



# Westbury Crier

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2011

- White Elephant Sale: Saturday, April 16
- Want to know more about **Westbury's** parks? Check out our new monthly park feature!
- Hot Topic—Dangerous Buildings & Roadwork
- **April's Heavy** Trash is JUNK WASTE

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## Love to Shop Garage Sales?

### It's Time for the Spring White Elephant Community Sale

- When: Saturday, April 16, from 8AM-Noon  
 Where: Westbury United Methodist Church Parking Lot (5200 Willowbend)  
 Rain Date: Saturday, April 30, from 8AM - Noon  
 Parking: **St. John's Presbyterian (5020 W. Belfort)** Handicap parking is available at the event parking lot

The White Elephant Sale is great because you get to shop over 50 "garage" sales in one location! There are always super deals and steals to be had. The Westbury Civic Club provides its residents with spring and fall community garage sale events since garage sales, yard sales and estate sales are NOT allowed at Westbury residences.



2010 Fall White Elephant Sale

Please call the office at 713-723-5437 for booth availability.

## Great Backyards Of Westbury!

The Westbury Backyard Garden Tour will take place Saturday, May 7, from 1 to 5PM. Five gardeners are opening their private outdoor paradises to the public. If you need ideas for **planning a makeover on your own yard or if you'd just like to see what other people do with their yards**, come to the tour. Each garden is unique.

Residents participating are: Melissa Denney, who blogs at [www.houstongardengirl.com](http://www.houstongardengirl.com); Amos and Miriam Pacht, who love to entertain outdoors; Richard and Jean Tapia, who are proud of their waterfalls; Jean Anderson, who has a pool and a new pergola; and Pamela and Stephen Cook, who love gardening with native plants. In addition, Noreen Wright and Betsy Cross will be showing off their wildflower project.

Tickets will be \$10 and will be sold on the day of the tour at one of the homes. Details will be in the May Westbury *Crier* and at [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com). With your ticket, you will receive a map guiding you to all the gardens. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to be delighted.

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## Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors 2011

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Flood Control & Infrastructure	Ken Downey	wccflood@westburycrier.com
Greenspace Beautification	Hazel Potvin	wccmaintenance@westburycrier.com
Membership	Janie Schexnayder	wccmembership@westburycrier.com
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Parkwest 2	David Ebro	Parkwest2@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 3	Dorothy Rhoades	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

## Westbury Civic Club Office

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:30AM to 1:30PM\*  
 Address: 5322 W Bellfort Ste. 107 Houston, TX 77035  
 Phone: 713-723-5437  
 Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net  
 \*The office is closed on all major holidays and weekends

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch  
 281-463-6666  
 HPD Non-Emergency  
 713-884-3131  
 Power Outages (Centerpoint)  
 713-207-2222  
 Westbury HPD Storefront  
 713-726-7126  
 Platou Community Center  
 713-726-7107  
 Poison Control  
 1-800-764-7661  
 Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)  
 713-207-2222  
 Council Member Anne Clutterbuck  
 832-393-3004  
 County Commissioner El Franco Lee  
 713-755-6111

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

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

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 and follow us on Twitter  
 @westburyhouston

# President's Message

I love Spring! I've just returned from a business trip to London and coming home reminded me of what a beautiful neighborhood we have. We are lucky to have such big yards. Show yours off and compete as the Yard of the Month judging begins. The brown of winter is giving way to the colors of spring.

And speaking of color, how do you like the new look of the *Crier*? Our new office manager, Jennifer Edmondson, gets all the credit. It wasn't an easy conversion; thanks go to my sister, Debbie Maloch, in New Mexico, for helping us navigate the world of printing. Did you know that the *Crier* is printed and delivered to you entirely through the support of our advertisers? We thank them for their support of Westbury and for providing this important communication medium. Please support our advertisers.

And speaking of communication, the web site and Facebook page are up and

running. We will be adding more content and doing some tweaking, but we have the basic format to be able to bring you the most up to date information.

**What's next? The harder stuff...the office** receives a lot of complaints from frustrated residents. We are working on the systems and procedures in our new property management system to better track and follow-up on troublesome properties. We take Deed Restriction violations seriously.

We thank all of you who have paid your dues. In May, we will be mailing out payment reminders to those of you who have not paid; so please grab the form from this *Crier* and save us some postage! Whether you rent or own, this is your neighborhood and we invite you to join us in helping to make Westbury the best that it can be.

Becky Edmondson

## Board Notes

- Cindy Chapman reported on the City Council Re-Districting meeting
- Hazel Potvin reported on the NCAA workday on March 26
- Linda Leger spoke about Deed Restriction violations and attending the City hearing regarding 12540 Hillcroft
- Marcia Smith reported on the CIP meeting
- Sidewalk repair committee formed

Join us for the WCC board meeting on Wednesday, April 20 @ 7PM at Westbury High School

## Thank You Westbury!

We greatly appreciate the residents who used the past *CRIER* issues to submit their 2011 dues. Here's another chance to submit your dues and help continue to make Westbury a great place to live.

### Westbury Civic Club Dues Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.

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

Please send this form  
with your payment

Online payment:  
[www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com)  
go to paypal.com

Sending multiple payments?  
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2 payment of \$147.50  
3 payments of 98.34

Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$36	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$234	\$
Subtotal	\$295	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
Total		\$

# What's Happening in Westbury

## April 2011 Events & Meetings Calendar

6	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30-7:30PM Community Garden under the pavilion — 12500 Dunlap ***PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE IN LOCATION***
10	Westbury Community Garden 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration 2-4PM All Westbury Residents are welcome Located at the garden— 12500 Dunlap—see pg. 8 for details
12	Westbury Garden Club Meeting 7PM 5719 Hummingbird For more information, see pg. 8 or call Hazel 713-729-4568
16	White Elephant Sale 8AM-Noon Westbury United Methodist Parking Lot—5200 Willowbend For more information, see pg. 1
16	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow
18	Braes Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow Speaker: Carl Woodward, HC Flood Control, Planning Dept.
20	WCC Board Meeting 7-9PM Westbury High School—11911 Chimney Rock Speaker: George Gaston, CEO Memorial Hermann SW Hospital
26	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South
28-30	Yard of the Month Judging - Winners awarded on May 1 See page 15 for more details Make sure your yards are ready!!

**Planning Ahead:**  
**Backyards of Westbury Tour**  
**Saturday, May 7, 1-5PM**  
 Explore beautiful backyards right here in Westbury! See page 1 for details

### STAY CURRENT AND INFORMED

Want to know upcoming events and up to the minute changes? Follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/westburyhouston](http://twitter.com/westburyhouston)) and Like us on Facebook (Westbury Houston).

The online calendar is current at [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com). **Don't want to** visit the site all the time to get the latest announcements and volunteer opportunities? You can sign up for email updates.

### IMPORTANT TRASH & RECYCLING INFORMATION

- ⇒ Trash needs to be out on the curb by 7AM Thursday
- ⇒ Trash cans must be removed from curb by 10PM and stored out of sight
- ⇒ No heavy trash out before 6PM of the Friday before pick-up day
- ⇒ Remember we have 2 Trash Depositories & Recycling Centers nearby: 10785 Southwest Freeway  
11500 South Post Oak
- ⇒ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ⇒ Refer to [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) for more information

### April 2011 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

7	Curbside Recycling - All of Westbury
19	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE (South of W. Bellfort)
20	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE (North of W. Bellfort)
21	Curbside Recycling - All of Westbury
May	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY

\*\*\*Please note: YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste and will not be collected by the city with heavy trash. It is collected on Westbury's regular Thursday trash day as long as it is in the correct recyclable bags



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# Westbury Historical Project

## Preserving Westbury's History

Last month, Pat Metcalfe and Becky Edmondson attended a City of Houston workshop on Preserving Your Neighborhood History. With the tools from this workshop, their goal is to publish a book of Westbury's History. Beginning this summer, there will be an effort to scan photographs and to take oral histories from Westbury residents in order to start this preservation process. Check your photo albums for neighborhood pictures. Who are Westbury's longest residents? Dredge up those old memories and be ready to become part of this exciting project.



## This Month in Westbury History

The first *Crier* was published in July 1956. We have 55 years of monthly history at our fingertips. Here are some headlines and stories from the past.

April 1961

- ◆ The new fire station at Chimney Rock and Burdine is dedicated.
- ◆ The mayor has promised that the construction of Chimney Rock to South Main will be completed by September when newly built Westbury High School opens.

April 1979

- ◆ The Hillcroft open stormwater ditch from West Bellfort to West Airport will be covered.

April 1984

- ◆ The Westbury Civic Club office moves from Westbury Square to the office building at 5322 W. Bellfort.
- ◆ Thanks to alert neighbors, a Bengal tiger was confiscated from a home near Hager Park.

## Technology Update

The re-launch of [westburycrier.com](http://westburycrier.com) has been a great success. We've had 365 visitors to the site between February 15<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget, you can sign up to receive announcements, volunteer opportunities, and updates to hot topics by email.

Our Facebook Page, [facebook.com/westburycivicclub](https://facebook.com/westburycivicclub), has 69 fans and counting. The Facebook page is a great way to interact with your fellow citizens of Westbury. We have fielded questions about the S. Main quiet zone, automated recycling, and WAP membership. This is a great way to stay informed of the events in our neighborhood.

WESTBURY & AREA HOMES

 <b>\$234,900</b> <b>5611 Yarwell / Barkley Square</b> 3/2/2 - Wd Beamed Ceiling, Smooth Surface Cktp, FP, & Split Bdrm Flrpln.	 <b>\$159,900</b> <b>5327 Willowbend / Westbury</b> 3/2/2 - Spacious Formals, Hardwood Floors, & Built-in Bookshelves/Desk!	 <b>\$234,900</b> <b>5803 Rutherglenn / Maplewood S</b> 3/2/2 - Raised Beamed Ceiling, Tile Flrs, Covered Patio & Large Yard!	 <b>\$249,900</b> <b>5714 Wigton / Maplewood S</b> 3/2/2 - Updated! Staggered Tile Flrs, Granite, SS Appl., Hrdwds, & Patio!
 <b>\$129,900</b> <b>7655 S Braeswood/Maplewood Area</b> 4/3/2 - Hardwds & Raised Ceilings. Bdrm & Full Bth Down. Lrg Mstr Suite!	 <b>\$299,000</b> <b>5535 Queensloch/Marilyn Estates</b> 4/2/2 - Raised Ceiling, Wd Cabinetry, Smth Surface Cooktp, Terrazzo Flrs, & FP!	 <b>\$249,900</b> <b>9406 Brown Leaf/Maplewood S</b> 4/2/2 - Updtd! Travertine & Hrdwds, Granite, SS Appl, Cathedral Ceiling, & FP!	 <b>\$244,900</b> <b>9711 Braewick / Maplewood S</b> 4/2.5/2 - Updtd/Remodeled! Granite, Hrdwds, & Tile! Renovated Master Bath!
 <b>\$299,900</b> <b>6106 Lymbar / Maplewood S</b> 5/3/2 - Updtd! Rich Hued Flrs, Wrap Around Brkfst Bar, Cathedral Ceiling, & Corner FP!	 <b>5618 Dumfries</b> 10215 Piermain 5734 Cartagena 10810 Rampart		

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# Westbury Residents have Questions...

How tall can my fence be and how far forward can I bring it?

First, the deed restrictions for your property should be consulted for any requirements regarding placement of the fence from the front of the street and materials of construction. In particular, if you live on a corner or on an oddly-shaped lot, then there will be requirements on how close your fence is allowed to be built to the side street or to avoid obstructing street views. Generally, you are not allowed to built a fence along the front of **your house closer to the street than the " 25-foot front building line"**, as shown on your property survey (Note: this distance is NOT measured 25 feet from the front curb). A general rule of thumb is that a front fence in line with the brick front of your original house dimension is adequate. Your fence can not be built taller than 8 feet without a special city permit, per city ordinance (which would also require engineering design and documentation). You are not supposed to build a fence on the city street easement.

Who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk in front of my home?

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalk in front of their homes.

Who is responsible for the trees between the sidewalk and the street?

The City of Houston. Call 311 to report "city trees" which need to be pruned or which need to be removed due to old age or severe damage.

Who is responsible for trimming trees near the overhead electric lines in my yard?

For safety reasons, contact Centerpoint at 713-207-2222 to trim trees near electrical lines.

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# Security / Crime

## A Message from your Security Director: Vacation Watch

As planning for spring and summer vacation starts, please be aware that the Constable's Office has you covered. If you plan to be out of town for any period of time, I encourage you to fill out and submit a Vacation Watch form. The constable on patrol will pass by your home periodically while you are away. Also, if there is a particular problem about which you are concerned and about which you would like the Constable's Office to be aware, you can submit a Special Watch form. You can access these forms on our website, [www.westburycrimer.com](http://www.westburycrimer.com), under "Documents". If you intend to submit a Vacation Watch form, you must submit it to the Constable's office (via fax, mail, or hand delivery) no later than seven (7) days before you plan to be away.

-Morgan Gaskin, Security Director



## Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37

30 days preceding March 10, 2011

	Single-Family Residential	Apartment/ Condominium	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	0	5	1	0	6
Theft	5	3	0	4	12
Auto Theft	3	0	0	0	3
Robbery	1	0	2	2	5
Assault	2	1	1	2	6
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	11	9	4	8	32

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

<p>Water Heaters Regular &amp; Tankless Disposals Water Lines Gas Lines Drain Cleaning Under Slab Repairs Reroute kitchen &amp; laundry pipes</p>	<h1>ASTRO PLUMBING</h1> <p>Full Service Plumbing and Repair Specialist</p> <h2>713-256-0017</h2> <p>★ JOHNNY LEWIS ★ WESTBURY RESIDENT</p>	<p>New Sewer Lines Hydrostatic Testing Remodeling &amp; Repairs Sinks Faucets New Drains Under Bathroom</p>
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# The Gardening Center

## Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

Yes, it is worth repeating. Mulch is the great plant saver in late spring and summer. Two to three inches of ground up, well composted tree limbs and leaves is a hearty mulch for all plants – flowering shrubs, vegetables and fruit trees. Mulch forms a layer that keeps moisture in the soil, while supplying nutrients to the plants every time it rains. It protects and enhances the abundance of life forms in the soil, which would have a hard time surviving if the soil dried out during our regular summer droughts.

Following are types and sources of mulch:

- ◆ Collect leaves and pine needles. Either let them compost (sit) for several months or run over them with a lawnmower or pass them through a shredder before using /applying.
- ◆ Purchase native mulch in bags or in bulk from **Nature's Way Resources** or other soil yards. Make sure it has been composted for a long time and screened to 3/8 inches.
- ◆ Alfalfa hay is great for vegetable gardens for it distributes nutrients while decomposing and protecting soil from water evaporation. Other hays likely have weed seed and likely to have been treated with herbicides.

Stay away from colored and heavily bark-based mulches. If it looks woody, it will likely pull nutrients from the soil rather than supplying nutrients to the soil. If it is colored, it is likely synthetically dyed and the color has no value other than ornamental; and the natural color of mulch is more appropriate for landscapes.

-Ray Sher



Westbury Community Garden

## Spring Is Bursting Out With Color All Over at the Westbury Community Garden

Spring has arrived in full beauty at the Westbury Community Garden. Garden beds are filled with tomato, pepper, young green bean, long bean, cucumber, squash, perpetual spinach, eggplant, corn, okra and basil plants. The habitat gardens are resplendent with color and teeming beneficial insects. Fruit trees are flush with new growth and blossoms, and blackberry plants are ready to flower. The new purple martin houses are being visited by martins; we hope they stay and raise their nestlings here. It is the time of year for renewal and our garden is full of promise!

All Westbury residents are invited to join us for our one-year anniversary celebration. Take a leisurely walk through the garden, hear gardeners sharing their adventures of the past year, and feel the Westbury pride abounding.

### Community Garden

Celebration: Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2-4PM  
 Location: 12500 Dunlap at Fonmeadow (one block west of Hillcroft). From Hillcroft, turn onto the **street next to Frenchy's fastfood**, which is located one block north of Hwy 90A.

Monthly Meeting—April 6  
 6:30-7:30PM @ Community Garden Pavilion

### Garden Club

The Westbury Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, April 12 at 7PM at the home of Hazel Potvin, 5719 Hummingbird. We will talk about propagation and do some propagation of cuttings. Call 713-729-4568 for more information. The Garden Club Plant Suggestions: Cestrum (a shrub for butterflies), Tithonia, Summer phlox, & Antique roses



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# Lee Hager Park

## Discovering Lee Hager Park

The City of Houston acquired Lee Hager Park in 1960. Located at 12100 Landsdowne, it is adjacent to Anderson Elementary. At 9.72 acres, it is a large park and has something for everyone. There is an asphalt walking trail 0.51 miles long. There is a covered basketball court and a multi-purpose grassy sports field. There are several different playground equipment areas, including one which is shared between Anderson Elementary and the community when the school is not in session. There is a lighted tennis court with a backboard. There are benches and tables.

This park is located in the middle of our residential community, so it is easily reached by bicycle or on foot or by parents pushing strollers. There is also ample parking along the residential streets, which border the park (Landsdowne, Effingham, and McClearn).

Back in the 1970s, concerts were held at the park. A search of the internet found a “Do you remember Hager Park” Facebook page along with a YouTube video of metal detector operators finding coins in the park. In the 1990s



Lee Hager Park

a SPARK (School Park) playground was created on school property for public use. Families who attended the school, Westbury residents, Anderson Elementary, and the SPARK program together raised about \$80,000 in one year to build the SPARK playground. At that time, a fence separating the school property from Hager Park was removed so the city could lease part of the school property to expand the park area from 6.76 to 9.72 acres and build the asphalt trail across both school and park land. The fence had been located near the tennis court area.

The Westbury Greenspace Beautification team planted about 30 trees in the park this past fall to supplement the existing mature trees at the park. One tree was planted in memory of a resident’s baby who passed away.

Remember this is our neighborhood park...what would you like to see happening here? Also, do any of our long-term residents have information about Lee Hager, the park namesake?

## NCAA Final Four Comes to Westbury

### “68 Courts in 68 Days”

The NCAA Men’s College Basketball Final Four Tournament is being hosted by Houston this year, and in celebration, the local organizing committee decided to spruce up 68 area basketball courts in the 68 days leading to the final tournament. The local NCAA committee published a newspaper ad requesting nominations and all three of our area parks were nominated and selected! Jennifer McClesky, area resident and mother of children attending Parker Elementary, nominated the basketball court at Westbury Park. Cindy Chapman of the Westbury Civic Club nominated Hager Park next to Anderson Elementary, and Becky Edmondson, President of the Westbury Civic Club, nominated Chimney Rock Park.

The City Parks Department initially refused to allow the NCAA local committee to do any work at our area parks or to pay for improvements. It was crazy and mystifying that the city would decline an offer from an outside organization to pay for park improvements in this time of city budget problems. Jennifer, Becky, and Cindy refused to give up and solicited help from City Council Member Anne Clutterbuck’s office. Finally, after numerous emails and phone calls back and forth, the City Parks Department relented. The “68 Courts in 68 Days” initiative will pay for new backboards and nets at all three of our parks, which will be installed by Parks Department staff. The “68 Courts in 68 Days” initiative will also pay a contractor to power-wash and then repaint the concrete at the basketball courts at all three parks. On March 26, community volunteers will pick up litter at all three parks and will plant four trees at Hager Park and two trees at Chimney Rock Park. At the time this newsletter was being prepared, youth from Westbury Christian School and Westbury United Methodist Church had volunteered for the March 26 cleanup events.



# Free Market Analysis

If you are thinking of selling your home or want to know the market value of your property, call **Larry Mercer** for a free Market Analysis.

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Neighborhood  
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# Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock \* Hours: Mon-Thurs 2-8 PM; Friday 2-6 PM \* [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org)  
Ken Wallace, Supervisor 713-726-7107

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

## Card Making

Tuesday, April 19  
12:30 – 2:30 PM

Call Betty 713-729-9110 to reserve a card packet (\$2.00 fee)

## Games

Wednesdays  
10 AM

Come join in the fun.

Wally at 713-729-9310



## Portable Projects

Thursdays  
9:30 – 11:30 AM

Bring handiwork and join the group for an enjoyable time working on neglected projects. Right now everyone is crocheting  
Hazel 713-729-4568

## Dance Lessons

Wednesdays

New Beginner Ballroom 6-7PM

Advanced 7-8 PM

These lessons are free but please register because there is limited space.

Call Marilyn at 713-729-9425.



## Westbury Quilting Bee

2nd and 4th Monday of Month

April 11 and 25

10:30 AM – 2 PM

Janie at 713-721-5526



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# Hot Topic: Dangerous Building Hearing & Roadwork

## Commercial Building Hearing – 12540 Hillcroft

Two commercial buildings (former Olympia Food Market and adjacent building) in the 12500 block of Hillcroft have been a problem for more than a decade. The buildings have been vacant for the last several years without a fence to prevent people from entering the open doors and windows. They are full of debris and their roofs are in bad shape. These properties first came to the attention of the Building and Standards Commission in 2000, and again in 2008, and the most recent hearing was held on March 2, 2011.

The Westbury Civic Club, Westbury residents, and gardeners from the Westbury Community Garden (which backs up to the two structures) attended the hearing. (If you did not know about the hearing and in the future would like to attend such hearings, please subscribe to our Westbury Houston Facebook page, available to the general public without being a Facebook subscriber, and also periodically check the calendar on our revised website [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com). It is very helpful to have a good turnout at this type of event, yet sometimes we do not know about these meetings in time for our newsletter deadlines.) Attending the hearing were: Becky Edmondson, Esther Bender and Pansy Meyer, who wore their Westbury shirts; Bill and Sonja Parker; Lucy McLaughlin; Craig Howard from the SW News; and Linda Leger, who was quite candid in her criticism to the commissioners.

The property owners were absent (allegedly out of the country) from the March 2nd meeting. Their son, an attorney, tried to get the hearing delayed until the end of May. The commission declined the request. Neighborhood Protection Officers presented pictures of the buildings' current condition and trash and proved that the condition of the buildings had gotten even worse since the 2008 hearing.

Becky Edmondson reported that children from nearby apartments wander through these buildings, despite efforts of the gardeners at the nearby Westbury Community Garden to stop them. Linda Leger described her efforts of more than five years to get this property cleaned up. **The property owners' son claimed that his parents had tried to clean it up but were elderly and could not afford repairs.**

The commission ruled that the owners had: 10 days to get a permit, 30 days to cleaned the property, and 30 days to repair or demolish the buildings. Because this property had been before the commission in the past, the owners were fined \$1,000 a day for 10 days. The owners are expected to appeal the decision.

## West Airport/Chimney Rock Road Construction

A city road construction team has been working since February to improve the intersection of West Airport and Chimney Rock. When completed, the intersection will have dedicated left turn lanes in all directions. Even better, a confusing and temporary section of road east of the intersection has been replaced with a standard road design allowing two lanes of traffic east and west on West Airport. When completed, school buses should be able to move more easily through the intersection and left turns will be safer. A future city project will extend West Airport eastward to Hiram Clarke.

City work crews have assured the Westbury Greenspace Beautification Committee that the existing Westbury subdivision marker sign at the intersection will not be damaged as that new left turn lane is built. Some trees and plants at the intersection will be removed.



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# Neighborhood and Section News

## Precinct 5:

### Constable Office

State, county, and city governments are all having budget problems this year, and the news media are full of stories of reduced work hours by government employees. The civic club has been assured that the work reductions and budget cuts recently announced by Harris County have in no way affected the Contract Deputy program. All personnel working in the Contract program are working a full 40 hour week and receiving their same salaries. Dispatch is still fully staffed and able to handle all phone calls as before. We can expect the same level of service as always.

### Esplanades

On March 10, the city started Spring mowing and de-littering Westbury esplanades.

## Complaints

Barking dogs and garage sales were the leading complaints called into the civic club office last month. Do we sound like a broken record? In addition to Garage sales not being allowed, they are an extreme nuisance to your neighbors. Traffic is one thing; security is another. Be a good neighbor. Please help keep Westbury safe and secure and looking nice by not conducting sales at your home.

## Recycling Update

The City's Solid Waste Department reports that they have applied for more grants so that they can expand the City's recycling program. The carts that were distributed were purchased with grant funds that have now been exhausted. Until more grants are awarded no new carts can be purchased. We will continue to request more bins.

## Westbury Square Update

A court case had been scheduled for the week of March 7 for the property owner to appeal his order by the city to repair or demolish certain buildings at Westbury Square. Instead, the property owner took his case to Federal Court where Judge Harmon remanded it back to the state court on March 3; the property owner asked Judge Harmon to reconsider; and it was remanded again to state court on March 9. We are waiting to find out the new hearing date in the 113th State District Court. It is case number 08-46371.

## Railroad Quiet Zone

As reported last month, the Alternative Safety Measure Application for South Main/Westbury was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration. The FRA has 60 days to review and provide a decision to the city. What does that mean? If all goes well then in 6 months or less we should have a quiet zone. But in the meantime, if you feel that the noise is excessive we can ask for an investigation. Please report dates and times to pass to the investigator.

## Meyer Park Update

Are you curious about the construction at Meyer Park? Here's what we know.

Confirmed— Kohl's, Luby's moving to the front on the parking lot next to frontage road



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# Yard of the Month

The goal of the Yard of the Month Award (YOM) is to recognize the efforts of Westbury residents who take pride in their home and landscape and inspire others to do the same. The purpose of the YOM is to maintain and improve the appearance of our community by promoting well-kept yards. The winners each month will receive an award certificate and the opportunity to proudly display a "Yard of the Month" sign in their yard for a month. A picture of the winning yard will be posted on the Westbury website. Each homeowner/renter is invited to participate. One home will be selected each month from each section or combination of sections during the months of May through September. Each yard will be limited to winning the award only once in any calendar year.



Volunteer judges will drive through the neighborhood. **One may also nominate one's own or another's yard** by phoning or emailing the office. A volunteer judge from the YOM committee will choose a yard each month based on the following criteria. Yards should be well groomed, attractive and pleasing to the eye with structures in good repair and free of junk. Trash cans must not be visible.

Judging will take place during the last week of the month. On the first of the month, the homeowner will be notified in person when the judge or section director delivers the sign and asks for permission to publish the **winner's name and address in the Crier** and on the website. At the end of the month, the sign will be removed in preparation for the next month's winner.

READY, SET, MOW!

Judging begins at the end of April for May winners

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