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

Report Graffiti—Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) www.braysoaksmd.org
Use "Report A Problem"

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

Forestry Department, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Heavy Trash Violations and Questions, Neighborhood Nuisances, Parking Management, Solid Waste - Trash and Recycling, School Crossing Light Repairs, Water Main Break, and Sewer Repair, etc.

Stay connected!

Are you one of the 1,249 likes on our Facebook page, Westbury Houston?

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Advertising: Call 713-723-5437 or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

President's Message

My president's message is always written a few weeks before the end of the month, so as I write this March message, I am still feeling the glow and love of Valentine's Day. The disappointed and annoyed president who wrote February's message is much happier this month. As my dad would say "Progress is being made".

The contract for the 125 townhomes at Westbury Square has fallen through, but demolition permits have been applied for and the dilapidated burned out building should be down "shortly".

Some progress was made on Westbury High School (WHS) and the HISD board voted to allocate up to \$8 million dollars for athletic fields and to shore up the oldest remaining building. It is a start, but not near what we were promised. I remain impressed with the WHS's administration team, the teachers I have met and especially with the students. These children, our children, deserve a better educational facility. I hope you will join in the fight for what is right for WHS.

On the Southern Crushed Concrete issue, the Administrative Judge ruled that two parties would be allowed to contest the air quality permit for the concrete batching operation and hopefully that will move along to finalization.

In 2000, I joined the WCC board as Section Director for Parkwest 2. Why? Because I hated how the Willowbend-Hillcroft entrance and esplanade into Westbury looked in comparison to Maplewood's across the street. In the past 14 years much work has been done on the esplanades: tree planting, watering, tree trimming, mulching, replacing the subdivisions markers, and planting around the markers. In 2000, Westbury applied for a matching grant through the city and added irrigation to the Chimney Rock-West Belfort esplanade. It is by far the prettiest corner in Westbury. I am so happy to announce that irrigation will be added to the Willowbend-Hillcroft esplanade sometime this month, thanks to a city matching grant. It is a reminder of the patience needed as it took 15 years to accomplish this goal.

And speaking of accomplishments, the Westbury Community garden will celebrate its 5th birthday on March 28th. I hope many of you will join in this celebration. To me it is tangible proof of what an awesome neighborhood Westbury truly is. It also proves the words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." We took an ugly 7 acres that sat unused for 30 years and created an oasis through hard work, sweat and, yes, even tears. You can read more about

this Westbury treasure in this month's *Crier*.

January left me really annoyed and disappointed, but February reminded me again of why it is so important to work for the common good. Much of what annoys us is out of our direct control and that means working with whatever system is in place to correct those things. Often these processes take a while. If you have a neighbor running a business, letting their property fall into disrepair or violating other deed restrictions or city ordinances, please email or write the WCC office and let us know how we can help your part of Westbury be the best it can be. Together we can and do make a difference.

Spring is here. Hope to see you at one of the many events or green venues happening around Westbury. It's a great time to visit the Westbury Community Garden, the Willow Waterhole, Westbury or Hager Park, or catch an activity at the Platou Center. There is even a coffee truck coming to Westbury Square!

Becky Edmondson

WCC Board Meeting
Wednesday,
March 18
7PM-9PM
Westbury Baptist

Board Notes : February 2015

- Sgt. Morin gave a security update
- The WCC board approved a motion to join the WHS PTO at the \$50 level as a corporate supporter and to donate \$200 in gift cards to WHS for use as prizes to reward students who attend tutorials on Saturday.
- HISD—Long discussion about the WHS bond construction project and the pending boundary change for Anderson and Tinsley Elementary.
- The board was encouraged to attend the District K Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting to be held on March 5 and to also send their concerns/ complaints to Infrastructure Director Jeff Benavides for him to consolidate in preparation for the CIP meeting.
- Green network of trails - directors Eugene Sirls and Mark Knoblauch volunteered to join a committee on the topic.
- The WCC board approved a motion to elect Meg Horner as Section Director for Westbury 1.
- Other topics: Westbury has been selected to be one of the showcase neighborhoods on a tour during the upcoming Neighborhoods USA Conference in May. Friends of WHS Gala will be April 25. The WCC White Elephant Garage Sale will be held on May 9. Houston General Plan. Southern Crushed Concrete. Upcoming 5th Birthday celebration for the Westbury Community Garden. Becky Edmondson was recognized by Texas Rep Borris Miles. General discussion about how to handle certain nuisance problems.
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

Platou Community Center

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

STRETCHING EXERCISE CLASS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 from 9-9:45AM

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



MsBEEHAVEN QUILTERS

Tuesdays from 10AM to 2PM

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



GAMES *BRIDGE TABLE ADDED!

Wednesdays, 10AM to 12PM

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

Westbury resident, Dennis Pickering will be on hand to help out beginners. Contact Dennis at denp@hps.com.



PORTABLE PROJECTS

Thursdays from 9:30AM-11:30AM

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

LINE DANCING

Mondays @ 12:30PM

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

Family Fun Day

Feb. 28

10AM-2PM

Fun, free family event with games and painting clay tiles, which will then be put in the kiln! Hope to see you there.

Openings for Groups, Activities, or Programs and more!

Openings in the evenings from 6-8PM for any type of adult programs, games, sewing, crafts, projects or fitness. Call the Platou Center for more info. 713-723-7107

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

A Weight Loss Support Group Tuesdays

5:45-7PM

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

Ping Pong Leagues

Adult league ping pong will be on Fridays from 11AM to 2PM. Child league on Wednesday evenings. Any age and skill level is welcome to compete. For any questions or more information, call Dan at 713-723-7107

After School Enrichment

Youths, ages 6 through 13, can register for After School Enrichment which provides guided activities, including time to do homework. Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 for more information.

Meyer Neighborhood Library

5005 W. Bellfort

Phone: 832-393-1840 / www.houstonlibrary.org

New & Improved Story Times!

Baby Story-time: Every Tuesday, 10:30-11:15am

Toddler Story-time: Every Wed. & Saturday at 10:30 AM

Children's Story-time: 3rd Saturday, with Faithful Paws, 1-2PM

Adult Mystery Book Club

Call the Meyer Library for more information.

Youth Arts & Crafts

Thursdays, 4:30 –5:30PM

Come by after school and enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts. Explore making collages, stencil art, painting, origami, making jewelry and much more! All ages welcome.

HOURS

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

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

What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar March 2015

Mon 2	Westbury High School PTO Meeting 7PM Library—11911 Chimney Rock
Thurs 5	District K Capital Improvement Project Meeting, 6:30PM Fondren Middle School See page 1 for more details
Thurs 5	Westbury Meet & Eat at Teotihuacan @ 6PM 6579 W Bellfort Open to all Westbury residents
Sat 7	Hispanic Parent Summit 8AM—1PM Anderson Elementart—5727 Ludington See page 7
Mon 9	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Platou Community Center— 11655 Chimney Rock
Tues 10	SWHouston 2000 Bi-Monthly Breakfast 7AM Topic— Fondren Middle School See page 13 for more info
Wed 11	Coffee with the Constables—5223 Kinglet 7:30AM For more details, see page 1
Mon 16-19	WCC Office Closed
Mon 16	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Wed 18	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30AM Salem Lutheran Church— 4930 W. Bellfort
Wed 18	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft
Sat 21	Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Tues 24	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building by Hobby Lobby
Sat 28	Westbury Community Garden 5th Birthday Celebration 11AM–2PM. 12581 Dunlap See page 1 for more details

Planning Calendar

April 1-Booths on Sale for Westbury Residents for WES

April 11 - Keep Westbury Beautiful Workday

April 25 - Music Fest @ Willow Waterhole

April 25 - Friends of WHS Gala

April 27 - Booths on sale to non-residents/groups

May 9 - White Elephant Sale

May 16 - Rain Date for White Elephant Sale



RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH CALENDAR



March 2015	
Thurs 5	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 12	Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 19	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

April 2015	
Thurs 2	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 16	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 30	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 be placed starting at 6PM the Friday before pick-up
- ♻️ **YARD WASTE** is not considered tree waste. It is collected on regular Thursday trash day
- ♻️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ♻️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers: **SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr 10785 SW Frwy / Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables.**
- ♻️ **Environmental Service Center - 11500 S. Post Oak**
Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM.
Accepts Hazardous Household & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com or www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

March	Tree Waste	June	Junk Waste
April	Junk Waste	July	Tree Waste
May	Tree Waste	August	Junk Waste

Zoning Boundaries for Tinsley & Anderson Elementary

Boundaries Changing

Residents of Westbury are zoned to six different elementary schools, but only Parker and Anderson are physically located in Westbury. Halpin Early Childhood Center and Tinsley Elementary are overcrowded and have a cap on attendance. The attendance cap means that new students who move into that zone during the year are not allowed to attend and must go to a school that has capacity available. HISD has proposed adjusting the boundaries between these two schools and Anderson Elementary.

The public and families at Halpin, Tinsley, and Anderson were invited to attend a meeting on February 19. Additionally, HISD Trustee Wanda Adams and representatives from HISD came to the Westbury SuperNeighborhood meeting on February 18 to discuss the proposed boundary changes. We thank Trustee Wanda Adams for making sure that we knew about these proposed boundary changes in time to make comments.

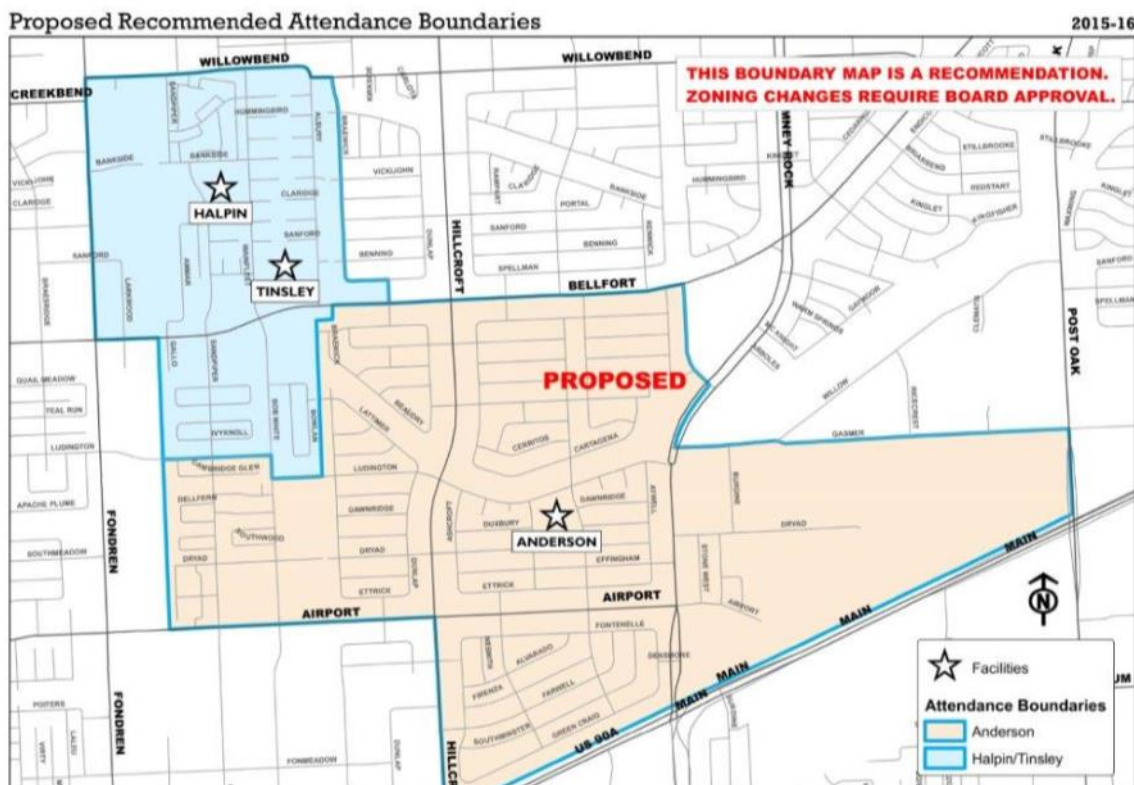
HISD had not realized that Parkwest 3 is part of the Westbury neighborhood. As we discussed the proposed boundary maps around the table, HISD agreed to revise the proposed boundary so that ALL Westbury residents who live between W. Bellfort and W. Airport and west of Hillcroft will again be zoned to Anderson Elementary School. The draft map is pending approval by the HISD board of Trustees on March 12.

Affected students who are already at Tinsley may continue to stay, but new students will go to Anderson.

We see this as a positive change for our community and for Anderson Elementary. Good neighborhood schools are important and can help build community spirit. Having more Westbury homes zoned to a Westbury school is great. During the meeting on February 18, we also discussed our concerns that the residents of Westbury 5West (west of Hillcroft and north of West Bellfort) are zoned to 3 different schools in a crazy pattern. HISD said that they will evaluate this concern, and agreed that it is less desirable for school zones to split neighborhood streets as in Westbury 5West.



Cindy Chapman, Drew Houlihan (HISD Chief Human Resources Office and past Principal of Parker Elementary), Anderson Principal Dr. Roz Vaughn, and HISD Trustee Wanda Adams



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Schools



Crawfish Festival+Shopping+Food+FUN WESTBURY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Please join us for food, shopping, and fun at Westbury Christian School on Saturday, March 21 from 10-2PM. Rain or shine!

All vendors welcome. WCS is located at 10420 Hillcroft St., Contact us at wcsptobazaar@gmail.com for further details.

Hispanic Parent Summit at Anderson Elementary

HISD District IX Trustee Wanda Adams and the HISD Family Learning Academy invite you to the Hispanic Parent Summit on Saturday, March 7, from 8AM to 1PM. This event will be held at Anderson Elementary at 5727 Ludington. This is a **FREE EVENT** featuring presentations on your role as a lead parent, English as a second language at home, your role in developing your child's literacy, and paying for college & more. There will also be a community resource fair. The keynote address will be from Raul Peimbert, Emmy Award winner and veteran Univision news anchor. Free raffles and giveaways. Free childcare.

Anderson Elementary Updates *Possible Future Magnet School Status*

Congratulations to Anderson Elementary for a great implementation of a new dual-language program this year. Four classrooms of kindergarten students are in the new dual-language program. Every student and every parent in the program has been provided FREE access to the well-known, online Rosetta Stone software, both in English and Spanish. The HISD language department was at Anderson in February and was very impressed with the high quality of instruction. The participating families are excited about the program. Next year the program will include both kindergarten and first grade students.

In other news, on the last Monday each month, a group of 20 – 25 men come to the school to read with students. This group is called "M.A.L.E" (Men And Literacy Evolving). If you would like to participate, contact the school at (713) 726-3600.

Additionally, Anderson has been nominated to become a magnet school and is evaluating possible magnet focus areas. The HISD Board would need to approve the school becoming a magnet school, but this possibility is very encouraging. Anderson has a great location in the heart of our great neighborhood, and has been making steady progress. Can you imagine how great Anderson can be as of our families decide to "learn local" and stay in our neighborhood schools? Then, our Anderson Panthers will really roar.



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WHS— Mentoring and PTO

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP the STUDENTS at Westbury High School?

Every school in HISD has a Shared Decision Making Committee (SDMC) for campus level planning and decision making to review the district's educational goals, objectives, and major district wide classroom instructional programs. Becky Edmondson serves on the SDMC for Westbury High School (WHS).

At the WHS January SDMC meeting, the principal shared the challenges of having the seniors pass all the required STAAR End of Course tests necessary for graduation, which are English I and II, Algebra, Biology and American History. WHS has tutorials scheduled for almost every weekend through the end of the school to help the hundreds of students who still have not passed all the tests.

I asked, what can we do as a community to help? He wants us in the school! He has set aside a special room for the PTO and Friends of WHS. It could be as simple as coming in once a week; attending a sporting event, mentoring, tutoring, etc.

How do I do this? Go online to HISD to register for the VIPS program. Fill out the very simple form and hit submit. Then all you have to do is go up to WHS and present your Driver's license to Mrs. Clemons.



Carolyn Clemons
Parent Coordinator
Westbury High School
713-723-6015 ex# 448
cclemons@houstonisd.org

Challenge? I told Mr. Catchings that I thought we could enlist 50 volunteers. We have many empty nesters and retired

people in our community. I signed up today and now I am just looking for 49 other people who care about today's youth enough to do something other than pay lip service (or social media comments) to the problem. Won't you join me?

New committee. A new committee has formed under Community Relations in the Westbury Civic Club to explore more ways that we as a community can help not only Westbury but all other area schools as well. If you've got some extra time to help our students and school, we'd love to have you.

WHS PTO MEETINGS 2015

WHS PTO meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first Monday in the Westbury High School Library. Remaining dates for the school year are: 3/2, 4/6, 5/4.

WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL PTO MEMBERSHIP

Membership level: (check one)

Type of membership: (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alumni	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold	\$50 and above	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>

Donations of ANY AMOUNT beyond your basic membership are graciously accepted and appreciated!

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Name and grade of Westbury student if applicable: _____

Please indicate below areas in which you would be willing to volunteer:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising for WHS and the PTO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mentoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant writer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrichment speaker (area of expertise) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	On campus assistance: office help, field trip chaperones, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Telephone committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Language other than English: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baking/hospitality for teachers, staff, PTO meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Return completed this form and your check payable to Westbury High School PTO :

WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL PTO; ATTN: PTO Treasurer 11911 Chimney Rock Houston, TX 77035

**Please show
your support
by joining the
WHS PTO.**

**I Stand With
Westbury!**

HISD– Call to Action

WCC Planning Action Against HISD

As we work with our representatives to determine the best course of action we are exploring many options. We will continue to work on the Project Advisory Team on the 40 million dollar piece of the promise. We are exploring more drastic options such as filing suit or filing an injunction against HISD should they become necessary. In the meantime, you may write to the Board of Trustees (www.houstonisd.org) or use the handy clip out letter here. WHS has a great administration, wonderful teachers, a vigorous academic plan with AP courses required, and an incredible student body. Let's give them the campus they deserve and that we voted for in 2012.



Clip Out Support Letter

Dear President **Rhonda Skillern-Jones**,

I want HISD to honor the promises it made in the 2012 bond for a "new Westbury". \$40 million was allocated to create a school BUILDNG (replacing the T shacks) for 2,300 to 2,500 students and the entire remaining original building was to be replaced. The acquisition of the remaining adjacent properties should be completed as promised. Money allocated for the regional athletic facility should minimally create the infrastructure to be in compliance with gender equality.

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City / State/ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____

MAIL TO:

HISD Board President

c/o HISD Board Services
Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center
4400 West 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092-8501



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---	--	---	---	---

Recently Sold!



- 5738 CLARIDGE
- 5710 CREEKBEND
- 7630 BRAESDALE
- 5815 DRYAD
- 8018 MULLINS



COMING SOON...
MAPLEWOOD SOUTH
5835 VALKEITH
4/2/2 + POOL





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HISD State of the Schools

HISD State of the Schools

Commentary by Becky Edmondson

Thanks to an invitation from Westbury High School, I attended the 2015 HISD State of the Schools luncheon on February 11th. First, I have to commend the teachers, administrators and HISD support staff for working to make HISD the best urban big city school district. Is it a challenge to meet the educational needs of a district where 64% of the students are economically disadvantaged and 92% are minority from 113 countries with one hundred native tongues? I'm sure it is. Dr. Grier said today that this isn't your grandparents' school. HISD is educating students for today's world with new techniques and focus. They are adding a Hindi and an Arabic Immersion school and have 52 dual language schools. The focus of physical education is moving toward healthy lifestyles.

HISD is gearing up for more rigorous study and higher expectations for everyone, not just those labelled gifted and talented. Last year 300 students graduated from high school with an associate's degree. A goal is for 2,000 to do so in the future. More AP classes are being offered and more AP testing is being done. Last year \$255 million in scholarships were offered, compared to \$50 million in 2009. There are programs like "Power Up", which will give every high school student a laptop; "Emerge", which targets bright minority kids for admission into Ivy League schools; a \$30 million grant for Link Learning; and two new grants from the Houston Endowment for college preparation. To address literacy issues, there is "Read Houston Read", where you can spend 20 minutes a week reading with a child via your computer. In K through 3rd grade, 90 minutes of daily classroom reading of books is being required.

All of that is good, but Dr. Grier notes that our neighborhood schools continue to suffer. We know that to be true for

Westbury High School, too. He said that the list of unacceptable schools, schools you wouldn't want to send your children to, is longer than the list of good schools.

Westbury High School students deserve better. The time has come to make Westbury High School a neighborhood school of choice, a flagship high school. We have great kids, great teachers, and a great administrative team. We insist that

Westbury High School be provided the infrastructure it needs, which we were promised in the 2012 bond. We know that great strides continue to be made by the school administrative team, teachers, and students, but the school infrastructure lags.



Parker Staff : Dale Harrison & Carol Kehlenbrink



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Westbury High School

Westbury High School Band

Westbury High School has a growing, active, and well-regarded band program. The Westbury High School Marching Band under the leadership of director, Mr. Reginald Washington, along with the Blue Diamond Dancers, under the direction of Ms. Tanya Jones, competed in a "Battle of the Bands" competition in January in Port Arthur, Texas. Both teams brought home trophies.

Mr. Washington focuses on both academic achievement and music. Trustee Wanda Adams has noted that 100% of the WHS band students have passed the state STAAR test and are going to college.

February is the heart of the marching band parade season. The WHS band annually performs at Mardi Gras parades in Galveston. This year the band performed at both the Aquarius Parade (day) and the Gambrinus Parade (evening) on February 7.

Band Booster President Princina Thomas notes that she is the "parent of a 10th grade student that came to Westbury for the fine arts magnet program. I chose to remain after the loss of the magnet program because I believe in the fine arts program, but most importantly, I believe in all the students at Westbury." Ms. Thomas is also involved at the school as a parent and as an officer of the WHS PTO.



Band students from WHS will be performing at Willow Waterhole during the April MusicFest event. If you would like to support the band program at WHS, please contact the school.



Friends of WHS Gala : April 25

The Friends of Westbury High Foundation will be having their 21st Annual Gala at Braeburn Country Club on Saturday, April 25, at 6PM. Over \$250,000 has been raised for scholarships for deserving WHS seniors.

This year's honorees include: Alumni Dr. Hyman Penn, Jack Evans, Faculty Member Chet Smith and Community Member Congressman Al Green. For more information or to join the fun evening with Westbury community members and WHS alumni, please call Frank Staats 281-989-5919 or email at fstaats@sbcglobal.net. Donations and auction items are welcome!



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HISD Ignores Voters from 2012 Bond

WHS Bond Update

As you may recall, the January 2015 edition of the newsletter had blistering commentary regarding the vote by HISD Trustees to not fund the campus expansion for Westbury High School that had been promised, planned, and budgeted as part of the 2012 bond program.

We now have good and bad news to report. The good news is that in February the HISD Trustees voted to allocate for use at WHS \$8 million of the \$11.2 million that had been formerly designated for the WHS campus expansion. The bad news is that there is \$3.2 million dollars remaining of those funds which has not yet been designated for a purpose, and that money is desired by other factions. Obviously, we strongly believe that this money should be allocated for WHS, and Trustee Wanda Adams agrees with us.

You may hear some people say that WHS has gotten more construction money from HISD. It is true that almost \$4 million additional funding has been added to the construction budget recently; however, this is money that had always been designated for WHS in the project budget and has now been released for use by the WHS project. That \$4 million is 100% of the inflation adjustment money in the budget, plus half of the contingency in the budget for WHS. Every other school in the HISD bond project also had these inflation and contingency funds released for use. It is not new money; it is simply money that had been held back.

Sometime in the future, HISD will be holding a public meeting about the scope of work for WHS. It will be very important that members of the community attend that meeting and insist that WHS get the infrastructure that it needs. HISD continues to insist that no school can exceed the budget originally designated in the bond. If a school project is completed and funds are leftover, then that money can be moved over to projects which are still in progress. We wonder whether any funds will be leftover by the time that WHS is being worked on, since HISD has underestimated the scope of work needed for WHS, in our opinion.



Westbury Supporters at the HISD Board of Trustees Meeting in February

3 Minute Speech by Cindy Chapman at Feb 2015 HISD Trustee Meeting

Editorial by Cindy Chapman

Good evening. My name is Cindy Chapman, and I am Co-President of the Westbury Super Neighborhood.

For the past 30 years, advocates have been seeking improvements for Westbury High School. We want Westbury to become a "school of choice", on par with the best schools in HISD. We are not satisfied with the pattern of years of NEGLECT and BROKEN PROMISES by HISD.

Tonight the board considers allocating 8 million dollars for Westbury High School. As a community, we have not had time to review these plans. We do support additional funding to benefit the students of Westbury, but support for additional funding does not mean that we are satisfied with the scope proposed.

We are NOT satisfied with how HISD has treated Westbury High School.

We are NOT satisfied with the funding that HISD has proposed for Westbury High School. The proposed 8 million dollars is only a STEP toward appropriate funding for Westbury, and is only a portion of the 11.2 million dollars allocated for Westbury High School that was canceled LAST MONTH.

Let me remind you of the long history of neglect and broken promises made by HISD.

HISD has broken its PROMISES for adequate facilities for Westbury.

Example 1: In 2001, a 3-story building at Westbury with 75 classrooms was condemned as unsafe. Despite community objections, HISD insisted on a much smaller replacement with fewer classrooms. From the very first day, that replacement was undersized and there has been a shanty-town of shacks at Westbury ever since.

Example 2: Within the past few months, TWO different people have fallen through the floors in those decrepit shacks.

Example 3: The school was placed in the last tier for construction despite known structural deficiencies.

Example 4: Until now, HISD apparently did not allocate funds for improved athletic facilities, despite inadequate facilities and known Title 9 violations.

Furthermore, HISD has broken its PROMISES for a campus expansion for Westbury High School made in the 2012 bond, despite strong support by local voters.

Finally, HISD PROMISED to implement programs to attract zoned students back to Westbury. After many years of requests, HISD finally implemented a FINE ARTS magnet at Westbury High School to match the FINE Arts programs at the elementary and middle school feeders. Even though that fledgling Fine Arts program had already proven that it was effective at bringing zoned kids to Westbury, it was CANCELED by HISD in 2013 in yet another broken promise.

As a community, we are NOT satisfied and we are NOT going away. Instead, we are working to become even better advocates for Westbury. Westbury High School needs your support.

Thank you.

HISD Advisory Committee and Teams

HISD District Advisory Committee

Westbury resident, Cindy Chapman, has been appointed by HISD District IX Trustee Wanda Adams to serve on the 2015 HISD District Advisory Committee (DAC). The Texas Education Code requires each school district and each school campus to establish a planning and decision-making process that will involve professional staff of the district, parents, and community members. According to the HISD policy, the DAC shall assist the Superintendent with the annual review, development, and revision of the district improvement plan; analyze information related to dropout prevention; review an evaluation of the dropout prevention program; and review information related to retention rates, disciplinary alternative programs, and expulsions.

The DAC must have at least 2 parents, 2 business representatives, 2 community members, and members elected to represent campus and district professional staff. Meetings are held monthly.

Fondren Middle School at Bi-Monthly Breakfast

Save the date for the morning of Tuesday, March 10, 2014, to attend the Southwest Houston 2000 Bi-Monthly Breakfast Series, which features speakers of interest to southwest Houston. The topic will be Fondren Middle School (Fondren World School), which has recently added a middle school IB (International Baccalaureate) magnet program and has also implemented a Newcomers Academy, a school-within-a-school for immigrants or refugees with limited English skills. Speakers will be Newcomer Academy Director **Parisa Behzadi** and Principal **Monique Lewis**. Some Westbury residents are zoned to FMS and all are eligible to apply to the magnet program. To purchase tickets for the March 10 breakfast, go to <http://march2015-fondrenmiddleschool.eventbrite.com>

HISD Project Advisory Teams (PAT) Westbury High School PAT

The HISD 2012 bond advertised "a new Westbury". Overcoming perceptions of safety issues, coupled with creating an appealing campus, is paramount to pushing Westbury High School to the next level to become a school of choice for HISD students. Cindy Chapman, Becky Edmondson and Kathleen Ownby are community members on the Project Advisory Team (PAT) for Westbury High School. The February PAT meeting brought conceptual drawings of how the additional monies allocated by HISD might be used for athletic fields. The drawings included the addition of a softball field and tennis courts. The baseball field would also be relocated to make way for the new building, necessary to replace all the temporary buildings on campus. The architects attended this meeting and the next meeting in March should further define just what the scope of the work will be. At Ms. Ownby's suggestion, the architects toured the portion of the original building that is not currently slated for demolition, as we had originally been led to believe. The PAT team is working hard to insure that WHS gets what it needs.

Parker Elementary PAT

The Parker PAT team met in late January. The news from HISD is that construction costs have escalated beyond their predictions and reserves. HISD may push the timetable back a few months to allow construction costs to fall in light of falling oil prices.



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Crime/Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days February 20, 2015

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	11	3	0	0	14
Theft	5	3	4	3	15
Auto Theft	2	2	0	0	4
Robbery	1	1	0	0	2
Assault	1	2	0	0	3
Rape	0	1	0	0	1
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	20	12	4	3	39

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

Block #	Street	Crime
6000	Arboles	Burglary
10700	Atwell	Burglary
5900	Beaudry	Burglary
12000	Braewick	Burglary
11100	Cedarhurst	Burglary
5500	Dawnridge	Burglary
5900	Dryad	Theft
5900	Duxbury	Theft
5700	Ettrick	Theft
5700	Firenza	Burglary
5600	Fontenelle	Burglary
12000	Hillcroft	Burglary
6000	Lattimer	Assault
10800	Oasis	Burglary
5400	Spellman	Auto Theft
5700	W. Airport	Burglary
5300	W. Bellfort	Auto Theft
5900	W. Bellfort	Theft
6000	W. Bellfort	Theft
5400	Willowbend	Robbery

Single Family Residential Crime

Locations by block number, not exact address.

Stats for 30 days preceding February 20, 2015

Coffee With the Constables

Join us at 5223 Kinglet at the home of our newest board member, Meg Horner, of Westbury 1. 7:30AM-9AM



Security update

Westbury HPD storefront officers attended the February WAIC/ Super Neighborhood meeting. They reported an increase in home break-ins in subdivisions along Beechnut. They said things had been pretty quiet in Westbury.

Sergeant Morin of Pct. 5 (Westbury Area Patrol) spoke at the WCC meeting later that evening and reported a few break-ins/attempted break-ins south of W. Bellfort. He personally witnessed several juveniles walking down the street dragging a bag of items and stopped them. They had in their possession items that had been stolen from a nearby home. He reported that he works closely with HISD police to monitor truants from Westbury High School.

The Westbury Civic Club's biggest expense is security. We pay over \$300,000 for our constables. This is the most important program we run. We are in need of more support from our residents. We did not reach the needed amount in 2014 and had to draw from our security savings. We would like to raise the entire amount needed for 2015. Please consider making a donation today. The dues form is located on the next page.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACTS

- Westbury Area Patrol Constables**
281-463-6666
- Westbury HPD Storefront**
713-726-7126
- HPD Non-Emergency**
713-884-3131
- Brays Oak Management District (BOMD)**
www.braysoakmd.org (report graffiti)



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2015 Dues/Assessments

**ATTENTION:
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1&2**

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

The amount of the 2015 Mandatory Assessments is \$230.

The 2015 Mandatory Assessments were due by February 1, 2015.

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

Why do my dues go to Dallas?

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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").

2015 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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

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 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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WCC News

Westbury Area Residents Honored on the House Floor

Much of Westbury is in Texas House District 146 represented by State Rep. Borris Miles. It is a large diverse district of 175,000 Houstonians. On February 12, over 100 residents of District 146 travelled to Austin.



Rep Miles said he was “overjoyed by the enthusiasm that my colleagues and I witnessed from the House floor when my constituents took over the House Gallery. District 146 magnificently represented Houston and the State of Texas with their tremendous presence!”

Westbury leaders can attest to Rep. Miles’ tenacity on issues: as he stood with Westbury on behalf of the Community Garden, hosted the public meetings about the Southern Crushed Concrete air quality permit, and is involved in the fight for WHS.

Rep. Miles put forth resolutions on the House floor honoring several area leaders pictured above: **Ms. Becky Edmondson for her impressive contributions to her community of Westbury as a civic leader.** Mr. Howard Sacks for his many years to the enhancement and beautification of Houston. Rev. James E. Nash for his long service to his church community, and the work for the betterment of the Sunnyside community. Judge Robert Hinojosa for his admirable service to his country, his state, and his community as a leader and judge. Mrs. Willie Belle Boone for her lasting and positive impact in the District 146 community through her commitment to civic service as a precinct chair for thirty years.

Happy Hands Helping Out the WCC

Stuffing, Sealing, and Sorting over 4,300 letters!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped stuff, seal, and sort over 4,300 annual voluntary dues letters! On January 22, the members of Portable Projects, the quilting group, and others met at the Platou Center to assist in stuffing and sealing envelopes. Volunteers included Genie Mitchell, Hazel Potvin, Janie Schexnayder and her sister Karyn, Barbara Rice, Alma Kelley, Lynn Dahlberg, Christina Shelton, Karen Schubert, Camille Brinkman, Marci Breau, Diana Lovelady, Gloria Garcia, and Louisa Jiminez. Some of these great ladies aren’t even Westbury residents! We thank you for your hard work! A special thanks goes to Pat Metcalf who helped WCC Membership Director, Kate Wilson, deliver everything to the main post office downtown.



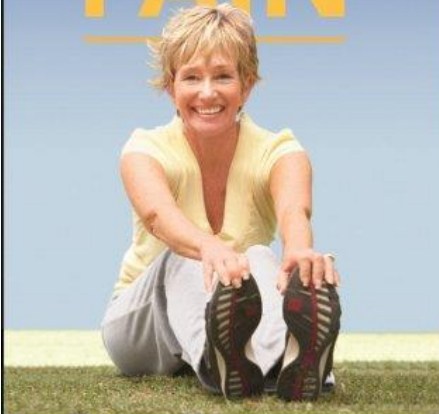
Thank You District K

Free Spay and Neuter Clinic in Westbury

We love our pets in Westbury! Many thanks to District K and the City of Houston for providing a FREE service to spay / neuter pets. Over 15 residents took advantage of this service and brought their dogs and cats to the Platou Community Center in Westbury early Thursday, Feb. 17.

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White Elephant Sale

Do You Need to Have a Garage Sale?

Westbury White Elephant Community Garage Sale is May 9

The Westbury Civic Club (WCC) provides fall and spring community garage sale events to our members. The Spring White Elephant Sale will be on Saturday, May 9, from 8AM to Noon at Westbury United Methodist Church. The rain date is May 16.

Booth space will go on sale at 8AM on Wednesday, April 1, for individual Westbury residents ONLY*. The WCC office will be open early at 8AM on April 1 only and close at 2PM. **The office will also be open from 5-7PM on April 1 for booth space purchase.** Booths may be purchased during normal office hours of 9:30AM to 2:30PM starting on April 2.

You must be a paid current member of the Westbury Civic Club to purchase a booth. This means you must have paid your 2015 WCC membership dues of \$40. If you have not paid your 2015 dues, you may do so at the same time that you purchase your booth

space. The booth price for individual Westbury residents will be \$20-\$25. Booths will go on sale to non-residents and groups/non-profit organizations on April 27 if space permits on a first come, first serve basis. The booth price for non-residents and groups is \$60-65.

The Westbury White Elephant Sale allows residents the opportunity to sell unwanted household items at a highly visible central location with security provided. **The WCC provides location, security, bathrooms and publicity for the sale. The Civic Club does NOT provide tables, chairs or shade.** Garage, Estate, yard, moving sales, etc. are not permitted at Westbury residences. See the previous page for the Westbury Garage Sale Policy.

So why not have fun, make money, be safe and be a good neighbor.

Plan on having a booth at the Westbury White Elephant Sale!

**Due to limited space and increased interest by homeowners, only individual homeowners may purchase booth space in September. Non-residents and ALL non-profit organizations and groups (including Westbury resident run) must wait until April 27. Violators of this policy may not be allowed to participate in the current and/or future White Elephant Sales. All non-profit organizations and groups must register under their organization name. No individual may purchase a booth for a group or organization unless doing so under that organization's name.*



IMPORTANT DATES

April 1 —Booths go on sale for individual Westbury residents. **WCC office open early at 8AM (til 2PM) and open late from 5-7PM**

April 2-April 26 — Booths on sale to Westbury residents during normal office hours 9:30AM-2:30PM

April 27—Booths on sale for non-residents and non-profit organization and groups

May 9—
White Elephant Sale

May 16—
Rain Date



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Westbury Area News

Westbury Civic Club Policy: Garage Sales, Estate Sales, Yard Sales, Moving Sales

Purpose: The intent of this policy is to clearly convey the Westbury Civic Club restriction on garage sales, estate sales, yard sales or any other independent action of the kind.

Definition: Garage, Estate, Yard or Moving Sale: The sale of personal property in, at, or upon any residential lot or home. This includes, with limitation, sales of personal property from the garage, driveway, yard, patio or house area of such premises.

Policy: Garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like are not permitted in Westbury.

All sections of Westbury and Parkwest have deed restrictions that state "no noxious or offensive trade or activity shall be carried on upon any lot nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood". Garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like draw substantial traffic and contribute to: hindering the flow of traffic on major thoroughfares; impeding access to homes by emergency vehicles or residents due to parking congestion; parking violations on city streets or esplanades; parking violations from vehicles parked on front yards; and, parking violations from blocking public right-of-way on sidewalks. Furthermore, advertising materials for garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like contribute to: visual blight, trash along public streets, and violations of the city sign ordinance. The Westbury Civic Club considers garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like to be "an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood".

All sections of Westbury and Parkwest have deed restrictions that state the lots are to be used for single family or family residential purposes. The Westbury Civic Club considers garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like to be commercial use of residential property.

Approved by the Westbury Civic Club Board, August 20, 2014

Westbury Volunteer Corps

Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? Do you need to fulfill volunteer hours for your school or Scout group? The WCC's Volunteer Corps needs you! Please email Stephanie Lester at westburystephanie@gmail.com to join this team of neighborhood volunteers.

Westbury Meet & Eat

Come out to Teotihuacan Mexican Restaurant at 6579 W. Bellfort every 1st Thursday of the month to meet Westbury residents. This event is open to anyone who lives in Westbury.
February Meet & Eat: Thurs., March 5 @ 6PM
March Meet & Eat: Thurs., April 2 @ 6PM

Westbury Trading Group - Facebook

The Westbury/Meyerland/Bellaire Trading Group is a Facebook group that has over 3,000 members. It allows area residents to sell, trade, or buy items from other area residents.

Links for Lost & Found Pets

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

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Willow Waterhole Events & Workdays

Willow Waterhole Workday

The weather was perfect on Saturday, February 14, for a day outdoors at Willow Waterhole Park. Thirty-five students from Trafton Academy, several responding to a Nextdoor event posting, and the Rhodes family representing the Shell Gasmer Facility came out to work on projects. The Trafton students were led by Trudy Holmes, Janne Allen, and Jay Broadfoot. Trees were pruned and mulched (15 cubic yards moved), litter picked up, and a soil remediation project was begun. A big thanks goes out to all the hard working volunteers. The next workday is scheduled for March 14, all those wishing to help please meet at The Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow at 9AM.



Spring 2015 Interfaith Environmental Stewardship Event

World Water Day is on Sunday, March 22, from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. We will engage in hands-on environmental stewardship by removing invasive species and planting native plants in wetlands areas at the Willow Waterhole. This event will offer activities for all ages and skill levels. Meet at The Gathering Place, 5310 South Willow Dr., to sign in. All tools/supplies will be provided, but participants are asked to bring empty milk jugs or soda bottles to use in watering the newly-planted plants. Contact Lisa at gcs.lrc@gmail.com or 713-372-7345 for more information or to sign up to help.

SAVE THE DATE

Willow Waterhole Music Fest Saturday, April 25, 11AM-9PM

Once again, the fabulous FREE Willow Waterhole Music Fest is coming in April. Save the date of Saturday, April 25 (rain date is April 26). Enjoy ten hours of FREE live music in a relaxing setting, right here in Westbury. NEW this year will be a CRAFT MARKET with 40 vendors. Craft Market is open from 11AM-6PM. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bring your favorite chair or blanket and enjoy the show and fun!

Professional Artists: Zydeco Dots, TKOH, La Tribu, Nobody's Fool, Luther & the Healers, Kyle Turner Band, Bayou City Brass, Conrad Johnson Big Blue Sound, Joe Carmouche Band, and more to be announced.

Area School Performers: HSVPA, I. Weiner, Johnston Middle, Parker Elementary, Westbury High, and Westbury Christian.

Professional artists will be on the stage. Schools will perform from the nearby South Gazebo while the professional artists are changing sets.

To learn more, visit WillowWaterhole.org or go to willowwaterhole on Facebook. Location will be at Willow Waterhole, via the Dryad entrance at Westbury High School.

If you would like to be a financial supporter of this event, send your tax-deductible donation to: WWGC, 11415 Chimney Rock, Suite #201, Houston TX 77035. Support levels are Patron (\$100), Sponsor (\$500), or Underwriter (\$2500).

WWW.WILLOWWATERHOLE.ORG

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Westbury Community Garden

Meet the Plant It Forward Farmers

Sarment Louamba

has lived in Houston for five years. He is from Congo Brazzaville. While living in Congo, he worked as a truck driver, transporting chemicals in large trucks. Sarment moved to Gabon because of the war and then spent over 10 years as a farmer in Gabon. Sarment grew roselle, peppers, lettuce, okra, cucumbers, and eggplant. His favorite vegetables to grow are cucumbers, because they grow well. Sarment is married and has five children, two boys and three girls, with ages ranging from five to 20 years old. They all live in Houston with him and his wife. Sarment says that he likes Houston, "Everything is good in Houston; work is good in Houston."



Toto Alimasi (everyone calls him Alimasi) is a new farmer. He has quite an interesting history in the Congo. Alimasi and his wife adopted many children to take care of them. He speaks at least 5 languages, is interesting and a delight to talk with. He has a wonderful sense of humor and is appreciative of the opportunity to be a farmer.



Habimfura (you can call him Habi) has been at Westbury for about 3 months. He is also from the Congo, and worked for the government running a farming program. He has a university degree in Agriculture/horticulture, and is also a delight to talk with. He is charming and always in an upbeat spirit. He also speaks at least 5 languages. His farm is the middle one between Sarment and Alimasi.

Westbury Community Garden: A Look Back

By Ray Sher

Six years ago, when Becky Edmondson and I decided to pursue starting a community garden in Westbury, I was not sure if we could make it happen and what it would look like if we were successful, but we had visions of what it could be. We wanted it to be a place where people of all ethnicities, economic levels, religions, political and social positions could come together to share not only gardening, but our lives. We wanted to build on the already solid garden club that had been caring for butterfly gardens in the esplanades. We had no money, no land, but rather a desire and the backing of the Westbury Civic Club.

Today, 5 years from the time the garden was first built, I am happy to see a fully thriving community of gardeners, supporting each other, having fun and taking an abundance of organic food home to eat. From the start of 40 garden beds, a butterfly garden and pavilion, the garden has grown to 61 beds, an orchard of fruit trees, with more trees being added every year, two large storage sheds, two large compost areas, Purple Martin houses, kiosk, wash station, and many committees of gardeners working together to not only keep the garden looking beautiful but thriving and expanding. I am delighted. The sign of a strong community garden is when the originators can step back and the garden continues to thrive, and that is what we have at the Westbury Community Garden. Many of the original gardeners are still with the garden, some have moved and some passed away. New gardeners have come, some stayed and some moved on, as is with life. We are fortunate in the support we have had from those in the Westbury community, from businesses and organizations outside our community, and appreciate them all.



Farm Stand at the Westbury Community Garden

A farm stand run by Plant It Forward Farms is open at the garden

Saturday, 9:30AM to 2PM

Sundays 10AM to 3PM.

A farm share program is also available with pick up at the Garden. Visit www.plant-it-forward.org for info.



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Commercial Property Update

Update - Southern Crushed Concrete Environmental Permit Application

Southern Crushed Concrete (SCC) has applied for an air permit for a concrete batch plant at 5001 Gasmer next to the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve.

The Administrative law judge ruled that both the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy representing a homeowner living within the 440 yd circle as well as Joseph Shahda, the owner of the Ranchwood Apartments representing two tenants within the circle were affected parties affected under Texas Health & Safety Code § 382.058(c), and that pursuant to I Texas Administrative Code § 155.201(b) and 30 Texas Administrative Code § 80.113(a), they may appear as a protesting party at the hearing for Southern Crushed Concrete's air quality permit.

The WCC, the WAIC, and the Westbury Super Neighborhood Council will continue to monitor and stay involved in the process since the proposed site will affect Westbury area residents, local students, and visitors to the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve.

WAIC / Westbury Super Neighborhood Meeting Board Notes

HPD Storefront Update

Sgt. Sutton and Officer Ly, both from the Westbury Storefront, gave an update about crime in the Westbury area. There was a discussion that truants are leaving WHS and walking down Dryad to Willow Waterhole and nearby apartments.

HISD—WHS and Boundary Changes

HISD Trustee Wanda Adams, HISD Chief School Officer Mark Smith, and HISD Demographer Justin Silhavy discussed the proposed boundary changes for Anderson and Tinsley Elementary Schools (see article on page 6). It was suggested that the draft map be revised to include Parkwest 3 in the Anderson boundary. A concern about the boundary maps in Westbury 5 West was also discussed. Trustee Adams said that new WHS Principal Jason Catchings found many challenges when he arrived at WHS, but that he continues to make steady progress. HISD has brought in trainers from College Board for teachers for Advanced Placement classes, and more AP classes are being offered. **The scope of the WHS bond project was extensively discussed during the meeting.** The WAIC board voted to donate \$50 for a WHS PTO corporate membership and also approved purchasing \$200 worth of gift cards for use as prizes awarded in drawings for WHS students attending tutoring sessions on Saturday.

Commercial Update

The boarded up buildings at the Westbury Centerette commercial center (West Bellfort at Chimney Rock) have been vandalized. HPD Sgt. Sutton said he would contact the property owner to secure the property. New graffiti at Westbury Manor Apartments has been reported, but the owner has cleaned up the high brush behind the apartments near the Westbury Little League fields. Phone calls about a commercial development sign on Hillcroft have not been returned.

Westbury Square

WCC President, Becky Edmondson, spoke to the owner of the Westbury Square property for an update. The contract with the firm that wanted to build 125 townhomes on the property has fallen through. Mr. Antonini is in the process of applying for permits to complete the demolition of the two buildings that have the condemnation orders on them. District K and the WCC are monitoring the progress of this long overdue demolition. According to Mr. Antonini, once the permits are obtained, demolition should begin "shortly".

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