

**VOLUME 68, ISSUE 2** 

MARCH 2023

## EXPLORING WESTBURY

Did you know that you can walk along the bayous in Westbury? Did you know there are many miles of trails at the Willow Waterhole? Westbury has great greenspaces perfect for walking. We are starting a new series of different places to walk in Westbury that aren't just the sidewalks and streets!

First up is the Hummingbird drainage ditch/bayou. This bayou runs from Braewick, next to the Banbury Dance Studio, all the way to the Willow Waterhole. Once you are on the easement along the bayou, you can see that the trail is well maintained. Thank you to WAIC volunteer, Al Potvin, for all his hard work clearing and mowing. Many residents walk their dogs along this route, but please keep your

dogs leashed. At Mullins, there is a great turtle viewing area, which is always fun to see. Once you make your way across Atwell, you will find a swing and bench perfect for a nice break to enjoy your surroundings (Pictured on right). You can keep traveling down the bayou all the way to Chimney Rock. If you are feeling extra adventurous, you can make your way across the intersection of W. Bellfort and continue down the easement. The bayou is now a covered culvert heading straight to the Willow Waterhole basins, which is a great place to see birds of all species.



# STAY INFORMED

Like and follow the

## **Westbury Houston**

Facebook page for updates on events, trash, commercial properties, road construction, weather, meetings and more.



# NEXT

## **WCC Board Meeting**

March 15, 7PM
Westbury Baptist
Game Room

# EVENUS EVENUS

# Westbury Community Garden Founder's Breakfast

Saturday, March 25, 10AM-Noon Westbury Community Garden, 12581 Dunlap Come celebration 13th anniversary of the WCG and more! Details on page 19.

## Keep Westbury Beautiful

## Saturday, April 1, 9AM-Noon Westbury Park, 5630 Stillbrooke

Come out to Westbury Park and help clean the butterfly garden by pulling weeds, adding mulch, and planting new plants. This is a great volunteer activity for the whole family. Details on page 8.

## **Spring White Elephant Sale**

## Saturday, May TBD, 8AM-Noon

Stay tuned to the April Westbury Crier for all the important deadlines and dates for the White Elephant Sale.



## **HEAVY TRASH**

#### March 2023

Thursday, March 9
TREE WASTE ONLY

## **April 2023**

Thursday, April 13
JUNK WASTE

## RECYCLING

#### **March 2023**

Thursday, March 9 Thursday, March 23

## April 2023

Thursday, April 6 Thursday, April 20

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# **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

## **WCC OFFICE**

5322 W. Bellfort #100, Houston, TX 77035
Jennifer Edmondson......WCC Office Manager

Westbury Civic Club Office Hours Mon.-Thurs., 10AM-12PM WCC Office Closed Friday-Sunday

**NOTARY SERVICES**— available to paid WCC members

## **CONTACT US**

WCC Office Telephone	713-723-5437
WCC Office Email	westburycc@sbcglobal.net
Deed Restrictions	westburycc@sbcglobal.net
WCC Presidentwo	ccpresident@westburycrier.com

Visit our website at www.westburycrier.com "Like" us on Facebook at Westbury Houston

## SECURITY

)281-463-6666
s activity, and vacation watch
911
ergency 713-884-3131
832-394-0400

## **CITY OF HOUSTON**

District K CM, Martha Castex-Tatum	832-393-3016
District C Council Member, Abbie Kamin	832-393-3004
Deed Restriction Enforcement (City Legal)	832-393-6333
Platou Community Center	713-726-7107
Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office	832-393-0955
Houston Help & Information	311

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

## **CENTERPOINT ENERGY**

Electric outage	713-207-2222
Suspected natural gas leak	713-659-2111
Street light repairs	713-207-2222

Make sure to give pole number

## OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

County Commissioner Rodney Ellis713-755-6111
County Commissioner Lesley Briones832-927-4444
Graffitiwww.braysoaksmd.org
Shopping Cart Removalwww.braysoaksmd.org
Brays Oaks Mgmt. District - Use "report a problem" link
Poison Control1-800-764-7661
Harris County Tax office713-368-2000
Harris County Appraisal District713-957-7800

## **2023 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Contact the Westbury Civic Club at 713-723-5437 or westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President	Cindy Chapman
wccpresident@westb	
Vice President	Marcia Hartman
Secretary	Susan Brock
Treasurer	Becky Edmondson

#### **DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Deed Restrictions	Maggie Donovan
Flood Control & Infrastructure	Jennifer Edmondson
Greenspace Beautification	Mat Funk
Security	VACANT
At-Large 1	Martha Kinn
At-Large 2	VACANT
At-Large 3	VACANT
At-Large 4	VACANT

## **SECTION DIRECTORS**

Westbury 1	Santiago Caraballo
Westbury 2	Lindsey Pollock
Westbury 3	Jeff Benavides
Westbury 3	.Jonathan Hansen
Westbury 4	Eugene Sirls
Westbury 4	Becky Pate
Westbury 5	Andrew Jefferson
Westbury 5	VACANT
Westbury South	VACANT
Parkwest 1	VACANT
Parkwest 2	Bob Droubi
Parkwest 3	Alan Hirshman

POSTED WCC BOARD VACANCIES CAN BE FILLED AT ANY REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING.

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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# A Message from the Westbury Civic Club President

December, January, and February were tough months for the WCC and for me personally. I am pleased to now say that both the WCC and I are recovering from our challenges and are making significant strides in getting to where we want and need to be. Personally, I have been battling major health challenges since October. But, the worst is now behind me and my health improves every day.

For the WCC, operationally we are not where we had hoped we would be by this time of the year, but we have a plan in place to get there and continue to work hard to achieve that plan. As mentioned several times in the Crier, the WCC has been looking at converting to a different database management system. At the end of 2022, we decided to go ahead and make the big switchover to this new property database management system for 2023. This new system will provide better and more efficient payment options as well as better ways to communicate to our residents. The goal is to provide solid solutions to our needs that will provide much improved services for our residents. We knew that converting to an entirely new database system would have difficulties and unanticipated problems, however, there have been quite a bit more than we anticipated that has delayed the switchover both to the new property database management system and to the new WCC website on our new host. Our current website can no longer be updated and is no longer supported. We expect the new website to be launched very soon!

As our Parkwest 1 and 2 homeowners are aware, the invoices for your mandatory assessments were delayed yet again. The letters will be going out very soon, if you haven't already received one by now. I am thrilled that the mandatory assessment invoices are being mailed this year directly

by our new database management provider, and in future years can be sent by email. Rollout to the new system for our homeowners with voluntary dues will be slower, but you can continue to pay dues using the website in the interim. More information will be coming in the upcoming issues of the *Crier*.

Another big challenge in the beginning of 2023 was the Westbury Crier. It is reassuring to know how many people love our monthly newsletter. By now, you realize that we opted to do a combined January/February newsletter albeit delivered very late. I regret to say that hard decisions are required for the future of our print newsletter. The price to print the Crier DOUBLED for 2023. Although we would not have been surprised by a modest increase, we were shocked and disappointed when the price doubled without any advance warning to us. We are researching other print options. In the interim, during the February WCC board meeting, we agreed that we would print and deliver a March newsletter and then decide what to do. We are considering going entirely digital in our future communications. Fortunately, our new database management system includes a communication package to send emails to our residents, after you register and provide your contact information.

Now let's talk about the good news for Westbury! The Westbury Community Garden is celebrating its 13th anniversary in March and is hosting a fundraising breakfast (see page 19). The pier at Willow Waterhole has been completed at Westbury Lake and more trails will be constructed soon (see page 16). Both the Willow Waterhole and the Westbury Community Garden are located conveniently close to our Westbury homes!

The City has been working on some street improvements in Westbury, and will soon be working on a local drainage project near Mullins at Willowbend; that construction project has already been underway on the north side of Willowbend and will then move to the area south of Willowbend. Have you taken a sneak peek yet of the new city library being built in Westbury? It is going to be an amazing asset for our community. Westbury High School is getting a soccer field and its Fine Arts magnet program has been approved by HISD to offer an Orchestra program next year. HISD has also provided funds to purchase orchestra instruments for WHS. The WCC will be hosting a Keep Houston Beautiful / Keep Westbury Beautiful workday event in April at Westbury Park. If you are in a section of Westbury that has been involved in efforts to update their deed restrictions, be watching for future meeting notices and make sure to register and sign up for email communications from the WCC via our new property management system.

March is a fantastic month for getting outdoors. I encourage you to take advantage of the moderate spring weather to explore Westbury. If you haven't been to Willow Waterhole in a while, you may be surprised that more amenities have been added and continue to be added. If you like gardening or plants, explore the grounds of the Westbury Community Garden. I encourage you to take a stroll along our streets and trails. My husband and I carry binoculars and a camera during our strolls because you never know what interesting wildlife you might happen to see here in Westbury. Did you know that millions of birds migrate through the Houston area during the spring and fall?

Cindy Chapman

## **WCC Board Notes—February 2023**

- → Guest Speakers: Edidiong Obot from Harris County Precinct One, Richard Nguyen from Solid Waste, and Melvin Hopkins from city District K. Melvin mentioned that District K will be using district funds to do concrete panel replacements on Chimney Rock and W Bellfort.
- → Public Safety Becky Edmondson summarized the comments by HPD Commander Hassig at the WAIC meeting earlier in the morning regarding the ongoing crime issues at the Heights at Post Oak Apartment complex at 12500/12600 Dunlap as well as the problem commercial properties in the Hillcroft corridor.
- → WCC board voted to send letter of concern regarding lack of public engagement on the new proposed City ordinance for Conservation districts.
- → Board discussion on problems with conversion to new database and website and on the newsletter pricing and delivery issues.



Westbury Baptist Church 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room

# Platou Community Center at Chimney Rock Park

11655 Chimney Rock Rd 713-726-7107 \* platou@houstontx.gov



New Supervisor — Dajai Tennard Email — Dajai. Tennard@houstontx.gov

Platou Center is open from 9:30AM—6PM, Monday—Friday

## **Adult Classes @ The Platou Center**

Exercise—M/W/F, 9:30-10:30AM

Quilting—Tuesday, 9:30AM –2PM

Games—Wednesday, 10AM—12PM

New Members are Needed—Other times can be added if interested.

Ping Pong—Thursday, 9:30-10:30AM

There is currently plenty of open times on the Platou Center Calendar. If you are interested in something particular, like line dancing, genealogy, crafts and other great get together ideas, call Dajai Tennard at 713-726-7107. There are no bad ideas!

## **Westbury Alphabet Soup**

There are many groups that advocate on quality of life issues for us here in Westbury. Most of the groups have regular meetings that you will find listed on our calendar page to the right. We tend to speak of these groups by their acronyms.

WCC Westbury Civic Club

WAIC Westbury Area Improvement

Corporation

**WWGC** Willow Waterhole Greenspace

Conservancy

WCG Westbury Community Garden
WAP Westbury Area Patrol (Constables)

SWH2000 Southwest Houston 2000

BOMDBrays Oaks Management DistrictPIPPositive Interaction ProgramFOLPHFriends of Levitt Pavilion HoustonNTTSWNeighborhoods to Trails Southwest

Other common acronyms:

**COH** City of Houston

**DON** Department of Neighborhoods

(City of Houston)

PWE Public Works & Engineering

(City of Houston)

**HPARD** Houston Parks and Recreation

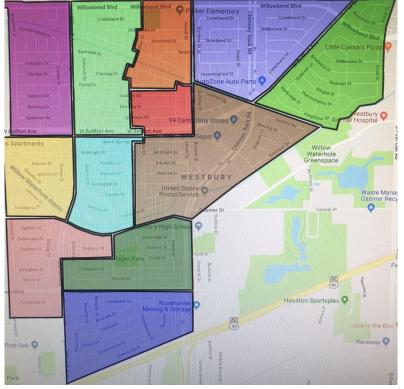
Department

HCFCD Harris County Flood Control District
HCTRA Harris County Toll Road Authority
HOUSTON Independent School

District

**HCC** Houston Community College

## Map of Westbury by Section



Westbury is the 2nd largest neighborhood in the City of Houston with 5,000 homes. One reason Westbury has remained such a viable and desirable neighborhood is because of the very active Westbury Civic Club. The WCC has been advocating and working hard for the neighborhood for over 60 years. We often refer to different sections when talking about current or upcoming city projects, crime, or events. This handy map can also be found on our website, www.westburycrier.com.

Parkwest 1	198 homes
Parkwest 2	445 homes
Parkwest 3	311 homes
Westbury 1	543 homes
Westbury 2	530 homes
Westbury 3	853 homes
Westbury 4	834 homes
Westbury 5	501 homes
Westbury 5	150 homes
Westbury South	563 homes

# What's Happening in Westbury

## MARCH 2023 Events/Meetings

Thurs 9	Heavy Trash - TREE WASTE ONLY
Sun 12	Daylight Savings Ends Clocks Move Forward 1 hour at 2AM
March 13-17	HISD Spring Break
Fri 17	St. Patrick's Day
Wed 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 9:30AM Online Meeting
Wed 15	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room
Sat 21	Audubon Society Bird Survey 5310 South Willow Monthly bird survey
Sat 25	Founder's Breakfast at the WCG 10AM—12PM Westbury Community Garden, 12581 Dunlap

# APRIL 2023 Events/Meetings

Sat 1	<b>Keep Houston Beautiful</b> Westbury Park See page 8 for more information	9AM-Noon
Thurs 13	Heavy Trash - JUNK WASTE	
Wed 19	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting Westbury High School, 11911 Chimney Rock	9:30AM
Wed 19	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room	7PM



# **All About Trash**

Trash, yard waste, recycling, and heavy trash are picked up by the City of Houston.

## **Regular Household Trash**

Pick-up is EVERY Thursday. Regular household trash goes into the black trash can.

## **Yard Waste**

Pick-up is EVERY week either on Thursday or Saturday or any day the City decides to come by. Yard Waste MUST be placed in the correct City bio-degradable bags.



## **Recycling in Westbury**

All of Westbury recycles on Schedule A. Recycling is every other week. Recycling goes into the green trash can.

March 2023
Thursday, March 9
Thursday, March 23

April 2023
Thursday, April 6
Thursday, April 20

## Heavy Trash Schedule

All of Westbury is on the same schedule for Heavy Trash. Pick-up is on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Odd months are TREE WASTE ONLY and even months are JUNK WASTE months.

March 2023 TREE WASTE ONLY Thursday, March 9 April 2023
JUNK WASTE
Thursday, April 13

# Important Trash & Recycling Info

- Regular trash pickup is every Thursday.
- Recycling is every other Thursday.
- Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- Tard waste is picked up on Saturdays.
- Westbury is on Recycle Schedule A
- NO Plastic Bags in green recycling bins
- 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 with City logo
- Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
- <u>SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr</u> **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 <a href="https://www.houstontx.gov">www.houstontx.gov</a> for more trash and recycling information

## **Pay Your Dues Online** www.westburycrier.com

Go to westburycrier.com then to the Dues and Assessments page.

The available payment options on the selection menu are:

- → WCC Dues \$60
- → WCC Constables \$315
- → WCC Dues + Constables \$375
- → Mandatory Assessments 2023— \$267.35
- → Custom Amount You can enter your own amount

Once you get to the payment page, you can opt to pay with your PayPal account, or pay directly by credit card.



## **ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1 & 2**

Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments. These assessments may be adjusted annually by the most recently published annual percentage change for the US Urban Wage Earners, US City Average, in accordance with the deed restrictions.

The 2023 Mandatory Assessments of \$267.35. Due Date is February 1, 2023.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE AN INVOICE. PLEASE EMAIL THE WCC OFFICE AT WESTBURYCC@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Please send this form in with your payment	Please send this form in with your nayment 2022 Most burn. Civil Club Ducc					
riedse seilu tilis totti ili witti yosi payile	2023 Westbury Civic Club Dues					
Name(s)						
Address						
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Online payment:	Westbury Civic Club Dues \$60	\$				
www.westburycrier.com www.paypal.com to email	Westbury Area Patrol \$315	\$				
westburycc@sbcglobal.net	Subtotal \$375	\$				
Make sure to include your address	Additional Contributions:					
Make checks payable to:	Westbury Civic Club	\$				
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.	Westbury Area Patrol	\$				
Mail to:	Total	\$				
P.O. Box 975182  By filling out this form, you are giving the WCC permission to send you communicate We DO not sell your information or give it out to other entities.						

## **Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting**

3rd Wednesday Each Month at 7PM Westbury Baptist Church, 10425 Hillcroft

→ Live streamed on Facebook, Westbury Houston

Next WCC Board Meeting **Wednesday, March 15, 7PM** IN PERSON MEETING **Westbury Baptist** 

Topics- Update on City projects, Deed restriction revision, Committee reports



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

> could have done." -Anonymous

## WCC Contacts, Forms, and Services

#### **Contact the WCC Office**

westburycc@sbcglobal.net 713-723-5437 Message Westbury Houston Facebook page

#### **Contact the WCC President**

wccpresident@westburycrier.com

#### **Report Deed Restriction Violations**

Email westburydr@gmail.com

#### **House Plan Review**

#### New Homes, Solar Panels, additions, etc.

Form is online at www.westburycrier.com Submit plans and completed form to the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

#### **Statement of Account**

Email the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

#### **Resale Certificates**

Form is online at www.westburycrier.com
Return payment and completed form to the WCC office

## **Deed Restrictions, Policies, By-laws**

Available online at www.westburycrier.com

## STAY INFORMED

Like and follow the

## **Westbury Houston**

Facebook page for updates on events, trash, commercial properties, road construction, weather, meetings and more.



## **New Website Coming Soon!**

\*\*\*March 1 Update—We are still working through some technical challenges with our vendor. We are moving forward with the Mandatory statements and those should be in the mail by the time you receive this newsletter. The mandatory homes are entered into our new database and website. We are currently working on adding all the voluntary sections. We are updating it section by section, as we are auditing each street to ensure we have the most up to date information. The rollout for the voluntary homes will be coming soon. Look for an update in the April Crier.

Part of the new PayHOA database is a new website. Board members are currently working on updating the new site with all of our documents and it should be active soon! We are unable to update our current site which is why the Jan/Feb Crier is not posted.

As the second largest neighborhood within the City of Houston, one might imagine that keeping up with communications, dues collection and other administrative tasks might be difficult. We are excited about this new program, PAYHOA. The software is fairly straightforward and it offers crucial benefits that will help the WCC run more efficiently and effectively.

The new software will provide a simpler way for you to pay your dues or check your account balance. It also has features that will allow us to communicate more easily with the neighborhood - from communicating with residents, sending important notices, to setting our budget and managing our finances, PAYHOA will be a helpful new addition to Westbury.

What can you expect? An easier way to pay your dues as well as centralized correspondence from the Civic Club to you. It will give you access to your account and digital dues payments through a unique homeowner portal.



# CONCERNED WITH YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?



milestones
vocabulary
speech clarity
academics
social skills
feeding skills
play skills

Right here in your neighborhood!

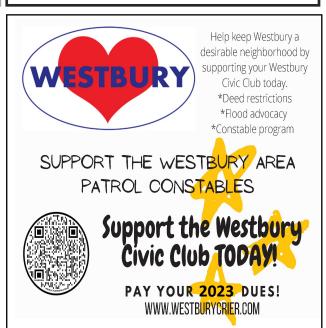


now accepting TX BCBS insurance!

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nollysueslp.com

info@hollysueslp.com



## **Keep Westbury Beautiful Day**

For the 12th consecutive year, District K and Westbury are partnering with Keep Houston Beautiful to clean up and beautify our Westbury neighborhood at the annual "Keep Westbury Beautiful Day". This is a great way to meet neighbors, introduce your kids to volunteer work, enjoy the great outdoors during the best time of the year in Houston, and help improve our Westbury community.

## WHEN

## Saturday, April 1, 9AM to Noon, Rain or Shine

## WHO

**Everyone is welcome!** 

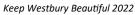
## WHERE

# Westbury Park 5630 Stillbrooke next to Parker Elementary

Our main focus this year will again be the butterfly garden at Westbury Park. We created this garden 8 years ago and it was thriving until the last two freezes. We have replanted most of the plants, but the butterfly garden still needs much TLC; we will be weeding, mulching, and planting new butterfly plants. The other beds around the park also need some weeding and mulching.

In addition to the butterfly garden, we will also be hosting a Westbury-wide trash pickup for anyone who would like to go collect trash. Have you noticed litter or bandit signs on our esplanades, corners, sidewalks, bus stops, and parks? Do you drive by a mess and think to yourself, "I wish someone would clean that up?" Now is your chance to help make Westbury shine. Sign in at Westbury Park, collect your trash bag and grabbers, and then head out anywhere in Westbury to collect trash or bandit signs. After cleaning up, bring your bags of trash and bandit signs back to Westbury Park at noon and enjoy a pizza lunch.







April 1, 2023 Westbury Park 9AM-Noon

## Ways You Can Help Keep Westbury Beautiful

There are many ways in which you can help keep Westbury beautiful. If we all pitch in and do our part, together we can Keep Westbury Clean and Beautiful.

- → Picking up trash in our parks or on our esplanades. Westbury has 7 miles of esplanades, 3 City parks (Chimney Rock Park, Hager Park, and Westbury Park) and the Willow Waterhole.
- → Start with your own yard! Improve the aesthetic appearance of your front yard by changing its contours, adding ornamental features, or planting trees and shrubs. Landscape gardening increases the value of your property.
- → Plant a tree! Planting trees can have tremendous influences on communities. It improves our environment, can enhance our quality of life, and improve our health. Plant on your property or join us for a tree planting event.
- → Curb and gutter cleaning. Sweep in front of your home. Get your neighbors together & clean the whole street. Clear your storm drains.
- → Collect litter around bus stops.
- → Place your trash on the curb on the correct day.

#### "NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIALISTS"

## JACKIE AND KENDYL TEAM



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KENDYL MAURER (281) 904-8199

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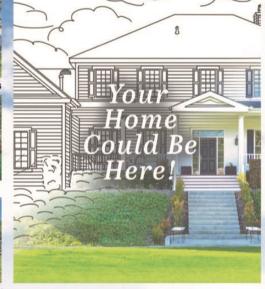
11110 Ashcroft - 3/2/2•\$410's



10702 Carlota- 3/2/2•\$240's



5831 Burlinghall - 3/2/2•\$390's



HOUSTON • KATY • SUGAR LAND • THE WOODLANDS

## Congratulations to CM Martha Castex-Tatum

## **New Member of National Transportation Committee**

Our very own District K councilmember, Martha Castex-Tatum, Vice Mayor Pro Tem, has been appointed to serve on a National Committee for Transportation and Infrastructure Issues for the National League of Cities (NCL). Congratulations!

The press release from the NCL noted that, "As a member of NLC's Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee, Vice Mayor Pro Tem Martha Castex-Tatum will play a key role in shaping NLC's policy positions and advocate on behalf of America's cities, towns and villages before members of Congress, with the President's administration, and at home".

NLC President, Mayor Victoria Woodards of Tacoma, Washington, said, "I am excited to have Vice Mayor Pro Tem Castex-Tatum, a respected leader among leaders, serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee and look forward to working with her to ensure every city, town and village in this nation has the resources they need to thrive."



## **2022 Distinguished Local Legislator of the Year**

The Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce recognized District K City Councilmember, Martha Castex-Tatum, as the 2022 Distinguished Local Legislator of the Year. CM Castex-Tatum was presented the award during their 2023 Annual Volunteer Awards Meeting & Board Induction Ceremony.

Women are the largest economic force in America and the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce's program of work continues to advance and empower Houston women through a number of avenues.

CM Castex-Tatum wrote, "Public service can be challenging "heart" work but moments like this continue to fuel my passion to serve and restore people's faith in government."



# **City Considering Ordinance to Create Conservation Districts**

The City of Houston is considering a draft ordinance to allow Conservation Districts to be created. "A Conservation District may establish a set of area specific design requirements intended to serve the public interest in preserving and protecting neighborhoods with architectural or cultural importance. Conservation Districts require agreement by the majority of property owners in the neighborhood."

This topic was discussed during the February Westbury Civic Club meeting. Some neighborhoods that are rapidly gentrifying, especially in historically minority communities, have asked the city for a more flexible tool to help preserve their neighborhoods. The first draft issued by the City authorized the City Planning Department to decide which areas to seek protection under the proposed ordinance. The second draft has been improved by requiring that the request be initiated by a community, instead of by the City Planning Dept.

The City has been using an aggressive timetable to implement an ordinance on this topic. During the February Westbury Civic Club meeting, the board authorized WCC President Cindy Chapman to write an email expressing concerns about the low amount of public engagement provided by the city thus far on this important property rights topic. Since Westbury itself is a neighborhood older than 50 years old, we understand and are supportive that some neighborhoods are desperately seeking better tools to protect their communities. WCC President Chapman has carefully reviewed the draft ordinance and has submitted comments and ideas to improve the ordinance.

#### **Links for Lost & Found Pets**

☑Nextdoor Westbury -

www.nextdoor.com

✓ Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook

☑ Houston Cares -

Contact at houstoncaresrescue.org/





## TIRZ 20 Annexation into Westbury Area

Recently, the City of Houston voted to allow TIRZ #20 to annex new areas, including some properties here in the Westbury Super Neighborhood. The name of TIRZ #20 is the Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority.

It is very important to note that this annexation does NOT affect any Westbury single-family homes in any manner at all. Only specific commercial properties or properties involved in drainage or detention are affected by the annexation. This annexation has the potential to be of immense benefit to the Westbury area in the future.

To give some background, all of the Westbury Super Neighborhood has been included within the boundaries of the Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) since 2013. BOMD is funded solely by annual assessments on commercial properties, not on residential homes. A challenge for BOMD has been that it has lacked access to the funding needed for major capital projects that is available to a TIRZ. A TIRZ is only allowed to spend its funds on major capital projects. Parts of BOMD have already been part of TIRZ 20, and the recent expansion of TIRZ 20 allows more properties in BOMD to be added to TIRZ 20, including the properties located in Westbury. See map.

The City of Houston defines a TIRZ as: "Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs) are special zones created by City Council to attract new investment in an area. These zones help finance costs of redevelopment and promote growth in areas that would otherwise not attract sufficient market development in a timely manner. Taxes attributable to new improvements (tax increments) are set-aside in a fund to finance public improvements within the boundaries of the zone."

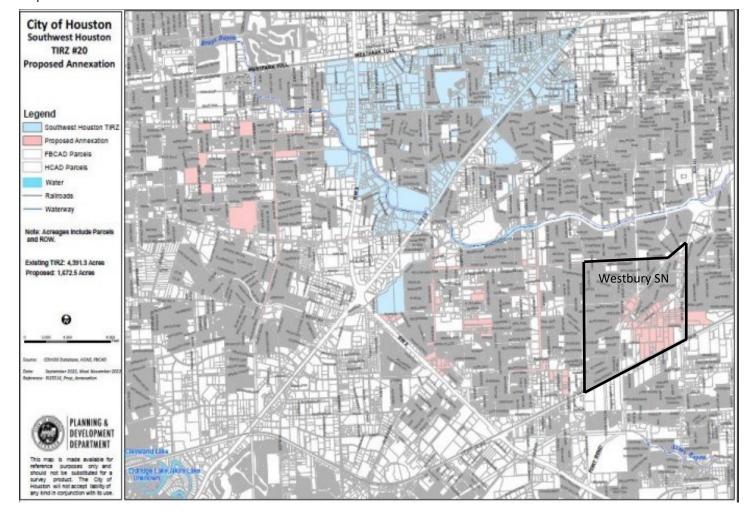
Basically, when a TIRZ is established (or new areas annexed), the tax base is frozen for the property taxes sent to the city. As property values increase, the increment (increase) in taxable income goes to the TIRZ and is then reinvested in capital projects within the boundaries of that TIRZ. The city reviews and approves the TIRZ budgets and major capital projects planned.



Houston City Council created TIRZ #20 in 1999, which is the base year for ad valorem tax increments. The zone encompasses over 40% of the land area of the Southwest District (formerly known as the Greater Sharpstown District), plus portions of the International District and Westchase District west of Beltway 8.

During the January 31, 2023, City Council meeting, Council approved an ordinance for the operating budget for the Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Tax Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) 20, in Districts K, J, and F. The total 2023 Operating Budget is \$28,826,261. (By comparison, the 2023 operating income for the Brays Oaks Management District is about \$1,500,000).

Stated Purpose of the Annexation – Annex ROW (*Right of Way along public drainage easements*), parks, Willow Waterhole, and additional area in need of economic development, detention.



# Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) Westbury#37 Super Neighborhood

The Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) is a non-profit entity that along with the Westbury Civic Club makes the Westbury SuperNeighborhood, which is a City recognized entity. The WAIC meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of each month and is also the Westbury #37 SuperNeighborhood Meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, March 15, 9:30AM
Online due to Spring Break

The guest speakers for the February 2023 meeting were Commander Christopher Hassig and Sergeant Mike Ortiz from the Houston Police Department. Commander Hassig discussed the high levels of crime happening at the Heights at Post Oak Apartments at 12500/12600 Dunlap and a recent murder there. More details on this conservation can be found on page 12.

#### Approved Motions at the WAIC February 2023 Meeting—

- March meeting change to an online meeting due to Spring Break since WHS meeting location is not available.
- Support the upcoming 13th Anniversary celebration and breakfast fundraiser of the Westbury Community Garden on March 25 by purchasing a table of 8 to invite guests to the event (cost of \$750 for 8 seats).
- Email City with concerns about lack of public engagement regarding the proposed new city Conservation District ordinance (the WCC made the same motion so it is a SuperNeighborhood motion as well)
- Add local business owner Brooke Thompson as a business representative to the WAIC board.
- Donate \$500 to the February 20 Westbury High School golf tournament fundraiser.
- Authorized the Treasurer to investigate higher interest rate options (CDs) and to implement as discussed.

#### Announcements Around the Table —

- TIRZ 20 has expanded into the Westbury area, including Westbury Square area and the area around Willow Waterhole.
- HPD will be giving out 6,000 gun safes for vehicles to reduce theft of guns from vehicles.
- Concerns about traffic at WHS and issues with the cross walks.
- The Houston Food Bank is distributing food at WHS several times each month.
- HISD has provided \$130,000 to WHS to purchase instruments for its new orchestra program.
- Meyerland Middle School PTO is advocating for bond funds for the school and wants to talk with the Friends of WHS non-profit with intent to create a similar support organization for Meyerland MS.
- WHS thanked the Westbury Civic Club for the hygiene items donated to WHS by Westbury residents.





# SUPPORT THE WESTBURY AREA PATROL TODAY

The largest expense of the Westbury Civic Club is our contract with Harris County Precinct 5 Constables to patrol our neighborhood. We have had a contract with Precinct 5 Constables since the early 1980s.

Precinct 5 patrol is very effective as deputies are assigned to specific neighborhoods and spend the vast majority of their time patrolling in and around them. This obviously makes the deputies familiar with the "norms," allowing them to more easily spot activity deviating from that. It also increases visibility and reduces response times to an unrivaled average of 3.5 minutes.

The effectiveness and advantages of community oriented policing can't be overstated, but its strength comes in the contracted patrol program.

Traditionally, law enforcement has been responsible for patrolling large areas within a municipality or county. This forces them to stretch officers out and prioritize calls that, in some cases, cause extremely delayed response times. With the contract patrol program, a Precinct 5 deputy is assigned to the neighborhood or district for which they were contracted. Through highly visible patrols they are able to deter crime, respond faster when a crime does occur, and focus more time and effort on investigating each crime to its conclusion.

Residents who live within a Precinct 5 Contracted Patrol area may request a Vacation Watch or Special Watch (see box to the right). This alerts deputies to special circumstances or lets them know when you will be out of town so they can keep an extra watch.

On the other side of the coin are the district patrol units. Assigned to much larger geographical areas of the precinct, the patrol patterns of these deputies follow a more traditional path. Deploying units in this manner allows for maximum coverage while limiting response times to calls. These district units focus in areas that are being hit hardest by criminal activity, whether that is supplementing patrols in contracted districts, or focusing their attention in other hard hit areas.

At the forefront of the department's district units is the Strategic Response Unit. The Strategic Response Unit is not only one of the newest division at Precinct 5, but it brings a tactical asset to the department that adds an increased level of service to the public. Comprised of highly trained deputies, the SRU is tasked with quickly and effectively dealing with criminal activity, as well as growing crime trends throughout Precinct 5.

As part of its mission, the SRU is tasked with traffic enforcement, fugitive apprehension, and direct tactical responses when the situation calls for it. When additional law enforcement assets are needed to address specific issues, the SRU is then brought in. In these cases, the unit works closely with other Precinct 5 divisions to bring resolution to the situation. These could include any of the unit's primary responsibilities, battling increased criminal activity in an area, or assisting in whatever capacity is necessary to effectively accomplish the goal.

The versatility of the Strategic Response Unit enables Precinct 5 to enhance literally every aspect of law enforcement.

## **HPD Provides Crime Updates**

The guest speakers for the February 2023 Westbury Area Improvement Meeting were Commander Christopher Hassig and Sergeant Mike Ortiz from the Houston Police Department. WAIC President, Becky Edmondson, asked Commander Hassig to discuss the high levels of crime happening at the Heights at Post Oak Apartments at 12500/12600 Dunlap and a recent murder there.

All the recent crimes at local convenience stores have been linked to that apartment complex. This has been an ongoing problem for several years. The City is starting legal proceedings to force the apartment owners to take actions to reduce crime. HPD Chief Troy Finner is aware of the problems at that apartment complex.

There was discussion at the WAIC meeting that the boundary line between the Southwest HPD station and the S. Gessner HPD station is along Hillcroft. The result is that part of Westbury so it can be a tricky area. However, both HPD stations are aware of the issues and are in communication with each other. The Westbury Community Garden and the Valero Gas Station on Hillcroft are having problems with ongoing fence damage related to the apartment complex.

There was also discussion about ongoing problems with some commercial properties along Hillcroft, including an illegal game room that was raided by HPD. Commander Hassig recommended to keep reporting crimes and observed suspicious activities.

## VACATION WATCH

Are you going on vacation over Spring Break? If you pay your Westbury Area Patrol dues, make sure you request a vacation watch by the Constables.

Vacation Watch is a great service that is included in our contract. A deputy will check out your property at least once a day to make sure it is secured and no suspicious activity.

You can register for a vacation watch online at https://constablepct5.com or call 281-463-6666



## Crime Statistics for Westbury SuperNeighborhood

February 1— February 28, 2023
Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

#### KEY

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W	Theft from
10700	Atwell	Theft from Motor Vehicle	2/22	3PM	Parkwest 1	Motor Vehicle
12000	Atwell	Simple Assault	2/26	12pm	Westbury 4	Auto Theft
5500	Belrose	Aggravated Assault	2/5	2PM	Westbury 3	
10700	Carlota	Burglary, Breaking & Entering	2/2	6AM	Westbury 5	Vandalism
5900	Claridge	Theft from Motor Vehicle	2/24	10AM	Westbury 5	
5900	Densmore	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	2/11	12PM	Westbury 4	Burglary
11900	Dunlap	Theft—Other	2/26	7PM	Parkwest 3	
5500	Effingham	Theft from Motor Vehicle	2/27	8AM	Westbury 4	Aggravated
5700	Effingham	Simple Assault	2/22	10PM	Westbury 4	Assault
5700	Effingham	Theft from Motor Vehicle	2/6	6PM	Westbury 4	Simple Assault
5700	Farwell	Aggravated Assault	2/6	12PM	Westbury South	Disordering
5600	Fontenelle	Auto Theft	2/26	4PM	Westbury South	Conduct
10800	Moonlight	Auto Theft	2/7	6PM	Westbury 2	
5800	Southminster	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	2/4	3AM	Westbury South	The
5200	Spellman	Simple Assault	2/11	11AM	Westbury 3	str
5500	W. Bellfort	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	2/17	6PM	Westbury 5	

# The crime street. T

## **Crime by the Numbers**

Simple Assault

5500

Willowbend

Crime Type	Homes	Apts./ TH	Comm./ Business	Park/ Public
Aggravated Assault	2	6	2	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	4	3	2	1
Burglary	1	1	1	0
Robbery	0	1	1	0
Simple Assault	4	15	0	0
Shoplifting	0	0	8	0
Drugs, Narcotics	0	2	1	1
Vandalism, Damage	2	6	1	0
Auto Theft	2	3	0	0
Theft of Vehicle Parts	1	0	0	0
Theft—Other	1	1	5	0
Theft—From Building	0	1	0	0
DUI	0	0	0	4
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	0	0	0	0
Murder/Homicide	0	1	0	0
Criminal Offense	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	40	21	6

Pct. 5 Constable Dispatch Westbury Area Patrol 281-463-666 SW HPD Station 832-394-0400 HPD Non-Emergency 713-884-3131

Parkwest 1



11PM

Westbury Area Patrol Keeps Westbury Safe!



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## FREE Lunchtime Concerts at St. Paul's Methodist

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, next-door to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, is presenting a series of special free concerts, Thursday lunchtimes during March, featuring some of the very finest musicians from Houston and the United States. The concerts, known as **St. Paul's Lenten Recitals**, are free because the cost is entirely underwritten by the **St. Paul's Chamber Music Society** as a gift to Houston community. Each concert will last approximately 45 minutes.

## St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main Street, Houston, TX Thursday, March 9, at 12.15pm — Two Organs, Two Organists

St. Paul's United Methodist Church's two resident organists, Christopher Betts and Joel Trekell, play a program of music on not just one, but two pipe organs, one large and one small. The music will include grand organ solos, music originally written for musical clock, and George Frideric Handel's charming "Cuckoo and Nightingale" concerto.

## Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 12.15pm — Jeremy Garcia, classical guitar

Houston classical guitarist, Jeremy Garcia, is active in promoting Spanish and Flamenco music, is Associate Artistic Director of the Houston Classical Guitar Festival and Competition, and has performed all over the United States. He will present a concert of classical and flamenco music for classical guitar, with bulerias, alegrias, and tangos by Isaac Albeniz, Francisco Escudero, Francisco Tarrega and a selection of his own compositions.

#### Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 12.15pm — Romantic music for Piano Trio

Jacqueline Audas, Katherine Audas, Kyung-A Yoo play music for violin, cello and piano, featuring Felix Mendelssohn's Trio in D minor with works by Amy Beach and Giya Kancheli. Jacqueline and Katherine Audas are graduates of Rice University's prestigious Shepherd School of Music. Jacqueline Audas is the founder of Classical C.A.R.M.A. (Concerts Aiming to Raise Money and Awareness), supporting non-profit organizations of Texas.

#### Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 12.15pm — Katie Angielczyk, French Horn

A talented student in the Moores School of Music at University of Houston's prestigious Master's program, Katie Angielczyk will play solo music for French horn, including Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata in F major, Op. 17, and Robert Schumann's Fantasy Pieces. She is joined by international prize-winning pianist, Yan Shen.

More information at www.stpaulshouston.org/concerts

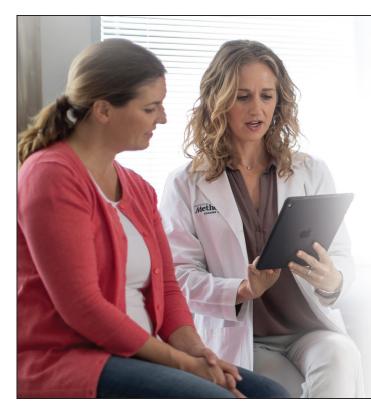
# Additions/New Homes Do you know your Deed Restrictions?

Did you know that the Westbury Civic Club can look over your proposed plans for free before you start construction?

We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen. Did you know that Westbury 2, Westbury 3, and Westbury 5 have a 25-foot rear setback for the main structure? Did you know that there is a minimum percentage of brick that must be on your home? Did you know that you can't build in front of your building line?

## We want to help you!

We want you to find out about possible violations before it costs you money and time. Several homeowners in the past couple years have had to tear down and/or modify their construction due to deed restriction violations. The City of Houston does not review deed restrictions when issuing permits. They require a signed affidavit acknowledging that the plans comply with your deed restrictions. This holds YOU, the homeowner, accountable for knowing and complying with your deed restrictions. We are here to help you. Email the Westbury Civic Club Office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net. All deed restrictions are available online at www.westburycrier.com.



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# Willow Waterhole More than Just Flood Control

# TRAILS \* BIRDS \* WILDFLOWERS

Visit the Willow Waterhole TODAY! The main Westbury Lake trails and gazebo are easily accessible via the new parking lot at the end of Dryad. Additional trails and parking are available on the street off Ricecrest.



Photo—Mark Mulligan, Houston Chronicle



## Willow Waterhole Pier Update

The pier at the Willow Waterhole in the Westbury Lake is complete! This pier is an exciting addition to the Willow Waterhole. The pier is sturdy and well built. It offers a great view of the wetlands and birds in that part of the lake.

The pier has a railing around the edges, however, be aware that the left corner is a gate that opens to allow for launching of kayaks. Be mindful with your small children.

Thanks to lead donors - the Kinder Foundation, Russell and Janie Schexnayder, the Harris County Precinct One Commissioner's Office, and all the individuals and organizations who contributed to making this happen. This is a very exciting addition to the Willow Waterhole.





# Walking Tour of the Willow Waterhole

March 26, 2PM

#### Meet at the Schwartz Gazebo

You are invited to a walking tour of Willow Waterhole Greenway on March 26 at 2pm. Meet at the Schwartz Gazebo at 5300 Dryad Drive. The bluebonnets will be in bloom and the skies filled with Spring fresh air! Your leader will be Trudy Holmes, Chair of the Conservancy's Education Committee.

## The Bluebonnets Are Here!

Once again, the bluebonnets are starting to bloom at the Willow Waterhole. Get those cameras ready! Send us your favorite Willow Waterhole bluebonnet photos to westburycc@sbcglobal.net.



## Audubon Society Monthly Bird Survey @ the Willow Waterhole

**What:** Audubon Society Bird Survey **When:** Saturday, March 18, 8AM

**Where:** Meet at the Gathering Place, 5310 S. Willow For more information, visit the Houston Audubon website, https://houstonaudubon.org/

## **Support Westbury Local Public Schools**

# Parker, Anderson, Meyerland, Westbury

## **Meverland Baseball and Softball**

Baseball is back! Come out to Meyerland Middle School and support the Meyerland Baseball and Softball teams during their home games.

Go Greyhounds!



## MEYERLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

## **Softball Home Games**

March 6 vs. Pin Oak 4:45 PM

March 20 vs. W. Briar 5 PM

March 22 vs. Lanier 5 PM

March 27 vs. Hogg 4:45 PM

April 3 vs. Marshall 5 PM

April 5 vs. Frank Black 5 PM



## Westbury HS Baseball 2023

Did you know that the WHS baseball team delivers the *Westbury Crier* to your doorstep each month? These boys work really hard on and off the field. Come support the 2023 Westbury Huskies Baseball team at their home games! Westbury High School plays their home games nearby at Butler Stadium, located at 13755 S. Main. Come cheer on the Westbury Huskies!

WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL HOME GAMES					
. #	Player	Pos			
3/13	Sam Houston	10 AM			
3/24	Chavez	5 PM			
3/28	Lamar	5 PM			
4/1	Bellaire	5 PM			
4/6	Bellaire	5 PM			
4/11	Heights	5 PM			
4/22	Westside	1 PM			

# Orchestra is Coming to Westbury HS in 2023-2024 School Year

Exciting news! Westbury HS Fine Arts Magnet now has Orchestra as a choice. This is huge for our neighborhood schools as it fulfills the chain. Parker Elementary School, Meyerland Middle School, and now Westbury High School will all have an Orchestra program. Orchestra auditions start in March.

It was announced at the February WAIC meeting that HISD has provided \$130,000 to WHS to purchase instruments for its new orchestra program. We look forward to hearing the WHS Orchestra next year!

Support our local Westbury schools! We are excited to have this new page in the *Crier* dedicated to our local HISD schools and the programs they offer. Stay tuned to future *Criers* for how you help or get involved. If you have any school announcements, please let us know by emailing the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net.





## **Gardening Education Classes**

The WCG is providing several different classes on a variety of gardening topics. Some classes are in person at the garden and some are via Zoom. See each class below for details.

## **Spring & Summer Vegetable Gardening**

What can be planted in the spring and summer in Houston? Learn about what, when, how to plant productively and how to use these vegetables during the warm months in Houston. When: Saturday, March 4, 2:30 PM

Where: Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85378977823

## **Spring & Summer Vegetable Gardening**

Follow-up to previous zoom class and will be an in-the-garden experience to demonstrate how to plant. Some vegetables require unique instruction on how to plant successfully.

When: Saturday, March 11, 10 AM Where: Meet in garden pavilion

#### All About Herbs

Herbs can be used for cooking, as drinks, as medicine and for other purposes as well. What herbs can you be growing this season in the garden?

When: Saturday, March 18, 10 AM

Where: Meet in pavilion and later in garden

Planting Charts for each season are available at https://www.urbanharvest.org/gardening-advice/gardening-basics-and-planting-guides/





WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN
12581 DUNLAP

# **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.

# Open Membership at the Westbury Community Garden

Would you like to grow your own organic food/produce/ vegetables? Do you remember how good a homegrown tomato tastes? Are you looking for something uplifting and rewarding? Does your yard have too much shade to garden? Look no further! Don't miss out on this chance to be involved in something that is truly amazing. Come join the Westbury Community Garden.

The Westbury Community Garden has openings for membership. If you are an experienced gardener or a newbie to gardening, our garden is a welcoming and supportive community.

The Westbury Community Garden is located near Hillcroft and South Main, at 12581 Dunlap. If you would like to learn more, visit www.westburycommunitygarden.org, or contact membership@westburycommunitygarden.org.



www.westburycommunitygarden.org

## Westbury Community Garden Celebrating 13 Years

It's hard to believe that the Westbury Community Garden (WCG) will celebrate its 13th anniversary in 2023. What started as an idea to help build community and garden has grown into a 7-acre jewel. The garden now has 62 raised beds with 75 gardeners. There are two acres of land being farmed by Congolese refugees through the Plant it Forward farms program. There is an apiary with 5 hives as the garden tries to support the endangered honeybee population. There is an orchard, albeit struggling after the last two cold winters. There is even an acre of native prairie grasses that bloom throughout the seasons.

There are many people to thank for that initial financial support: Keep Houston Beautiful, Scotts Miracle Gro, Leadership Houston Class XXIX, Lloyds Register and many individuals. When the garden land was threatened, residents across Westbury donated money to save the garden and thanks to CM Larry Green, Mayor Annise Parker and the Brays Oaks Management District, the garden was saved through a land swap.

The WCG falls under the umbrella of the non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation. Each year the WCG hosts a fundraiser to help with the operational costs. The gardeners pay \$84 a year, which covers the costs of water and the porta potty and trash service. But as you can imagine there are many costs associated with the upkeep of an active 7-acre property. This year we are hosting the Founders Breakfast in the Garden (see box to the right). There will be a catered breakfast, gardening giveaways, along with a silent auction. Come tour the garden, hear from the founders, enjoy a delicious breakfast, learn about the Garden Master Plan, and support this wonderful neighborhood jewel.



Westbury Community Garden, Storage Shed



Westbury Community Garden, Learning Pavilion, 2022

# Founders Breakfast in the Garden March 25, 2023 from 10AM to 12PM

Westbury Community Garden 12581 Dunlap

Tickets are \$100. You must register for your spot.

Registration available via www.westburycommunitygarden.org
or by emailing fundraising@westburycommunitygarden.org

Sponsorships are available: Garden supporter: \$500

Underwriter: \$1,000

Come tour the garden, hear from the founders, enjoy a delicious breakfast, learn about the Master Plan, and support this wonderful neighborhood jewel.



Westbury Community Garden Site, 2009



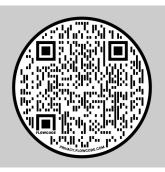
Westbury Community Garden, Build Day, 2010



Westbury Community Garden, 2015

## **Support the Westbury Civic Club TODAY!**

Use this handy QR code to access the online payment page. The 2023 Dues are ONLY \$375 for the whole year! (2023 Mandatory Assessment for Parkwest 1 and Parkwest 2-\$ 267.35)



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