



# Westbury Crier

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2016

## White Elephant Community Garage Sale on April 16

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

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, April 16, from 8AM to Noon at Westbury United Methodist Church. The rain date is April 30.



**1st Day of Booth Sales for Westbury Residents ONLY**  
**March 22 9AM—2PM**  
**5PM—7PM**

**Booth space will go on sale at 9AM on Tuesday, March 22, for individual Westbury residents ONLY \***. The WCC office will be open early at 9AM on March 22 only and close at 2PM. **The office will also be open from 5-7PM on March 22 for booth space purchase.** Booths may be purchased during normal office hours of 9:30AM to 1:30PM starting on March 23.

You must be a paid current member of the Westbury Civic Club to purchase a booth. This means you must have paid your 2016 WCC membership dues of \$50. If you have not paid your 2016 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 5, if space permits,

on a first come, first serve basis. The booth price for non-residents is \$70-75.

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 by long standing policy of the Westbury Civic Club and the deed restrictions. Next month, we will publish the official 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 March. Non-residents and ALL non-profit organizations and groups (including Westbury resident run) must wait until April 5. 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.*

### CITY OF HOUSTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN MEETINGS District K : March 10 District C: March 9

We would like to have a LARGE crowd from Westbury at the District K meeting. Do you want better drainage? 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.

For more information, see page 12.

**We hope to see you there!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 2: Parker Elem. Ground-Breaking**  
 See page 11 for more details.

**April 9 : Keep Westbury Beautiful**  
 Make sure to check the next Crier for all the details.

**April 23-24: Music Fest at Willow Waterhole** See page 22-23 for all the fun to come!

**April 23: Friends of Westbury High School Gala**, see page 9 for more information.

### HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE

Heavy Trash for MARCH is **TREE WASTE ONLY**. Pick-up for ALL of Westbury is Thursday, MARCH 10 **DO NOT PLACE TREE WASTE ON CURB UNTIL MARCH 5**



*Westbury Celebrates 60 Wonderful Years*

### PHOTOS OF WESTBURY

**WANTED**

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

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

## WCC OFFICE

5322 W. Bellfort #107, Houston, TX 77035

Jennifer Edmondson.....WCC Office Manager

*NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO DUES PAYING*

*WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appt.*

## OFFICE HOURS/CONTACT

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

*Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays*

Telephone.....713-723-5437

Email.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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

**Visit our website at [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com)**

**"Like" us on Facebook at Westbury Houston**

## SECURITY

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

*including suspicious activity, burglar alarms and vacation watch*

Emergency.....911

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

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

## CITY OF HOUSTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Help & Information.....311**

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

## CENTERPOINT ENERGY

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

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

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

*Make sure to give pole number*

## OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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

Graffiti.....[www.braysoaksmd.org](http://www.braysoaksmd.org)

Shopping Cart Removal.....[www.braysoaksmd.org](http://www.braysoaksmd.org)

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

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

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

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

## 2016 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*If no contact information is provided, contact the WCC Office at [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net) or 713-723-5437*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Becky Edmondson

*wccpresident@westburycrier.com or 713-443-3951*

Vice President.....Leslee Cross

Secretary.....Dan Vega

Treasurer.....David Cummins

*westburytreasurer@gmail.com*

## DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Communications.....Libby Mondello

Community Relations.....Cindy Chapman

*wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com*

Deed Restrictions.....Jennifer Edmondson

*westburycc@sbcglobal.net*

Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Jeff Benavides

Greenspace Beautification.....Marcia Hartman

Membership.....VACANT

Security.....Kevin O'Brien

Volunteer & Event Coordinator ..... VACANT

## SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1.....VACANT

Westbury 2.....Rocio Lara

Westbury 3.....Robert Montgomery

*rmontgomery002@comcast.net*

Westbury 3.....VACANT

Westbury 4.....VACANT

Westbury 4.....Eugene Sirls

Westbury 5.....Virginia Livingston

*Westbury5E@westburycrier.com*

Westbury 5.....VACANT

Westbury South.....VACANT

Parkwest 1.....William Grimsinger

Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss

*Jweiss@txchiro.edu*

Parkwest 3.....Joe Niles

*parkwest3@westburycrier.com*

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

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

Edited by.....WCC Publication Committee

Advertising..... 713-723-5437/ [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net)

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

# President's Message

What a busy year this has started out to be! I am excited about all the celebrations we have planned this year as we celebrate the Westbury Civic Club's 60<sup>th</sup> year.

Perhaps because my dad will turn 90 on March 1, this passage of time is really on my mind. Or, maybe it's because I just became eligible for early Social Security. But whatever the reason, milestones are cause for both celebrations of the past as well as looking forward to the future.

It is my honor to serve as the 37th president of the Westbury Civic Club. Each president has had their challenges and successes and left their marks on our neighborhood. I never realized what a huge undertaking being president of the second largest neighborhood in Houston would be. With 5,000 homes, 7 miles of esplanades, 3 city parks and the Willow Waterhole, a city community center, 4 Harris County Flood Control District drainage ditches and the Willow Waterhole bayou, a high school, two main elementary schools and two middle schools, and miles of aging city infrastructure both above and below ground, there is always something that needs watchin' or fixin'! Thankfully the Civic Club is made up of many members!

We work with the City, County, State, and Federal government to get things done. Right now the focus is on the city as the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) meetings are coming up in March. This is where we ask for all those big tickets items that need fixing, like our storm water drainage, our streets, and park improvements. I urge as many of you who can to come to the meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> to show the city that Westbury has a long list of things that need "fixin'".

I have had the honor these past few weeks to sit on one of Mayor Turner's transition committees. I was on the committee that looked at the Public Works and Engineering Department (PWE). It was an enlightening experience. My interest, especially after hundreds of flooded Westbury residents had to get city permits, was in representing the community at large who interact with the PWE permits department. Another problem that came into focus after the flooding in 2015 was the issue of having to look to both the city and the county for flooding solutions. Westbury residents whose homes have flooded often felt left in limbo between the city pointing to the county and the county pointing to the city. This needs a solution. It was also gratifying to see that this transition committee was looking at issues that were raised on the campaign trail like flooding and road conditions. Mayor Turner has added a new position, Director of Education, and named Juliet Stipeche to his administration, seeking greater collaboration between the city and area schools, community colleges, and universities. We look forward to working with her.

The Los Vaqueros Rio Grande Trail Ride make their last stop before Memorial Park at Westbury Little League. The campfire on Thursday night was a lot of fun with entertainment and good food. This was my first year riding in the Trail Ride. I had the pleasure of joining the ride from Westbury Little League to Anderson Elementary then to St. Thomas More. What a fun experience for all these modern city children to have!

Spring has arrived! Westbury Little League (WLL) celebrated opening day on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of Westbury area children were on hand to kickoff the WLL's 54<sup>th</sup> season. The same fields are where my dad once watched his children and grandchildren play baseball. On opening day, my dad attended his great grandson's game. To me, that is the beauty and the story of Westbury. Decade after decade young professionals have moved into Westbury and found a neighborhood that they could call home. Did you know the WLL team in 1966 won the Little League World Series? They will be honored at The Friends of Westbury High School (FWHS) gala in April. The Friends are another prime example of what makes Westbury so special. Since 1994, FWHS has provided 211 student scholarships valued at \$316,500 to deserving WHS youth.

Those two groups make me proud to call Westbury home. What makes you Westbury Proud? Send your "Westbury Proud" moments to me at [wccpresident@westburycrier.com](mailto:wccpresident@westburycrier.com) and we will feature them in a future Crier edition.

Becky Edmondson



WCC President Becky Edmondson and her grandson taking part in the Los Vaqueros Trail Ride

## Westbury Civic Club Board Notes—February 2016

- ⇒ Update by President on school issues and commercial sites. The Office Manager just celebrated 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary working for WCC. Board members signed up for committees. Submit ideas and issues to President Edmondson for Westbury CIP requests (capital projects) to meet deadline.
- ⇒ Guest Speaker – Mayra Hypolite from Department of Neighborhoods discussed a new program for assistance for elderly or disabled.
- ⇒ 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Events in 2016 were discussed. A contest to encourage cleaning Westbury street signs will be held. Motion by Chapman/Benevides - approved up to \$250 for contest awards.
- ⇒ Security Director O'Brien is creating a committee for input on security issues: how to increase income for Westbury Area Patrol, review and consider the Neighborhood Watch training by Precinct 5 Constable office.
- ⇒ Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

**NEXT**  
**Westbury Civic Club**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 16**  
**Westbury Baptist**  
**7PM**

*Sixty Wonderful Years*  
**Westbury Civic Club**



# Platou Community Center

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

## Family Fun Day Saturday, March 19 10:30AM-2Pm Let's Go Fly a Kite

Enjoy March breezes by flying a kite! Learn how to fly a kite and all about wind. Learn all about what makes a kite fly. For more information, contact Dan at 713-726-7107.



Like us on Facebook  
"Platou Community Center"  
TODAY!

### STRETCHING EXERCISE CLASS

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

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

MsBEEHAVEN QUILTERS -Tues., 10AM - 2PM



GAMES—Wed., 10AM to 12PM

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

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

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

LINE DANCING Mondays @ 12:30PM

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

Ping Pong Leagues—Wednesday & Friday

Open adult ping pong will be on Fridays from 11AM to 2PM.

Open adult and teen play on Wed., from 6-8PM.

### TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

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

Naomi at 713-988-2233

# Meyer Neighborhood Library

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

## March 2016 Events

### Baby Playgroup

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

### Toddler Storytime

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

### Pre-K Storytime

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



### Arts & Crafts for Kids

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

### Tween & Teen Zone

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



### HOURS

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

Special Library Events on page 6

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# What's Happening in Westbury

## Events & Meetings Calendar March 2016

<b>Tues 8</b>	<b>Bi-Monthly Breakfast - Southwest Houston 2000</b> Houston Baptist University	<b>7:30AM</b>
<b>Tues 8</b>	<b>HISD Superintendent Search Meeting</b> Welch Middle School 11544 S. Gessner 77071 More information, see page 9	<b>9:30AM</b>
<b>Wed 9</b>	<b>District C CIP Meeting</b> West Gray Multi Service Center More information, see page 12	<b>6:30-8:30PM</b>
<b>Thurs 10</b>	<b>District K CIP Meeting</b> Willowridge High School 16301 Chimney Rock 77053 More information, see page 12	<b>6:30-8:30PM</b>
<b>Sun 13</b>	<b>Daylights Saving Time Starts 2AM Move your clocks forward.</b> Spring Forward!	
<b>Wed. 16</b>	<b>WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting</b> Salem Lutheran Church— 4930 W. Bellfort	<b>8:30AM</b>
<b>Wed 16</b>	<b>HISD Superintendent Search Meeting</b> Westbury Baptist Church— Before WCC Board Meeting More information, see page 9	<b>6:30PM</b>
<b>Wed. 16</b>	<b>Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting</b> Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft	<b>7PM</b>
<b>Sat. 19</b>	<b>Audubon Society Bird Survey</b> Meet at the Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow	<b>8AM</b>
<b>Sat. 19</b>	<b>Family Fun Day @ Platou Center</b> For information, see page 4 in green box	<b>10:30AM-2PM</b>
<b>Mon 21</b>	<b>Willow Waterhole Volunteer Work Day</b> Meet at Gathering Place for more information, see page 23	<b>9-12PM</b>
<b>Mon. 21</b>	<b>Brays Bayou Association Meeting</b> The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>Tues 22</b>	<b>Booths on Sale to Westbury Residents - White Elephant Sale</b> <b>9:00AM—2PM, 5-7PM @ WCC Office</b> More information, see page 1.	
<b>Tues. 22</b>	<b>SW PIP Meeting</b> Pilgrim Lutheran - 8601 Chimney Rock	<b>7PM</b>

## PLANNING CALENDAR

**\*April 2 - Parker Elementary  
Ground-Breaking**

**\*April 9 - Keep Westbury Beautiful**

**\*April 16 - White Elephant Sale**

**\*April 23—Friends Of Westbury High  
School Gala**

**\*April 23-24 –Music Fest at  
Willow Waterhole**

## RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH CALENDAR



### March 2016

<b>Thurs 3</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
<b>Thurs 10</b>	<b>Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY</b>
<b>Thurs 17</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
<b>Thurs 31</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

### April 2016

<b>Thurs 14</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
<b>Thurs 14</b>	<b>Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY</b>
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

### Important Trash & Recycling Info

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

### City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

April	Junk Waste	March	Tree Waste
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# Events in Westbury

## Street Sign Cleaning Contest

Westbury 60th Anniversary Spring Cleaning

Have you ever had friends visiting say they had a tough time seeing the streets signs in Westbury? Have you noticed the signs are covered in grime and mold and have lost their reflective properties? If you look at before and after photos, shown below, you can see what a good cleaning will do.

Many of these signs are original to our neighborhood and have never been cleaned. Can you clean the signs on your block or can you recruit some neighbors to help? Just take a liquid cleaner with bleach and some paper towels to do the job! Just another way to make Westbury shine!

If you have cleaned a Westbury street sign, please send an email to Bill Burhans at [burhans56@yahoo.com](mailto:burhans56@yahoo.com) to inform him of its location. Make sure to include a before and after photo. You will be then entered in a drawing for a chance to win one of three \$100 gift cards. You may submit as many street signs as you wish. One entry per pole.



Street sign with grime and mold



Street sign after cleaning

## Meyer Library Special Events

5005 W. Bellfort

### Dr. Seuss Storytime for Toddlers

Wednesday, March 2, 10am – 10:45am

March 2nd is Dr. Seuss's birthday — what better way to celebrate than to read? We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's 112th birthday with a story time filled with his books, fun songs & rhymes!

### Wonder Women Storytime

Wednesday, March 9, 10:30am—11:30am

Celebrate Women's History Month with a Wonder Women-themed story time & arts activity! Recommended for families & youth ages 2 - 5 years.

### Faithful Paws Storytime

Saturday, March 19, 10:30am – 11:30am

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

### Rosie the Riveter Poster Craft for Kids

Thursday, March 24, 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Celebrate Women's History Month by creating your own motivational posters using the iconic Rosie the Riveter backdrop and pose! Recommended for families & youth up to age 12.

### LEGO Education – Simple Machines

Saturday, March 26, 10:30am – 11:30am

Come for a workshop of LEGOs and learning fun! The LEGO Robotics - Simple Machines class will focus on engaging youth participants to explore STEM (science, engineering, technology, mathematics) through the manipulation and construction of Lego Education kits. Recommended for youth up to age 12.

### Para Los Niños Bilingual Storytime

Tuesday, March 29, 4pm – 5pm

This is a bilingual Spanish/English story time to provide parents with books and activities which emphasize the development of motor skills and prepares children for reading. Ages: 4-8 years. Participants receive a free family pass to the Children's Museum of Houston.

### Pajama Storytime

Thursday, March 31, 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Put on your pajamas, bring a pillow and your favorite teddy bear for Pajama Storytime! Join us for bedtime stories and songs for children (ages 0 – 5 years) and their caregivers.

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



# Westbury 60th Anniversary

## ***WE NEED YOUR WESTBURY PHOTOS!***

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



10800 Block of Ashcroft looking from Bankside towards Claridge. 1963. Homeowner said it was like living in the middle of the country instead of the city.

*Sixty Wonderful Years*

Westbury Civic Club

## **Westbury Civic Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Celebration**

We are excited to announce our community events to celebrate this very special year! We invite everyone in our neighborhood to come to at least one of these festivities during the year! They will all be a lot of fun and a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and get more connected with the community! More details to follow as the event dates get closer.

**April 9 - Keep Westbury Beautiful Day (see April Crier)**

**April 16 - Westbury White Elephant Sale (page 1)**

**April 23 - 24 - Music Fest at Willow Waterhole (page 22-23)**

**June 11 - Westbury Family Night at Westbury Pool**

**September 21 - Westbury Civic Club Annual Meeting**

**September 24 - Westbury Civic Club 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration Party**

**Date TBD - Westbury Covered-Dish Supper  
(renewing a tradition)**

**Date TBD - Westbury Family Christmas Party  
(renewing a tradition)**

**Date TBD - Westbury Wine Night**

We need volunteers for ALL of these events!

Please email the WCC office at [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net) or email Libby Mondello at [libby.mondello@gmail.com](mailto:libby.mondello@gmail.com).

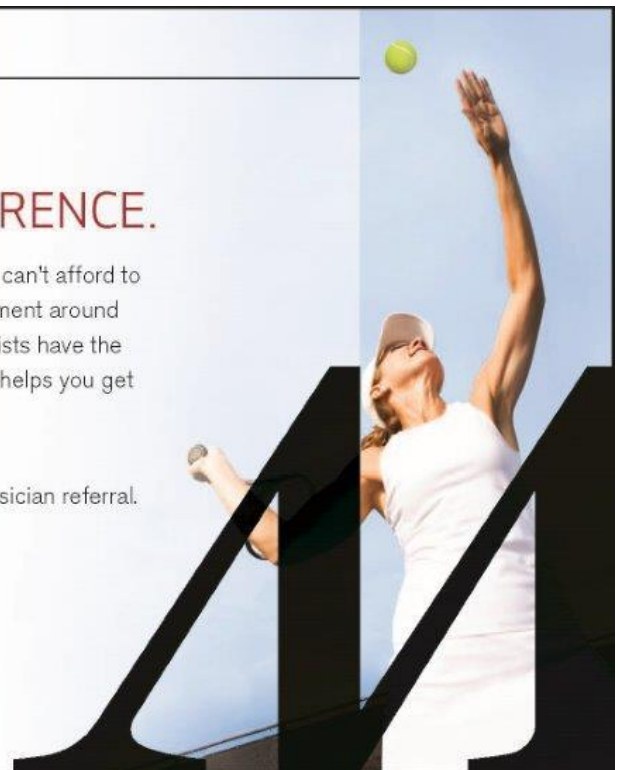
***Celebrate Westbury!***

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# WHS Community Meeting—2012 Bond

## HISD Community Meeting: Dissatisfaction with Proposed WHS Improvements

In February, HISD hosted a second community meeting to unveil designs for Westbury High School improvements that are to be funded by the 2012 Bond program. The room was full! There were many unhappy people at the meeting asking HISD tough questions. Why? There was widespread feeling that the scope of work that is proposed for WHS is fine, as far as it goes, but, the proposed scope is not enough. Members of the audience brought up serious issues that are not being addressed by the current scope for WHS.

### What is in the current scope?

\* A new building wing on the Dryad side of campus - to replace 25 classrooms now located in decrepit temporary buildings isolated from the main campus, with new kitchen and cafeteria, new gym and locker rooms, and new bus drop off area.

\* A new baseball field and new softball field with stands and field house (because the new building wing is going to be built on top of the old baseball field). New tennis courts.

\* New stormwater detention area (to offset the new construction) that will double as a practice field.

\* New administrative offices and school entrance. Revised traffic flow in the parking lot on the Chimney Rock side of the campus.

### What are the serious issues?

**1. Flooding:** WHS experienced structural flooding in both May and October last year, as did the Shell Research center adjacent to the new ball fields. HISD did not have answers as to how this flooding problem at WHS would be addressed or remedied.

**2. Building Capacity:** Will the new building wing provide sufficient capacity? Concerns were expressed that the building capacity will be undersized since WHS has newly been granted a magnet program for the Performing and Visual Arts, which will bring higher enrollment. We have not forgotten that the previous time HISD "improved" WHS, HISD greatly under-estimated future enrollment and opted to replace a 3-story building with a 2-story building, so that the "temporary" classrooms used for construction never left the campus.

**3. Fine Arts:** The Fine Arts area of WHS has been a major concern for many years due to many problems (moisture control, flooding, inadequate facilities, etc). These rooms used to be an office area in the original school wing. Parents and alumni and community leaders had been asking HISD to upgrade the Fine Arts area of WHS for a long time. Former HISD Trustee Larry Marshall promised us before the 2012 bond vote that the Westbury community would be pleased with the Fine Arts facilities at the improved WHS. Instead, the proposed WHS scope does not propose any upgrades or revisions or replacements for the WHS Fine Arts areas. This seems to be a major omission, especially for a school that has a magnet program in the Fine Arts.

### 4. Campus Expansion and Safety:

HISD Trustees previously approved expanding the WHS campus via acquisition of two properties that stand between the school and new ball fields, and money was allocated in the 2012 bond for this WHS campus expansion. After the 2012 bond was approved by voters and overwhelming approved by Westbury area voters, then the HISD Trustees reversed their vote and voted 5 to 4 to NOT acquire the two properties. Questions from the audience centered on being misled by HISD and what happened to the money that had been allocated for WHS campus expansion. Safety concerns were expressed for students who will be walking to the new ball fields. Acquiring these properties as promised would make for a safer campus and could provide additional detention to offset flooding in the area.

**5. Funding:** Repeated concerns were expressed that adequate funding has not been provided for WHS and that more funding is needed. Concerns were also expressed that WHS has not received the full allotment of funds that was originally promised, when the unused land acquisition funds are considered.

It is clear that serious concerns have been raised about the proposed WHS scope of work. We urge all Westbury residents to

stay involved in this issue. Look in future *Criers* for more information.

Community Meeting WHS 2012 Bond Feb. 2016



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# HISD News

## Cub Scout Pack 705 Collects Food in Westbury

Over Super Bowl weekend, Parker Elementary Cub Scouts from Pack 705, chartered through Westbury United Methodist Church for over the past 55 years, collected an amazing total of 553 canned food items and 422 non-can food items for a total of 975 food items donated by the Westbury residents. Pack 705 delivered the donations to the local Braes Interfaith Ministries community food pantry. Pack 705 Cub scouts participating this year were:

Matthew Cook, Jonathan Gonzales, Gavin Hall, Victor Zuniga, with parents Chris Cook, Rebecca Hall, Anna Gonzales, Andrea Cervin, and Chart Rep. Donald Scherer. Boy Scout Manuyl Langlois from Troop 455 assisted.



## Friends of WHS Gala: April 23

The Friends of Westbury High Foundation will host an "Take Me Out to the Gala" annual gala banquet and silent auction fundraiser on April 23. Distinguished Westbury alumni, faculty and community leaders will be formally honored and scholarships will be presented to outstanding graduating WHS seniors.

Through the generous support of Westbury alumni, friends and business partners, the Foundation, since its inception in 1994 through 2014, has raised over \$200,000 and awarded 175+ scholarships to WHS students.

This year's honorees are the 1966 Westbury Little League World Champions and alumni, faculty member and baseball coach Robert Lyle. Go to <http://www.friendswhs.org/> for more information.



Westbury Little League  
1966 World Series Champions

## HISD Superintendent Search

**Community Meetings at Welch MS March 8, 9:30AM and Westbury Baptist March 16, 6:30PM (Before WCC Board Mtg)**

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Trustees is searching for a new Superintendent and is seeking input from community members about the qualities and traits we would like to see in our next school district leader. The Board has selected Deputy Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer Ken Huewitt to serve as interim superintendent while they search for a permanent replacement. A series of community meetings will be held to gather input from various district stakeholders, including parents and students, school-based staff, district employees, and business and community members. Trustee Wanda Adams for District IX will host 2 community meetings.

**\*March 8, 9:30AM - Welch Middle School, 11544 S. Gessner**

**\*March 16, 6:30PM—Westbury Baptist Church, 10425 Hillcroft  
(before the March WCC Board Meeting)**

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# Johnston Middle School & HISD

## Anderson Celebrates 100 Days of School

On February 2, students at Anderson celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Students learned math about the number 100, and had a fun time marching in a parade on campus with posters they had created. HISD Trustee Wanda Adams dropped by to enjoy the fun. The renowned marching band from nearby Westbury High School entertained the students with a musical performance. It is great to see the high school students being like big brothers or big sisters to the children at Anderson Elementary!



## Johnston Middle School

In a controversial move, the HISD Board of Trustees voted 5 to 4 to change the name of Albert Sidney Johnston Middle School (JMS) at the HISD Board Meeting on February 11, 2016. This decision has been made and it is final. The Trustees felt it was inappropriate for the school to be named in honor of a general who died in service of the Confederacy during the US Civil War.

The principal of JMS has circulated a survey to get input about three proposed names: Meyerland Middle School, Meyerland Middle School for the Performing and Visual Arts, or the Middle School for the Performing and Visual Arts. We do not know if these are the only names that are under consideration. We also do not know the timing of the name change.

## Budget Crisis in HISD

Who in their right mind would think that the Houston Independent School District (HISD) is a “wealthy” school district? HISD is the largest school district in the state of Texas. For the 2014-2015 school year, HISD had about 215,000 students. Of these, about 76% were economically disadvantaged (poor) and 72% were considered to be “at-risk”. About 30% had limited English skills.

For the first time ever, HISD will have to return money (more than \$160 million!) to the state for re-distribution to other parts of Texas, per the so-called “Robin Hood” system of using rich school districts to help pay for the poor districts. The state legislature does not meet this year, so there is not an option for relief from the legislature. The courts declared in 2014 that the system used by Texas to fund schools is unconstitutional, and the Texas Supreme Court is considering an appeal by the state.

EVERY school in HISD will have a reduced budget for the 2016-17 school year. The plan is to cut more than \$100 million from operating expenses. Every school will lose at least \$197 per student. Funding for gifted students will also decrease. For example, JMS is anticipating a budget cut of approximately \$458,000 according to our sources.

## Johnston Middle School Beautification Day—March 5

Johnston Middle School Beautification Day will be on March 5 from 8:30-3PM. This is an event where the entire JMS community will work together for a common goal that will provide a tremendous opportunity for collaboration, creativity and fun.

The purpose of this beautification project is to improve, renew and upgrade the appearance of JMS, specifically the front of the school and courtyards.

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# Taxes and HISD

## Why should I care what happens at HISD?

Why should I care about HISD and what is happening at our local HISD schools? That is the question we sometimes hear along with these statements: "HISD doesn't affect me or interest me. My kids are grown. My kids go to private school. I don't have children."

As property owners, we are the tax base supporting HISD. Local revenue collected from property tax makes up about 72.6% of HISD's budget according to their website. **Approximately 40% of your property taxes go to HISD.**

In 2015, a home appraised at \$225,000 with a homestead exemption, had taxes levied at \$4,300 with HISD getting \$1,850 (43%) and the City of Houston gets \$1,075 (25%). If you have an over-65 exemption, some entities tax levels are frozen, but not HISD. A home valued at \$220,000 with an over-65 exemption, had a tax bill in 2015 for \$1,393 with \$1,116 going to HISD. **The City of Houston ONLY received \$96.18.**

The children of Houston deserve the best educational system possible. We as taxpayers fund this system and should take an active part in it. A well-educated population is imperative for the future of our city.

## My Tax Dollars at Work

Now that you know that a large chunk of your property tax dollars go to HISD, do you wonder how the City of Houston spends your tax dollars? Sherry Weesner, former Chief of Staff for City Council District At Large 3, sent an article and a link to website where you can see how your City of Houston property taxes are spent. Check out [hfdapp.houstontx.gov/MyTaxDollar/default.aspx](http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/MyTaxDollar/default.aspx)

According to this website, the City's approximately \$2 billion General Fund is its largest fund and supports the majority of the basic services of the City, such as police and fire protection, health and human services, and garbage collection. The largest sources of revenue for the General Fund are property and sales taxes, which together make up approximately 70% of the General Fund.

The current property tax rate for the City of Houston is 63.875 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The sales tax rate for the City is 1 cent, METRO's is 1 cent and the State of Texas' tax rate is 6.25 cents per dollar for

taxable items purchased. Obviously, most of the sales tax you pay ends up in the State's budget.

We also pay the Drainage Utility Charge (ReBuild Houston) (on your water bill). The fee is either 3.2 or 2.6 cents per year per sq. ft. of impervious surface depending on the type of road you live on (curb and gutter or open ditch). This fee pays for street and drainage improvements within the city.

The City created a website in 2013 to show us how our property taxes are spent. The My Tax Dollars at Work website on the City of Houston's webpage allows each of us to analyze how our Property Taxes are spent. It is enlightening to see that, with a tax bill of \$4,756 on a house appraised at \$248,000, that the City of Houston gets \$1,193 of which about \$700 goes to the Fire and Police Department.

**Parker Elementary Ground-Breaking for New School Building April 2 at 1:30PM**



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- Selling vs Asking Price: -5% (View 90-day trend)
- Asking and Sold Prices: median sold price \$189,500 (View 90-day trend)
- Number of Homes for Sale: homes for sale decreased -17% (View 90-day trend)

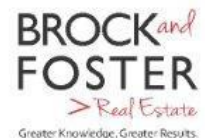
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Address	Price	Days on Market	Status
3704 Curvaco Dr 7 beds, 3 baths, 2012 sq. ft.	\$207,000	89 days	SOLD
3704 Curvaco Dr 4 beds, 3 baths, 1983 sq. ft.	\$264,000	32 days	SOLD
3707 Curvaco Dr 4 beds, 3 baths, 1983 sq. ft.	\$121,000	219 days	SOLD
3707 Curvaco Dr 3 beds, 2 baths, 1983 sq. ft.	\$160,800	62 days	FOR SALE
3707 Curvaco Dr 3 beds, 2 baths, 1983 sq. ft.	\$162,500	71 days	FOR SALE
3707 Curvaco Dr 3 beds, 2 baths, 1983 sq. ft.	\$171,800	83 days	FOR SALE
3707 Curvaco Dr 3 beds, 2 baths, 1983 sq. ft.	\$201,100	83 days	FOR SALE

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Market Snapshot is brought to you by Brock & Foster. Susan Brock is a specialist in Westbury and the surrounding areas. With more than 12 years experience she offers an individualized experience that has earned her a five-star client experience rating. Susan is a licensed broker and REALTOR.®

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# City Services and Events

## Free Spay/Neuter Day in Westbury

District K will be sponsoring a FREE spay/neuter for pets right here in Westbury on Tuesday, March 15, at the Platou Community Center, 11655 Chimney Rock. Time is 6:30 – 7:30 AM. First come, first served. Bring a current ID and a utility bill proving a City of Houston resident. Pets must be 4 months or older. Dogs must be on leash or in carrier. Cats must be in carrier or pillow case. Other nearby locations are: Saturday, March 12, at the Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center, and on Friday, March 18, at the Marian Community Center on S. Gessner.

## Update on Hillcroft Bridge

City of Houston Public Works (PWE) has prepared plans and is working with the Harris County Flood Control District to get them approved. The assigned contractor will begin repairs once approval is obtained. Repairs will include adding helical piles, which will reinforce the bridge and allow both lanes to be open for traffic until the bridge replacement occurs in 2020. PWE currently does not have a timeframe for the Harris County Flood Control District approval; however, once the repairs do start, they should be completed in approximately 90 days, weather permitting.

## CITY OF HOUSTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**District K Meeting : March 10**

**District C Meeting : March 9**

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 highest priority is the unaddressed flooding problem that continues to plague Westbury 3. The WCC successfully lobbied for Storm Drain Reconstruction two years ago but the hardest hit area was not chosen by the City. Parkwest 3 is slated to have a storm reconstruction project courtesy of last year's CIP Meeting. The WCC continues to lobby for the entire neighborhood to get new infrastructure.

Other requests include major street repair on Hillcroft and Ludington, multiple items at Hager, Chimney Rock, and Westbury Park, new library, and a new community center.

The City of Houston invites residents to participate in the annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process at public meetings in each City Council district. The meetings afford residents an opportunity to hear from city officials about CIP projects in their districts, voice questions and concerns and provide input regarding needed community improvements and services. ReBuild Houston updates and the City's Bike Plan draft will also be presented. To view the ReBuild Houston Draft "5 +5" Ten-Year Plan, visit [www.rebuildHouston.org](http://www.rebuildHouston.org). To view the city's Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2016-2018, <http://www.houstontx.gov/cip/>

### DISTRICT K - CM Larry Green

Thursday, March 10, 6:30 to 8:30 PM  
Willowridge High School  
16301 Chimney Rock 77053

### DISTRICT C - CM Ellen Cohen

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 to 8:30PM  
Metropolitan Multi-Service Center  
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# Flood Control

## New Gauge for Rainfall & Water Level along the Willow Waterhole Bayou

We are very pleased to announce the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCF) has added a new measurement location in the Westbury community. This is the first gauge to actually be located in Westbury. Other nearby gauges are on Brays Bayou (at Gessner or at S.Rice) and on Willow Waterhole Bayou at Willowbend (near the Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen on the far side of S. Post Oak).

The recently installed Westbury gauge is located on the Willow Waterhole Bayou near Lansdowne. This is near Anderson Elementary / Hager Park and Westbury High School. Information from this gauge can be found at [www.harriscountyfws.org/](http://www.harriscountyfws.org/). The name of the new gauge is: Gauge 445 (the full name is "D112\_445 Willow Water Hole @ Landsdowne Drive"). If you are looking at the map at the HCFCF website, then our new gauge is the one located near the word "Westbury". Hover the cursor over the gauge location until you can select "More Information" (or the Information icon if on a mobile device). Toggle back and forth between "Rainfall" and "Stream Elevation" as desired.

This new gauge will report rainfall amounts every 15 minutes when raining and will also report the water level in Willow Waterhole Bayou. There is a "Near Top of Bank" and "Out of Bank" feature on the overall map.

### Reminder to Residents that Abut an Easement:

1. You are required to mow and clean the easement next to your property (this may include a sidewalk next to the bayou)
2. Any improvements you have placed in the easement or right of way is at risk of being removed. This is not your private property.

## Update on the Willow Waterhole Detention Lakes

The last two detention compartments of the Willow Waterhole Project are undergoing construction along South Willow. "Compartment 6" (between The Gathering Place and a storage unit facility) is nearing completion. "Compartment 1" (across the street from the Westbury Place nursing home) is now being excavated and should be completed within three months.

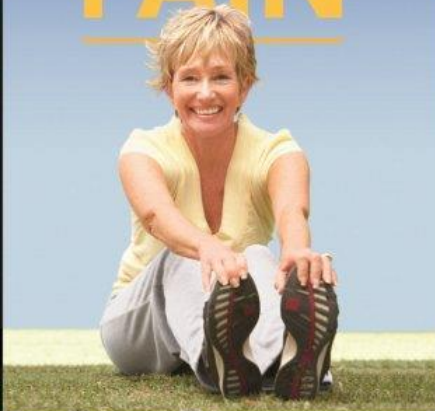
HCFCF has a consultant working on the final design of the two "weirs" to be built on the banks of Willow Waterhole Bayou in Westbury. Each weir will be made of concrete and will be a low place in the bank of the bayou to allow high water to overflow from the bayou into the Willow Waterhole detention lakes. The size and shape of the weir controls how much water can overflow from the bayou. If you are aware of The Gathering Place building located on S. Willow, then you will be able to envision that a weir will be on located on each side of it. The consultant is tasked to produce the final construction package for the in-flow weirs, control structure, connecting drainage boxes, and channel improvements from South Post Oak to the control structure. If you want to understand more about how these systems work, go to <https://www.hcfcf.org/learning-center/stormwater-detention-how-it-works/>.

This work, coupled with the improvements that will be made as part of Project Brays between 610 to Fondren, is one more step toward alleviating structural flooding in Westbury. Another piece of the puzzle to be completed is the installation of new stormwater drainage piping in Parkwest 3, where structural flooding occurred in 2015 & 2013.

If you are concerned about area flooding, you should attend the CIP meeting on March 10. (pg 12)

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# Crime & Security

## Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37\* 30 days February 21, 2016

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	4	4	0	0	8
Theft	7	4	1	6	18
Auto Theft	4	3	0	0	7
Robbery	0	0	1	0	1
Assault	0	1	0	0	1
Rape	0	0	0	1	1
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>

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

### Single Family Residential Crime

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

Block #	Street	Crime
5700	Alvarado	Auto Theft
5800	Alvarado	Theft
10700	Braewick	Theft
5800	Cartagena	Burglary
11000	Cedarhurst	Auto Theft
5500	Dawnridge	Theft
5900	Dryad	Theft
5700	Ettrick	Auto Theft
5800	Fontenelle	Theft
5200	Kingfisher	Burglary
5800	McKnight	Theft
11400	Mullins	Auto Theft
12300	Rampart	Theft
5600	W. Airport	Burglary
5200	Willowbend	Burglary

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACTS

**Westbury Area Patrol /  
Constables**

**281-463-6666**

**Westbury HPD Storefront**

**832.394.7520\***

*\*new number*

**HPD Non-Emergency**

**713-884-3131**

## Crime In Westbury – Putting It Into Perspective

Houston Police Chief Charles A. McClelland, Jr. recently released Uniformed Crime Report (UCR) statistics revealing a 3.2% decrease in crime in the city for 2015 compared to the previous year. If you are on social media, such as Next Door or a neighborhood Facebook page, you could get the impression that crime is rampant. Crime does occur all over the city. In Westbury our crime numbers are fairly constant year after year.

Looking at the March Criers for the last 3 years of crimes reported in Westbury: 52 in 2013; 38 in 2014; 39 in 2015; 36 in 2016. The majority of these crimes happen in commercial areas, the apartments or public areas. If you look at crime at our single family residences here are those same numbers: 26 in 2013; 12 in 2014; 20 in 2015; 15 in 2016. Fifteen crimes among 5,000 homes is a fraction, but not if you are one of those unlucky few.

### Reducing Crime

Sadly, a young employee was killed during a robbery of a restaurant in nearby Bellaire in late February. We cannot fix the whole city, but we can work together to make Westbury safer. The visibility of the Precinct 5 Constables Westbury Area Patrol (WAP) helps keep away criminals with its rapid response to calls of suspicious behavior. The WAP is the most expensive program that the civic club operates, so it is vital that residents pay their dues to be able to continue this excellent patrol service! "Good neighbors watching out for one another" (a neighborhood watch program) is another key way to reduce crime. The WCC Security Director, Kevin O'Brien, and several residents interested in public safety issues have recently formed a committee to discuss issues and make action plans related to security issues. They are discussing the Precinct 5 Constable Office Neighborhood Watch training program for residents and how to improve participation in the WAP program.

### Security Concerns?

To request a home security check or to report suspicious behavior in Westbury, call the Westbury Area Patrol constable dispatcher at 281-463-6666. Please take the time to save this phone number on your mobile phones!

### New Crime Maps to Track Crime in Your Neighborhood

The Houston Police Department website provides Crime Reports and Statistics. Those who are familiar with the website will notice that the previous Recent Crimes mapping function has been replaced with maps by [CrimeReports.com](http://www.crimereports.com), which allows citizens to search for crimes in their area, receive crime alerts via email, and submit anonymous crime tips directly to Crime Stoppers. The HPD website is <http://www.houstonpolice.org>

Crimes.com is providing this new mapping functions to the City for free. The data is updated every 30 minutes. Most Westbury residential homes are in HPD beat 15E20. Watch this short video on how to use the new features at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOef9GC0GTo>.

**Do you hear sirens?**

**Go to <http://cohweb.houstontx.gov/ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx>**





# Westbury Area News

## Eagle Scout Project underway for Westbury 60th Anniversary

Nelson Amaya, from Boy Scout Troop 197, began his Eagle Scout project on February 14 to restore the historic cement street posts located in Westbury. These original street posts are unique, but over the years many have been removed or damaged. The restoration work by Nelson will bring those still in place back to their original condition.

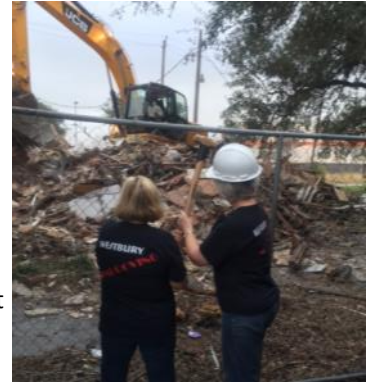
Nelson identified 12 posts that he will restore. If you have a post that wasn't restored send its location in an email to the Westbury Civic Club office ([westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net)) for a future project.



L to R: Robert Watson, Nelson Amaya (project leader), and Elijah Defferari.

## Commercial Property Updates

**Westbury Square** - On February 2, one more building was demolished at Westbury Square. This was the former pizza restaurant building (601 Westbury Square) that had been vacant for years and was damaged by a fire in June 2010. It is unknown, at this time, when the demolition debris will be removed. Becky Edmondson and Cindy Chapman were on hand with sledge hammers and hard hats.



**Belfort Plaza** - The vacant land across West Belfort from Westbury Square is in the process of being re-platted to combine the several lots (formerly townhomes that were demolished years ago) into a single lot. The building is proposed to host a mix of specialty retail and professional offices and will be called "Belfort Plaza".

## Westbury Estates -

In early February, all the buildings of the former St. Nicholas School at 10425 Mullins were demolished. The plan calls for a new subdivision to be called Westbury Estates and consist of 44 single family patio homes. It will be a



planned, deed restricted community with homes going for over \$500K. It is being developed by David Weekley Homes. The WCC is working with Chris Weekely of David Weekley homes to make sure neighborhood concerns are heard.

**Westbury Centerette** - There is no new update on this property. We have not heard anything from the owner. The construction trucks seen on the property were for the cell phone tower.



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# Westbury Area News

## Willow Waterhole – One of the Top 10 Hidden Gems in Houston

“Sometimes the hidden gems in Houston are sitting right in the middle of Westbury. **Willow Waterhole Park** is a 290-acre development offers ponds, walking trails and gazebos and is a fantastic quiet place to go and reflect. Willow Waterhole hosts music festivals and is truly a mecca of peace and tranquility. There are also some great volunteer opportunities available here to get involved.”

Top 10 Hidden Gems in Houston are Real Discoveries  
January 28, 2016 by J-Vibe —

## Willowbend Construction Update

The construction on Willowbend is progressing. The contractor is almost done with installing new curbs and gutters. Once this is completed, the new asphalt will be laid. The street repair work is projected to be completed by the end of May. We know this construction is frustrating and a inconvenience but it will be well worth it to drive on a nice smooth surface. Please use caution when driving down Willowbend. Plan alternate routes.



## Yard of the Month resumes in April

It's Spring, and almost everyone begins thinking, “What can I plant?” Yard of the Month awards resume in April, so this is the time to get busy and make your own yard look spectacular. Start by cleaning up debris, weeding the flower beds (yes, weeds grow even in the winter), trimming and shaping existing bushes, and trying to remember what your “design vision” was when you began. For those of us without a plan, who are just grateful when things don't die, simply cleaning up can still pay big dividends. And put down a 2-3” layer of mulch to protect your plants during our long hot summers. Then keep your eye out for yards that merit special mention, and maybe even a YOM award! If you see one you think qualifies, let your Section Director or the Civic Club office know. Who knows? Someone might even nominate yours!

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

## Links for Lost & Found Pets in Westbury

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

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# 2016 Dues/Assessments

## ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2

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

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

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

## Mission of the WCC

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

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

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

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

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

Please send this form in with your payment

## 2016 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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

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

**Make checks payable to:  
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.**

**Mail to:  
P.O. Box 975182  
Dallas, TX 75397-5182**

**Online payment:  
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westburycc@sbcglobal.net  
Make sure to include your  
address or account number**

### Want to send your support in multiple payments? You may choose any

amount to pay in any increment throughout the year. Here are a few examples:  
 2 payments of \$167.50 is \$335/yr  
 3 payments of \$111.67 is \$335/yr  
 4 payments of \$83.75 is \$335/yr  
 5 payments of \$67 is \$335/yr  
 12 payments of \$28 is \$336/yr

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

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

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





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# WCC Mailbag

## Neighborhood 101 Workshop Recap

District K sponsors periodic training workshops to improve skills of civic leaders in our part of town. WCC Directors Rocio Lara, Becky Edmondson, and Cindy Chapman devoted a Saturday morning to attend the February 2016 training session called "Neighborhood 101: Legal Aspects of Running an Effective Civic Board".

This workshop discussed the federal and state laws governing civic associations, recent changes to applicable laws, what are dedicatory instruments, HOA governance, HOA communications, and Knowing and Understanding the Risks of Being a Volunteer. The WCC Board Members in attendance were very eager to share their new knowledge with the rest of the board at the February WCC Meeting. The WCC will be implementing several of the items discussed at the workshop, such as updating policies that are filed with the County and creating new policies that will help guide us.



District K volunteers learning about the legal aspects to running an effective civic board.

## Q: Can I recycle my shredded paper in my recycle bin?

No, do not put your shredded paper in your recycle bin. Here is what city Waste Management told us: Shredded paper does not belong in the recycling bin for two reasons. Because of its size and elasticity, it does not separate easily from other materials, i.e. it cross-contaminates bottles and cans. It also blinds many of the technologies from working correctly and lessens glass quality. Also, paper fibers lose length as they are recycled. Shredded paper is a special item that only certain folks want because of its length. Keeping paper whole is the best way to recycle it.

## Q: Why doesn't the Westbury Civic Club use NextDoor as a tool for communications?

The official means of communication for the Westbury Civic Club are: the monthly WCC newsletter, the monthly WCC meetings, the WCC website, and the WCC Facebook page (Westbury Houston), which is used for late-breaking announcements. The WCC does not monitor NextDoor for complaints or questions, so please directly contact the WCC. Although an occasional informal announcement about community events or activities may be posted by individuals who are on the WCC board, the WCC as an organization does NOT make announcements via NextDoor.

One consideration, is that it is a violation of NextDoor policy for the WCC to be a member as neighbors are asked to "Join as an individual not as a couple, family, or organization." Furthermore, by state law, a civic club / HOA is required to maintain privacy about individual homeowners who may be in violation. So, the WCC cannot make comments when debate is ongoing on NextDoor about possible violations of ordinances or state laws. Finally, for the most human of reasons, NextDoor is just too tempting to slip in personal opinions, so rather than confuse the matter of personal versus official statements, any opinion expressed on NextDoor is a personal opinion, no matter who is it in Westbury that is making the comment!

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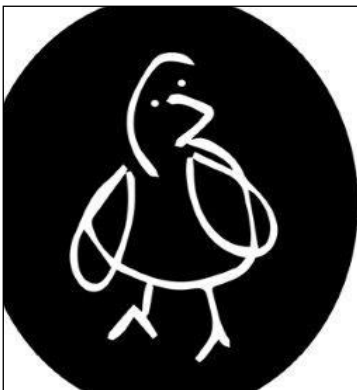
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# Greenspace News

## Help Keep Westbury Beautiful Home by Home

Spring has sprung! It's a great time to get outside and start those projects that were put off due to the winter weather.

### Home Maintenance

Please take note of your property. Is your sidewalk a trip hazard? Is the paint on your home peeling? Are portions of wood on your home rotting? Is your fence in need of replacement? Does your lawn have large bald spots? These expenditures are necessary to the upkeep of your home.

**\*Dirt/Mold-** Please take a long look at your home and remove any dirt and mold build up on the gables, fascia boards, brick, window casings, gutters, and sidewalks.

**\*Sidewalks, Driveways & Curbs-** Please remember according to the City of Houston, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to construct, reconstruct/repair, or bring to grade the sidewalks, driveways, curbs or gutters adjacent to their property. We appreciate your assistance in helping to make Westbury safe.

### Yard Maintenance

**\*Yard Work-** It is time again to get your yard work done on a regular basis. During the winter it may not have been necessary to cut your grass on a weekly

or bi-weekly basis. The spring weather will help the grass grow much faster and require more upkeep.

**\*Leaves-** Properties should be kept in a neat and attractive condition. Please collect and remove all leaves that have fallen on and in front of your property. The piles of leaves in the street are clogging up the street drainage system, causing drainage to be delayed or blocked.

**\*Yard clippings-** Bagged yard clippings may not be left at the curb before trash day. They must be put out of sight until the 6pm the evening before a trash collection day. If your clippings are missed by the city on collection day, call 311 and report it.

### Trash and Recycling

**\*Black Trash Bags-** Do not use black trash bags for lawn waste. The city will not pick them up. Please use only the cities approved recyclable bags.

**\*Trash Receptacles-** All trash & recycling receptacles must remain hidden from view until 6pm Wednesday night before our Thursday trash day.

## Mosquito Control



It's that time of year again. The mosquitoes are out full force! Mosquitoes are not only annoying but they can carry dangerous illnesses. The best way to keep down the number of mosquitoes is to not let them breed.

Mosquitoes can breed anywhere that water is left to stand or collect. If you look in the standing water, you may see little wiggling things. Those are baby mosquitoes (larvae). Some examples of where water may be left standing include: pet water bowls, bird baths, low puddle areas, saggy gutters, and plant container saucers. What can each of us do to reduce the numbers of mosquitoes?

- ◆ Tip over all the water collectors in your yard and leave them turned over to discourage mosquitoes
- ◆ Don't allow standing water in saucers under a pot.
- ◆ Rinse and refresh bird baths and pet water bowls daily.
- ◆ If you collect rainwater to water your plants, be sure the container has a good screen cover to keep mosquitoes out of the water.
- ◆ If you have a decorative pond in your backyard, check it for mosquito larvae. Small fish called Gambusia (Mosquito Fish) can be added to eat the mosquito larvae.
- ◆ Keep gutters in good repair.
- ◆ Get rid of old tires.

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# Westbury Community Garden

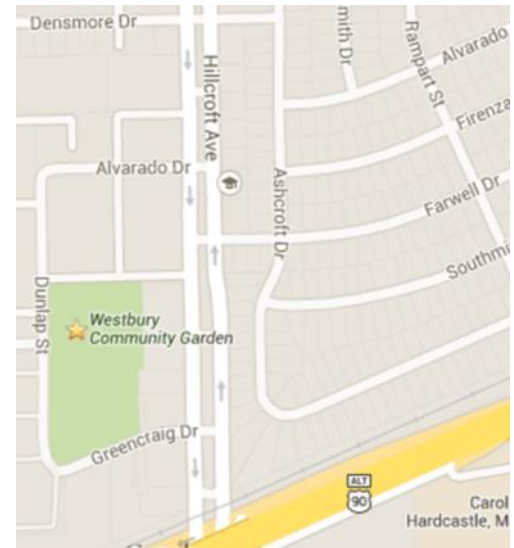
## Grants and Master Plan

The Westbury Community Garden, a project of the non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC), will be celebrating its 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March! Despite its short history, it is looking to the future and intends to develop a Master Plan. Phase 1 of the Master Plan process will be based on site analysis and consensus building. Phase 2 will provide construction drawings to address the priority issues of grading, drainage, and hardscape improvements at the garden site.

The costs for this Master Plan are being paid by 4 entities: \$10,000 from the Westbury Community Garden, a \$10,000 Community Building grant from the United Way, and the remaining costs are being split between Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD), and Council District Funds sponsored by District K CM Larry Green. The Westbury Community Garden is honored that the United Way, BOMD, and CM Larry Green see the value of conducting this master planning effort. District K has previously assisted the garden by funding a sidewalk along Dunlap. BOMD, the leaseholder for the garden site, also recently contributed \$5,000 for a gravel driveway.



*Cindy Chapman(WAIC), CM Larry Green, Virginia Livingston(Garden President), Marcia Hartman(WAIC), and Richard Rodriguez (BOMD Executive Director)*



## WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

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

## Save the Date – the Popular Tomato Tasting Event!

There are so many types of tomatoes of different sizes, shapes, and colors! On Saturday, June 4, from 10 AM to 11:30 AM, the Westbury Community Garden will host its hugely popular tomato tasting event. Save the date.

## Get your groceries from the garden in 2016

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

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

Register for the Westbury pick-up location at [www.plant-it-forward.org](http://www.plant-it-forward.org) today and get produce for your family this week!

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



## YOU'RE INVITED!

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# Willow Waterhole

## Dog Park Update

The WWGC dog park committee met February 25 and toured the proposed site, a two acre track on South Willow to the west of ABC Doors. The dog park will be built by the 6<sup>th</sup> and final detention basin projected for completion late 2017. The committee's task is to brainstorm, design, approve, estimate and fundraise for the dog park.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 14, at 6:30PM at the gathering Place 5310 S. Willow. For further information go to [www.willowwaterhole.org](http://www.willowwaterhole.org)



## Volunteer Work Day

**Saturday, March 21, 10AM—Noon**

Meet at the Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow  
Every 2nd Saturday, students from local schools have been helping Board Members and volunteers on landscaping and clean-up projects. If you are interested, please join us. No experience needed.

## Great Music! Food Trucks! Craft Market! Beautiful Setting! 4th Annual Willow Waterhole Music Fest SAVE THE DATE: April 23 & 24

Nope, we are not talking about Midtown or Downtown or Discovery Green, but an event happening right here in Westbury in April. Every year, the fledgling MusicFest, based at Willow Waterhole, gets bigger and better. This year, the event will be expanded to TWO full days of music, with SIX food trucks, and more than THIRTY craft vendors. If you have never been, the MusicFest stage will be based on the lawn area near the large gazebo at the end of Dryad. The craft tents will be spread out along the fence line between the gazebo and Gasmer. Parking will be available at Westbury High School.

**Saturday, April 23 from 11AM to 10PM**

**Sunday, April 24 from Noon to 7PM**

There will be all types of music, spanning from zydeco to big band to rock to R&B to blues to Latin to Cuban to jazz. This year there will be 16 professional groups and 10 school performances (Sunday).

Grateful Geezers \* Zydeco Dots \* Mark Towns \* Gary Michael Dahl \* Crossroads \* Kyle Turner \* Charlie Perez \* Mark Dini \* Conrad Johnson \* Corey Stoot \* Bayou City Brass \* TKOH \* Luther & The Healers \* Jelando Johnson \* Joe Carmouche \* Diaunna Greenleaf

To sign up as a volunteer, or as a craft vendor, or for more information, go to [www.willowwaterhole.org/musicfest](http://www.willowwaterhole.org/musicfest) The Facebook event page will have the most recent information about event lineups. There is a link to the Facebook event page on the website, or search for: Willow Waterhole Music Fest 2016

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