



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 68, ISSUE 3

APRIL 2023

EXPLORING WESTBURY

Hillcroft Esplanade

There are 7 miles of esplanades in Westbury. They provide a great alternative walking location. In 2005, the Westbury Civic Club constructed a demonstration mulch trail down the middle of the Hillcroft esplanade from Bankside to Portal. Hillcroft has beautiful trees lining both sides of the esplanade. The WCC has added many trees throughout the years along the Hillcroft esplanade. The esplanade is shaded and very wide for most of the length through our neighborhood.



For many, many years, the WCC has dreamed of a real trail down the Hillcroft esplanade, like the ones seen on Tanglewilde or Heights Blvd. This dream might be close to coming true.

The Hillcroft Avenue Greenway is a project proposed by Harris County Precinct One in partnership with the City of Houston, to reimagine the existing Hillcroft Avenue and provide a continuous walking - biking trail within the large median from Willowbend Boulevard to Union Pacific Railroad, a 2.1 mile corridor.

You can read more about the Hillcroft Avenue Greenway project, see page 7.



No Spring White Elephant Sale

Due to conflicting schedules and lack of volunteers, the Westbury Civic Club is unable to host a Spring White Elephant Sale. We are working at confirming a date for the Fall Sale in hopes to establish a volunteer group for that date well in advance. If we do not have enough volunteers, we cannot hold the sale. If you are interested in volunteering for the Westbury Civic Club, please email westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

TEA is Taking Over HISD

As you are likely aware, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is following through on its threat to take over the Houston Independent School District. The TEA recently held public meetings, the first of which was held at Westbury HS. This topic has many layers and can be confusing. It is very controversial and an ongoing situation. The Westbury Civic Club has tried to outline what happened, why the TEA is now taking over HISD, and what some of the concerns are with this take over. Read all about the TEA takeover and the Westbury meeting on pages 8 & 9.



Spring HISD Musical Performances

Three of Westbury's local Houston ISD schools are Fine Arts Magnets. Parker Elementary, Meyerland Performing & Visual Arts Middle School, and Westbury High School all have robust musical programs that offer wide variety of musical options from orchestra to mariachi to choir. There is something for everyone! Come see a local Westbury school performance. See page 10 for a list of performances at all 3 schools.

IN THIS ISSUE:

WCC Board/Contact	2
President Message	3
Platou Center Calendar	4
Event/Trash Calendars	5
Hillcroft Avenue Greenway	7
TEA Takeover HISD	8
TEA Meeting in Westbury	9
Local School Spring Music performances	10
Road Construction Projects	11
Crime Statistics	13
Westbury Community Garden	14
Willow Waterhole	15

STAY INFORMED

Like and follow the Westbury Houston Facebook page for updates on events, trash, commercial properties, road construction, weather, meetings and more.



Genealogy Discussion Group

Platou Community Center April 13, 20, 27, 5:30-7PM
Just starting in genealogy or need a little guidance? This is a great group for beginners and intermediate levels. Read more about this fun group on page 4. All classes at the Platou Center are free.



NEXT WCC Board Meeting April 19, 7PM Westbury Baptist Game Room

HEAVY TRASH

April 2023
Thursday, April 13
JUNK WASTE

May 2023
Thursday, May 11
TREE WASTE ONLY

RECYCLING

April 2023
Thursday, April 6
Thursday, April 20

May 2023
Thursday, May 4
Thursday, May 18

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE

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

Westbury Civic Club Office
Monday—Thursday—Appointment needed
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 President.....wccpresident@westburycrier.com

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

SECURITY

Pct. 5 Constables (WAP).....281-463-6666
Report property crimes, suspicious activity, and vacation watch
Emergency.....911
Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency..... 713-884-3131
Southwest HPD Station832-394-0400

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 Ellis.....713-755-6111
County Commissioner Lesley Briones.....832-927-4444
Graffiti.....www.braysoaksmid.org
Shopping Cart Removal.....www.braysoaksmid.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

2023 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Cindy Chapman
wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President.....Marcia Hartman
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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

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Westbury 2.....Lindsey Pollock
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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 3Alan Hirshman

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

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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WESTBURY IS A DEED RESTRICTED COMMUNITY. DEED RESTRICTIONS ARE ACTIVELY ENFORCED.

A Message from the Westbury Civic Club President

I will start off with great news. If you have read the January/February edition and the March edition of the monthly Crier newsletter, you are aware that the cost to print our newsletter increased dramatically this year with no advance warning and that we have been seeking other alternatives, including the possibility of going entirely digital. Luckily, when you have a community of 5,000 homes, inevitably it turns out that there is a wide range of expertise and useful connections among our residents. I want to thank several of our Westbury neighbors for assisting the Westbury Civic Club with finding additional alternatives to consider. Thanks to their help, we have found a new printing provider and will adjust our newsletter to fit into the sweet spot of affordability. We will reduce the number of pages from 20 to 16 pages and we will reduce the paper weight used.

The conversion to a new WCC website and a new database system, provided by a company named PayHOA, is still in progress. A few of our residents with mandatory assessments, who live in Parkwest 1 or Parkwest 2, have tried out the new payment system as early users, and we thank you. The first set of letters will be sent to property owners of Parkwest 1, Parkwest 2, and Parkwest 3 about how to register and to send payments. Residents who live in other sections of Westbury will receive letters about registering in our database later. In the meantime, you can send WCC dues payments using paypal and our online portal at www.westburycrier.com.

I encourage you come to one of our monthly board meetings or to attend one of our activities. Keep Westbury Beautiful was held on April 1. It is the start of our Spring events and monthly cleanup efforts.

As a reminder, I want to warn you to be mindful of upcoming traffic delays due to road construction. In April, the City will be start replacing bumpy sections of concrete on Hillcroft, between West Belfort and Willowbend. Also in April, TxDOT plans to start replacing a surface-level southbound bridge over Brays Bayou (similar to the new bridges over Rice and Chimney Rock) that connects the Meyerland Plaza commercial area to areas south, including the Westbury area. While I am on the topic of traffic and mobility, I will mention that the City plans to look in more detail about issues near the intersection of Chimney Rock and West Belfort. The Public Works Department has already made a number of changes to the traffic light signals to reduce car accidents at that intersection.

My husband and I, like many of you, continue to enjoy walking over at the Willow Waterhole Greenway. Perhaps you have noticed new signs recently posted by the City with a reminder to keep dogs on leash, which is a requirement both by the City Parks Department and by Harris County (which owns the land). I periodically walk with friends over at

Hermann Park and I rarely, if ever, see dogs off-leash there. The City posted the signs because of on-going problems at Willow Waterhole with a few dog owners who allow their dogs to be off-leash. Please be a considerate dog owner and follow the rules.

While you are on an excursion over at Willow Waterhole (or anywhere in Westbury or Houston), you might consider joining the City Nature Challenge 2023 during the period of April 28 to May 1. It is easy to do, and my husband and I have participated the past few years. To participate, download the iNaturalist app on your phone, take photos of wild plants and animals you observe between April 28 and May 1, note the location of your observation, and then upload the photo(s) into iNaturalist. The observation data is used by scientists who study biodiversity. Cities across the world compete to see which city has the most participants or the most observations. You don't have to know the identity of the plant or animal that you are documenting.

Happy Spring!
Cindy Chapman



WCC Board Notes— March 2023

- ➔ Public Safety – Precinct 5 Constables Sgt. Derkowsky: Remind your lawn crews and construction contractors to lockup their valuables and equipment since there have been some thefts. Overall, crime is lower than last year. Crime year to date in 2023 (more than 2 1/2 months) is less than in January 22.
- ➔ Guest speakers— Edidiong Obot for Precinct One Commissioner Ellis, Jesus Zamora for Precinct Four Commissioner Briones, Rachad Cave for State Senator Whitmire, Richard Nguyen for Solid Waste Department, Mayoral Candidate Amanda Edwards
- ➔ Board Discussions – 2023 Yard of Month program, Spring 2023 White Elephant Community Garage Sale, converting to new website and database for WCC, and problems with pricing and delivery of WCC monthly newsletter. Update on pending city ordinance for Conservation Districts.
- ➔ TEA is holding a meeting at WHS to discuss pending takeover of the elected HISD Board of Trustees by the state.

NEXT
WCC Board
Meeting
Wednesday
April 19
7PM

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 are 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!

Genealogy Discussion Group

April 13, 20, 27
5:30 – 7 pm

Three evenings of sharing family history resources. Beginners can get started in building their family trees; intermediate/advanced researchers can share their favorite resources and get ideas from the group in solving their research problems. Group leader, Pat Metcalfe, is an experienced genealogy researcher and teacher.

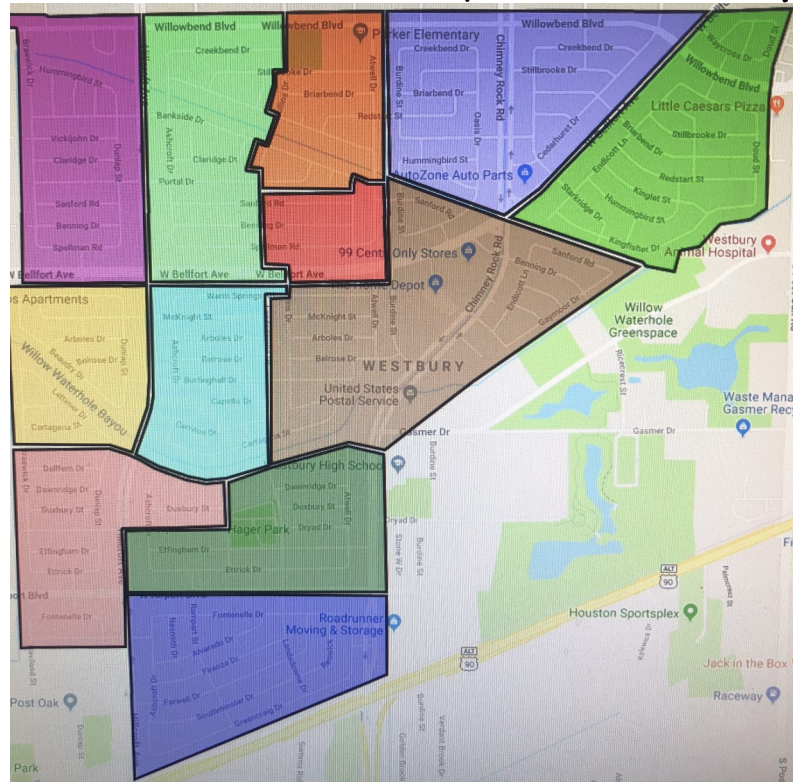
Reserve a place in the group by calling the Platou Community Center – 713-726-7107.

Westbury Library Update

Construction is moving along at the new Shannon Walker Neighborhood library to be located right here in Westbury, There will be entrances on Chimney Rock and Belrose. Construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year.



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

APRIL 2023 Events/Meetings

Thurs 13	Heavy Trash - JUNK WASTE	
Thurs 13	Genealogy Discussion Group Platou Community Center, 11655 Chimney Rock See page 4 for more information	5:30-7PM
Sat 15	Audubon Society Bird Survey 5310 South Willow Monthly bird survey	7AM
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
Thurs 20	Genealogy Discussion Group Platou Community Center, 11655 Chimney Rock See page 4 for more information	5:30-7PM
Thurs 27	Genealogy Discussion Group Platou Community Center, 11655 Chimney Rock See page 4 for more information	5:30-7PM

MAY 2023 Events/Meetings

Thurs 11	Heavy Trash - TREE WASTE ONLY	
Wed 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting Online Meeting	9:30AM
Wed 15	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room	7PM
Sat 20	Audubon Society Bird Survey 5310 South Willow Monthly bird survey	8AM
Fri 31	Last Day of School for HISD	

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.

April 2023

Thursday, April 6
Thursday, April 20

May 2023

Thursday, May 4
Thursday, May 18

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.

April 2023

JUNK WASTE
Thursday, April 13

May 2023

TREE WASTE ONLY
Thursday, May 11

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday.
- ♻️ Recycling is every other Thursday.
- ♻️ Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- ♻️ Yard 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:
 - 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.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information



Pay Your Dues Online www.westburycrier.com

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.

Please send this form in with your payment

2023 Westbury Civic Club Dues

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Online payment:

www.westburycrier.com
www.paypal.com to email
westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Make sure to include your address

Make checks payable to:
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.

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

Westbury Civic Club Dues

\$60 \$

Westbury Area Patrol

\$315 \$

Subtotal \$375 \$

Additional Contributions:

Westbury Civic Club

\$

Westbury Area Patrol

\$

Total

\$

*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.*

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, April 19, 7PM
IN PERSON MEETING

Westbury Baptist

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

**WESTBURY IS A DEED RESTRICTED
COMMUNITY.**

**DEED RESTRICTIONS ARE ACTIVELY
ENFORCED.**

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

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

Possible Future Hillcroft Avenue Greenway

Can you envision a two mile hike and bike trail down Hillcroft through Westbury? It's been on our radar since the City of Houston Planning Department listed it in the Revitalization Plan for Westbury that was done in the late 1990s.

Over the years, the Westbury Civic Club has advocated for trails throughout Westbury. Back in 2005/2006, we constructed a demonstration mulch trail down Hillcroft from Willowbend to Portal. With matching grant funds from the City, we added benches in two locations on Hillcroft to help people envision the possibilities on these wonderful unused greenspaces. Recently, we have been working with the Neighborhood to Trails Southwest advocacy group to help bring trails to our whole area.

Thanks to Harris County Precinct One and the Brays Oaks Management District, a study was completed on this project. The Hillcroft Avenue Greenway is a project proposed by Harris County Precinct One in partnership with the City of Houston, to reimagine the existing Hillcroft Avenue and provide a continuous walk-bike trail within the large median from Willowbend Boulevard to Union Pacific Railroad, a 2.1mile corridor. The City and County are seeking Federal funding.

This project would provide safe and healthy transportation options to connect the community to jobs, parks, bayou trails, schools, libraries and other important destinations. In addition to these benefits, the Hillcroft corridor provides a potentially safe, north/south multi-modal corridor connection from the Brays Bayou Greenway to the Sims Bayou Greenway as well as an east/west from the Fondren diversion channel to the Willow Waterhole.

The wide medians provide for shared-use paths, small gathering areas and even public art displays, like you see along Heights Blvd. All intersections would be improved to increase safety and visibility of pedestrians and cyclists.

If you haven't driven down Heights Blvd or Tanglewood lately, take a drive and imagine what Hillcroft could look like in a few years. And thanks to Harris County, the City of Houston and the Brays Oaks Management District after almost 25 years of envisioning, we are ready to see this become a reality!

New Gaga Pit at Parker Spark Park

Eight 5th grade girls from Parker Elementary Girl Scout Troop 147134 recently installed a Gaga Ball pit at the Parker Spark Park for their Bronze Award project. The girls had enjoyed playing Gaga Ball at Girl Scout camps, but noticed that there were few places to play in the neighborhood.

These awesome Girl Scouts first developed the idea in October 2022 and then coordinated with the Parker PTO, beginning in January 2023. Materials were purchased with funds from Parker PTO fundraising and from the girls' cookie sales. Then, guided by handy parents and leaders and aided by several cordless drills, the girls completed installation over three meetings across March and April.

Gaga Ball is like a friendly version of dodgeball and is great for parks and playgrounds because it can be played by any number of players. Plus, matches can be quick, so everyone can get multiple turns! Neighbors and community members are welcome to visit the installation at the Parker Spark Park; a sign with simple rules will be posted near the entrance of the Gaga Ball pit.

The girls are hosting a **community workshop on Saturday, April 29th from 9am-12pm to introduce others to the fun of the gaga pit!**



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The Murray Group

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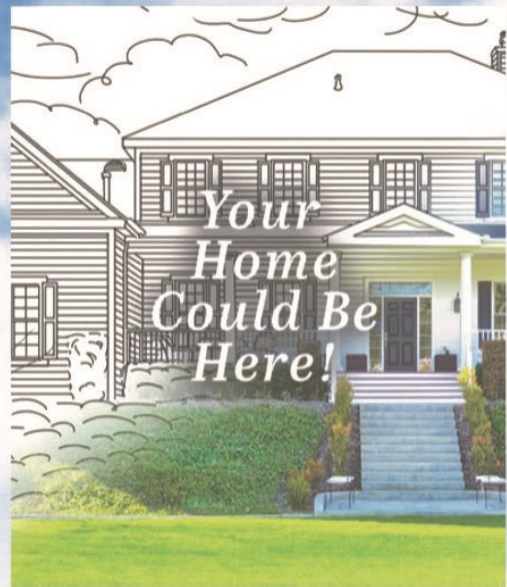
11110 Ashcroft - 3/2/2•\$410's



10702 Carlota- 3/2/2•\$240's



5831 Burlinghall - 3/2/2•\$390's



HOUSTON • KATY • SUGAR LAND • THE WOODLANDS

Texas Education Agency Taking Over HISD

In March 2023, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced that it plans to take over the Houston Independent School District (HISD) this summer. The TEA will install its own “Board of Managers” to operate HISD. This means that the current HISD Superintendent and all 9 elected members of the Board of Trustees would be replaced by an appointed “Board of Managers”. The elected Trustees will continue to hold office in a ceremonial role but will not have any power over the operations of HISD.

According to the TEA website, "The core purpose of the Board of Managers is to improve student outcomes by representing the vision and values of the Houston ISD community where every Houston ISD student is to be prepared for college, career, or the military in a manner that is equitable, transparent, and efficient. Through performance management practices, data-informed routines, and authentic stakeholder engagement, the BOM provides oversight to ensure that the vision and values are being honored and students are being well-served. The Board of Managers assumes all of the powers and authority previously held by the suspended Board of Trustees."

Why is this happening?

In 2015, the Texas legislature passed a law that allows takeover of an entire school district if any one campus is rated F for five years on STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) testing. STAAR testing is done in grades 3-8, and at the end of course for specific high school classes. In 2019, one school in HISD was rated F for 5 years (Wheatley HS). In 2019, TEA first attempted to takeover HISD, based on the performance of Wheatley HS and what it considered a dysfunctional district leadership team (for example, in 2018, some HISD Trustees voted to replace the Superintendent at the time in a surprise move that was later found to violate the State Open Meeting Act).



Why is the move by TEA controversial?

This is a very complicated topic, so here are some of the issues and concerns that the WCC has compiled from various sources.

- Wheatley HS received a passing score of C for the 2021-2022 school year, so it has not failed for 5 years in a row.
- In 2023, when the case was before the Texas Supreme Court, the TEA argued it should not reward districts that have delayed take over via litigation, and that the improved performance of Wheatley HS “doesn’t have any legal relevance”.
- The TEA says another reason is because the 2018 school board was dysfunctional; however, only 2 elected HISD Trustees from 2018 remain on the Board in 2023 and they both took office in January 2018.
- State law was changed in 2021 to make it easier for TEA to takeover school districts. The 2023 State legislature is still in progress, and some bills have been proposed to allow TEA more options rather than complete takeover.
- HISD overall is rated B+ by TEA. The Houston Chronicle looked at the TEA scores of every school district in the state and found that HISD had a score of 88 last year, ranking in the top half of all school districts. HISD is ranked higher or the same as most other urban districts: Dallas ISD (86), El Paso ISD (87), Ft Worth ISD (81), San Antonio (85), and Austin ISD (88).
- HISD has 274 schools and almost 190,000 students, per the HISD website. Although no school should have a failing rating, is a punishment of complete takeover of HISD proportionate justice?
- An elected Board of Trustees will be replaced by an appointed Board of Managers, selected by TEA Commissioner Morath, who is appointed by the Governor. Generally, elected officials are considered to be more accountable to the public.
- The TEA is changing the school scoring system in 2023 which may make it more difficult to get good school scores in the future. The Houston Chronicle says that more than 200 school districts in Texas have expressed concerns about the proposed TEA changes and have asked for a pause in implementation. The biggest change is to the “college, career, and military readiness” (CCMR) scoring. For example, the CCMR score needed to get an A will be raised from 60 to 88.
- A newly appointed Board of Managers (BOM) would serve for years, and this could extend into many years. As a minimum, the appointed BOM will serve for 2 years before the TEA will consider whether HISD is allowed to hold Trustee elections. If so, then 3 of the 9 HISD Trustees would be elected, then another 3 would be elected in the next year, and the last 3 of the 9 Trustees would be elected in the following year. Thus, it would take five years, under the best of circumstances, to return to a fully elected Board of Trustees for HISD.
- There are concerns that some public schools in HISD might be closed by an appointed Board of Managers or converted to charter schools.
- There are concerns that some popular HISD programs such as magnet programs, might be reduced or eliminated by a non-elected Board.
- There are accusations that the State of Texas itself has contributed to the problems in HISD by underfunding public schools. Raise Your Hand Texas said that, nationwide, Texas ranked 42 out of 50 in per-student funding in 2021. HISD, despite being an urban school district with many needs, is considered to be a wealthy school district in Texas and is required under the state recapture “Robin Hood” laws to send money back to the state to be redistributed to poorer school districts. In the 2021-2022 school year, HISD sent about \$303 million of recapture funds back to the State. Only Austin ISD sent more money back to the State than HISD did.

TEA Held Meeting in Westbury

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) held the first of four public meetings to discuss the pending take over of HISD, right here in Westbury in the newly renovated auditorium at Westbury High School. The other 3 locations were Chavez HS, Kashmere HS, and Delmar stadium.

Since this was the first public meeting by the TEA about the takeover of HISD, the event drew a crowd from across the city and a variety of media representatives attended. There were many familiar faces in the crowd of Westbury residents and community advocates. Thank you to Westbury residents for attending this meeting.

Media reports described the TEA meeting as "loud" or "raucous", and it was. It was obvious that some people in the audience were upset and frustrated that the TEA did not want to discuss the takeover itself.

The TEA scheduled the meeting for one hour and wanted to solely discuss the role of the Board of Managers, the application process to seek a position on the Board of Managers, and the exit criteria to transition away from a Board of Managers. They had an online form to submit questions, but the form said that they would only allow questions about the Board of Managers and that was repeated verbally at the beginning of the meeting

From the perspective of the TEA, it appears that their primary objective for these meetings was to solicit applications for the Board of Managers. TEA Deputy Commissioner Delgado said that 138 applications had already been received. Applicants will need to apply by April 6 with fully completed applications and do a mandatory two day training on being a School Board member. Those who advance through those steps will undergo interviews and the finalists will receive additional training. The final selections will be made on June 1, 2023.

Opinion of WCC President Cindy Chapman—"I was disappointed in how TEA organized the meeting. I have been to a lot of public meetings, and typically a public meeting will allow a variety of public comments, although they may limit the amount of time to speak. In my opinion, it would have been better for the TEA to have presented their short number of slides about the Board of Managers, answered questions about the Board of Managers, and then allowed people in the audience to speak for a minute or so each with concerns or questions about the takeover itself."

The WHS auditorium did our community proud. The WHS auditorium is larger than those built for newer high schools and was completely renovated a few years ago as part of the HISD bond program. The sound system worked well, the room looked attractive, and the seats were comfortable. For those of us who have endured large public meetings in the old WHS auditorium, the upgraded auditorium is a marvel.

Support Westbury Local Public Schools

Parker, Anderson, Meyerland, Westbury



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.

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!

Meyerland MS Principal Named Principal of the Year

Auden Sarabia, Principal of Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School (MPVA), was named the 2022-2023 HISD Middle School Principal of the Year at a ceremony in early March. The students and staff celebrated this honor with a school wide parade before Spring Break.



Westbury High School Tennis Tournament

For the first time in 32 years, Westbury High School hosted a Doubles Tennis tournament at the Westbury HS campus tennis courts on March 4. WHS has six tennis courts. These tennis courts were added a few years ago when the school was remodeled and the new addition built.

The WHS tennis courts are the "nicest in HISD", according to WHS tennis coach, Gerald Thurmond. A Singles Tennis tournament was played on March 25. The Westbury team competed against Chavez, Sterling, and Heights High Schools.



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 can help or get involved. If you have any school announcements, please let us know by emailing the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

Local School Spring Performances

Three of Westbury's local Houston ISD schools are Fine Arts Magnets. Parker Elementary, Meyerland Performing & Visual Arts Middle School, and Westbury High School all have robust musical programs that offer wide variety of musical options from orchestra to mariachi to choir. There is something for everyone! Come see a local Westbury school performance.

The lists below will be updated in the May *Westbury Crier*.



Meyerland Performing & Visual Arts Middle School

- May 2, 6-7:30PM — Beginning guitar spring concert
- May 8, 4-6PM — Band spring concert #1
- May 9, 4-6PM — Band spring concert #2
- May 11, 6-7:30PM — Orchestra spring concert
- May 16, 6-8PM — Advanced theater showcase
- May 18, 6:30-8PM — Choir pop show
- May 19, 6-7:30PM — Mariachi spring concert
- May 22, 6-8PM — Intermediate theater showcase
- May 25, 6-7:30PM — 8th grade concerto concert

Meyerland PVA Middle School

10410 Manhattan
All performances take place in the MPVA Auditorium

Parker Elementary School

- May 3 — Intermediate strings concert
- May 4 — Beginning strings concert
- May 5 — Concert piano concert
- May 9 — Performing strings concert
- May 12 — Chorus concert
- May 23 — Beginning and advanced band concert



Parker Elementary

10626 Atwell
All performances are in the Parker auditorium

Westbury High School

- April 19, 7PM — Choir Concert
- April 20, 7PM — Piano Showcase
- April 28, 7PM — Theatre Student Directed Shows
- May 5, 7PM — Advance Piano Recital
- May 12, 4:30-6PM — Art Showcase
- May 16, 7PM — Band/Jazz Band
Guitar Concert
- May 18, TBD — Musical

Westbury High School

11911 Chimney Rock
All performances take place in the WHS Auditorium



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Update on TxDOT Bridge Replacement

TxDOT will soon be replacing an important bridge over Brays Bayou that connects the Westbury and Meyerland communities to the commercial businesses near the 610 West Loop and Beechnut (the Meyerland Plaza area). See aerial photo provided by the Brays Bayou Association.

The bridge that will be replaced is the surface-level bridge over Brays Bayou located between North and South Braeswood Boulevards. This bridge is on the southbound feeder road heading from the Meyerland Plaza area towards Westbury. According to the Brays Bayou Association, the start date has been moved back several times, but currently the bridge replacement work is scheduled to begin on April 10. The hike and bike trail along North Braeswood will be temporarily detoured to the north side of the street during Phase 1 of the project.



Street Improvements on Hillcroft

Street improvements will be coming soon for a segment of Hillcroft (see map). The March newsletter for District K noted that Westbury residents will be getting improved street infrastructure on Hillcroft, between Willowbend and W. Belfort. This project will be replacing some of the individual concrete panels on this stretch of Hillcroft.



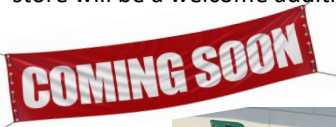
The concrete panel replacement project is scheduled to begin April 3 and is expected to be completed June 16. The Project contractor is Total Contracting.

We encourage all Westbury residents to sign up to receive the District K monthly newsletter. To subscribe, send an email to DistrictK@houstontx.gov and request to be added to the newsletter distribution list.

NEW Barnes & Noble Bookstore

Barnes & Noble is opening a new store in SW Houston. The new store will be located in Wesleyan Plaza, on Wesleyan at Bissonnet in the old JoAnn's location. The new store will be 21,000 sq. ft. No opening date has been announced.

Barnes & Nobles closed their store closest to Westbury at Vanderbilt Square on Holcombe last year. This new store will be a welcome addition to SW Houston.



Links for Lost & Found Pets

- Nextdoor Westbury - www.nextdoor.com
- Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook
- Houston Cares -



Westbury Area Improvement Corporation

April 2023 Board Meeting
 Wednesday, April 19, 9:30AM
 Westbury High School

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


















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Crime Statistics for Westbury SuperNeighborhood

March 1—March 31, 2023

Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

KEY

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W	
6000	Benning	Theft from Motor Vehicle	3/15	2pm	Westbury 5	 Theft from Motor Vehicle
11700	Braewick	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	3/8	5am	Parkwest 3	 Theft
5800	Cartagena	Burglary, Breaking & Entering	3/10	9pm	Westbury 3	 Vandalism
5800	Cartagena	Burglary, Breaking & Entering	3/31	5pm	Westbury 3	 Burglary
10600	Chimney Rock	Theft from Motor Vehicle	3/1	8am	Westbury 2	 Theft from Motor Vehicle
10900	Chimney Rock	Simple Assault	3/18	4am	Westbury 2	 Simple Assault
11000	Chimney Rock	Simple Assault	3/17	4pm	Westbury 2	 Simple Assault
5600	Effingham	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	3/29	10pm	Westbury 4	 Theft from Motor Vehicle
5600	Ettrick	Theft—other	3/11	9am	Westbury 4	 Theft
5600	Ettrick	Theft—other	3/20	7pm	Westbury 4	 Theft
5700	Firenza	Aggravated Assault	3/26	6pm	Westbury South	 Aggravated Assault
5500	Fontenelle	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	3/27	11am	Westbury South	 Vandalism
5600	Hummingbird	Theft from Motor Vehicle	3/8	12pm	Parkwest 2	 Theft from Motor Vehicle
5800	Ludington	Simple Assault	3/22	10pm	Westbury 4	 Simple Assault
5800	Ludington	Aggravated Assault	3/1	3pm	Westbury 4	 Aggravated Assault
6000	McKnight	Simple Assault	3/28	9pm	Parkwest 3	 Simple Assault
12400	Mullins	Simple Assault	3/15	7pm	Westbury South	 Simple Assault
5700	Southminster	Simple Assault	3/3	10am	Westbury South	 Simple Assault
5900	W. Airport	Aggravated Assault	3/20	4pm	Westbury 4	 Aggravated Assault
5800	Willowbend	Theft—Other	3/13	11am	Parkwest 2	 Theft

The crimes listed took place between March 1 – March 31, 2023. They are in alphabetical order by street. The crimes are highlighted by type. Please see key to the right.

Crime by the Numbers

Crime Type	Homes	Apts./TH	Comm./Business	Park/Public
Aggravated Assault	3	10	0	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	3	4	1	0
Burglary	2	2	0	0
Robbery	0	0	3	1
Simple Assault	6	21	6	2
Shoplifting	0	0	7	0
Drugs, Narcotics	0	1	0	1
Vandalism, Damage	2	5	2	1
Auto Theft	0	4	1	0
Theft of Vehicle Parts	1	1	2	0
Theft—Other	3	4	2	0
Theft—From Building	0	0	0	0
DUI	0	0	0	2
Disorderly Conduct	0	2	0	0
Sexual Assault	0	1	0	0
Murder/Homicide	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	20	55	24	7

Pct. 5 Constable Dispatch
Westbury Area Patrol
281-463-6666
SW HPD Station
832-394-0400
HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

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



WCG Founder's Day Breakfast

It's hard to believe that it was 13 years ago in March 2010, that the Westbury Community Garden came to life. The gardeners held a wonderful Founders Day fundraising breakfast at the end of March. The Garden has really grown and become something special since its inception.

Guest speaker Dr. Bob Randall spoke about the early days of community gardens and the founding of Urban Harvest. He and two 4th Ward activists started a community garden back in 1987. Seven years later in 1994, Urban Harvest was created "to cultivate communities through gardening and access to healthy, local food." The Westbury Community Garden is an affiliate of Urban Harvest.

Becky Edmondson, one of the original founder's of the garden, spoke about how the Westbury Garden came into existence. It was a vacant 7-acre lot owned by the Houston Housing Authority. It took many people to get the garden going. The then City of Houston Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck helped facilitate the first lease. Robin Blut, past director of Keep Houston Beautiful, helped the WCG obtain a \$10,000 Scotts Miracle Gro grant. The WCG was the chosen class project for Leadership Houston Class XXVIII, who helped build the original garden beds and funded the June Holly Leadership Houston pavilion. Companies such as Lloyds Register and Exxon along with hundreds of volunteers and gardeners have helped, not only start the garden, but have kept it flourishing 13 years later.

Ray Sher, another garden founder and key facilitator of the WCG, spoke about the garden today and what an amazing space the Garden has become. There are now 62 raised beds that are tended by gardeners for an annual fee. There is a fruit orchard and apiary with active beehives. Two acres of the land is home to three Plant it Forward Farmers (PIFF). This important project teaches refugees how to farm here to support themselves under the PIFF brand. Another acre is maintained as a pocket prairie. Ray spoke of the many committees and volunteers that that work to keep the garden growing.

Virginia Livingston, a founder of the WCG, spoke about the future of the garden and presented highlights from the master plan. Renowned landscape architect firm, Akasura Robinson, created this extensive master plan several years ago. There are plans to add roadways for better access, swales to hold rainwater on the site and improve drainage, and more.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Westbury Community Garden, please visit the website www.westburycommunitygarden.com.



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.



www.westburycommunitygarden.org

Willow Waterhole

More than Just Flood Control

TRAILS * BIRDS * WILDFLOWERS



Photo—Mark Mulligan, Houston Chronicle

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.

Join the Willow Waterhole Conservancy

The Willow Waterhole is growing! The Conservancy is grateful for the capital campaign support that is funding the new pier, eight miles of trails, three parking lots, and other major improvements around the Greenway. WWGC has raised more than \$10 million toward their \$12 million goal.

Annual WWGC membership supports Greenway operating and maintenance expenses, and conservation workdays. Since the Greenway is growing, they need your membership more than ever! Please consider joining or renewing your membership today!

- ➔ \$50 per member (\$40 for veterans) or \$100 per family
- ➔ \$250-\$499 for Supporting Members
- ➔ \$500-\$999 for Sustaining Members
- ➔ \$1000 or more for Patrons

For gifts of \$20 or more, you will be eligible to receive special gifts. You may determine your preferred membership level and either pay by credit card at <http://www.willowwaterhole.org> or mail a check to:

Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy
P O Box 35676 , Houston, TX 77235



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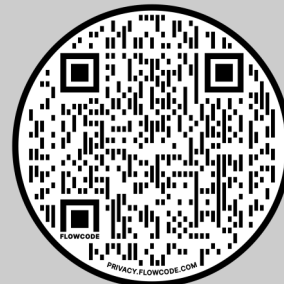
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