

Willow Waterhole Jazz Fest Rescheduled for May 5



Westbury Crier

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MAY 2013

HIGHLIGHTS:

- JAZZ FEST rescheduled for May 5
- WCC Board Meeting: May 15 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist
- May's heavy trash is TREE WASTE ONLY. Pick up is MAY 9 for ALL of Westbury.
- Adding on to your home? Make sure to call the WCC office first!

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Ding Dong...The House is GONE!



After years and years of fielding complaints about the home at 5822 Cartagena, the Westbury Civic Club is pleased to announce that the problem was finally solved when the home was demolished on April 8. According to public records, taxes went unpaid on this home since 1987. More than once, attorneys for the Harris County Appraisal district tried to sell the home for back taxes and were finally successful in late 2011. It appears that the home sold at auction for \$50,000 to an individual who then sold it to a management company that he owns. We were continually reporting this house to 311, but once the new owner pulled a permit saying that the home would be repaired no action could be taken until the permit expired.

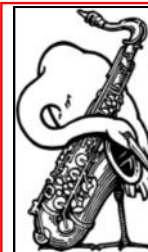
Story Continued on Page 10



Westbury Pool Opens May 25

The Westbury neighborhood pool opens Saturday, May 25, for the Memorial Day Weekend. The pool WILL be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, from 1-8PM. The pool is typically open Tuesday-Sunday 1-8PM and closed on Mondays. **For the full summer pool schedule, see page 7.**

The popular adult water fitness class will be starting June 4. **For more information regarding class times and registration, see page 7.**



Willow Waterhole Jazz Fest is rescheduled Sun., May 5

MOVE THAT JUNK! JUNK WASTE PICKUP IS NOT UNTIL JUNE 13

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WCC Publication Committee
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Westbury Civic Club Office

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30AM— 1:30PM*, Closed Fridays

Address: 5322 W Bellfort Ste. 107 Houston, TX 77035

Phone: 713-723-5437 **Office Manager:** Jennifer Edmondson

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

*The office is closed on all major holidays, weekends (follows HISD calendar)

FREE NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666

HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)
713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront
713-726-7126

Platou Community Center
713-726-7107

Poison Control
1-800-764-7661

Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)
713-207-2222

District K Councilmember Larry Green
832-393-3016

District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen
832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee
713-755-6111

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

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

Stay connected!

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President's Message

We, the Westbury Civic Club, are committed to our purpose as proclaimed in our by-laws: "to improve the appearance of the Westbury area and promote the civic, cultural, educational, health, and general welfare of the residents of Westbury and Parkwest". It's a big mission when you consider that we have 5,000 single-family homes, over 7 miles of esplanades, 4 city parks, a huge community garden; public and private schools; several thousand multi-family units in the area, and under-producing commercial properties along our thoroughfares.

That said, looking back over the first four months of 2013 and especially the last 30 days, so many positive things have occurred. We had the Keep District K Beautiful day which brought volunteers to both the Willow Waterhole and Westbury Community Garden. The District K CIP meeting was attended by a record number of Westbury residents. The master plan for the Willow Waterhole is

being updated and a great public input meeting was held. The Brays Oaks Management District has updated its parks master plan to include Westbury locations. The Westbury White Elephant sale was another successful event. You will find articles on all of these happenings in this month's Crier. The Willow Waterhole JazzFest on April 28th should be a spectacular event and I hope many of you were able to attend.

Thanks to springtime temperatures and rainy days our yards are much greener. It is a difficult task to choose Yard of the Month when so many homes deserve recognition.

Unfortunately, we still have a handful of homes that are neglected and in violation of city ordinances. One of those homes was demolished in April. It is a sad state of affairs when a building is allowed to deteriorate to the point of demolition. The demolished home had been in blemished

condition when purchased at a tax auction and was then left to decay. We welcome investors who want to buy and remodel houses in Westbury; however, this is a neighborhood and investments shouldn't degrade our neighborhood and devalue our homes. Several TV channels sent cameramen, and a few sent helicopters, for the house demolition. Erik Barajas from Channel 13 did a very nice job on the story. It was an exhilarating morning.

Hopefully other substandard homes will come into compliance without such drastic measures. We are working hard on behalf of all of Westbury/Parkwest. Join us as we work to make Westbury/Parkwest the safest, greenest, affordable neighborhood in Houston. Read about our exciting new partnership with the City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods as we work together to bring all the homes in Westbury into compliance.

Becky Edmondson

Board Notes: April

- ◆ Discussed meeting held with Dept of Neighborhoods earlier in the day
- ◆ Security update on recent crime in area
- ◆ A potentially new Westbury resident attended the meeting to learn more about Westbury
- ◆ Discussion of positive home market in Westbury areas and how fast the homes are selling

Board Notes: March

- ◆ William (BJ) Turner, PW 1 resident, was elected as Secretary of WCC Board
- ◆ Minor revision to Westbury Community Garden by-laws approved
- ◆ BOMD will delitter commercial thoroughfares in Westbury
- ◆ Water and Cookies provided by Weichert Realtors

Subscribe to SW News Online

The *Southwest News* is a valuable neighborhood weekly newspaper, but not all Westbury residents receive a paper copy delivered to their homes. This can be remedied by anyone who can receive email. Go to www.village-southwest-news.com to sign up to receive a weekly email with a link to the E-edition (electronic edition) of the newspaper. It will appear in your email on Tuesdays. *Southwest News* reporter Michelle Leigh Smith has recently done articles about Westbury and Willow Waterhole. These articles explain in detail the activities that happen in our community and those who work to make the community better.

WCC Board Meeting
Wednesday,
May 15
7PM-9PM
Westbury Baptist

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Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock

Monday-Thursday 12PM—8PM; Fridays 11AM-7PM

Supervisor: Dan Reilly, Daniel.reilly@houstontx.gov or 713-726-7107

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Facebook

Get Healthy with Platou

Every month the Platou Center offers a variety of ways to improve your health!

There are FREE workout classes, workshops, and support groups. Call 713-726-7107 for more information.

Exercise Classes

- ***Hybrid Fitness Class:** Tuesday and Thursdays 6:30-7:30PM. Half Dance/Cardio & half Nike inspired functional fitness training
- ***Zumba Class:** Thursdays 8-9AM
- ***Stretching Exercise Class:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9-9:45AM

Workshops

- ***Fitness Workshop with Louis Moore:** May 2 from 6:30-7:30PM
 - ***Health & Nutrition Seminar:** May 15 from 6:30- 7:30PM
- Discussion on Enzymes & nutritional diet with Anthony Barnes. Call 713-726-7107 for info

Support Groups

- ***TOPS- Take Off Pounds Sensibly:** Tuesdays 5:45-7PM. Drop in or call Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or Naomi at 713-988-2233

**PLATOU CENTER
WILL BE CLOSED MAY
27 FOR
MEMORIAL DAY**

Kids Summer Program

Registration is NOW open! Space is limited this year so sign up as soon as possible. Program begins on June 3. Hours are 8AM to 6PM. Open to children ages 6-13. Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 for more info. Lunch and snack provided.

**Don't forget you can
recycle paper & card-
board at Chim-
ney Rock Park!**



Weekly Classes & Groups

- Line Dancing Class** Mon., 1-2PM. For more Information, call 713-726-7107.
- Quilting Workshop** Tues., 10AM - 3PM Contact Janie at 713-721-5526
- Games** Wed., 10 AM Contact Wally at 713-729-9310
- Portable Projects** Thursdays 9:30- 11:30AM Any kind of handiwork: knitting, crochet, needlepoint, etc. Contact Hazel at 713-729-4568
- Ballroom Dance Class** Wednesdays, 6-7PM Advanced, 7-8PM Intermediate. Call Marilyn at 713-729-9425. No partner required.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to share skills and talents with the kids in the summer program at the Platou Center. Possible ideas could be art projects, nature walks, music, reader's theater or skits. Please call 713-726-7107 for more information or to sign up.

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jackiem@waynemurray.net



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5823 Arboles
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5123 Willowbend
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5242 Willowbend
Another One Sold!!



Your Home Could Be Here!!!



5707 Arboles
Just Listed!!



8302 Pontiac
\$319,900

What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar May 2013

May 3-4	Yard of the Month Judging in all sections of Westbury Have a nomination? Call 713-723-5437 What to judge a section? Call 713-723-5437
May 4	Beginner Bird Watching @ Willow Waterhole 8AM Meet at Gathering Place parking lot 5310 S. Willow For more information, see page 20
Wed 8	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:15PM Pavilion at Community Garden— 12501 Dunlap
Wed 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30-10AM Salem Lutheran—4930 W. Bellfort Open to all Westbury residents!
Wed 15	WCC Board Meeting 7PM– 9PM Westbury Baptist Church—RM C103 Open to all Westbury residents!
Sat 18	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Mon 20	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Sat 25	Westbury Pool Opens! Pool hours - 1PM to 8PM 10605 Mullins (Near Parker Elem.)
Mon 27	WCC Office will be closed for Memorial Day
Mon 27	Westbury Pool Open on Memorial Day 1PM-8PM (Pool is closed on Mondays during the normal schedule)
Tues 28	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South

Planning Calendar

June 4: Water Fitness Classes @ Westbury Pool
June 11: Pool open Tuesday thru Sunday

Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

May 2013	
Thurs 2	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 16	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 30	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

June 2013	
Thurs 13	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 13	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 27	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

MOVE THAT JUNK! JUNK WASTE

PICKUP IS NOT UNTIL JUNE 13

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

January	Tree Waste	July	Tree Waste
February	Junk Waste	August	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste	Sept.	Tree Waste
April	Junk Waste	October	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste	Nov.	Tree Waste
June	Junk Waste	Dec.	Junk Waste

Important Trash & Recycling Info

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

District K Capital Improvement Plan Meeting

Westbury was well represented at the 2013 District K Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting with seven Westbury residents in attendance. The meeting held on March 21 began with District K Council Member Larry Green outlining all of the accomplishments in District K of the last year. Representatives of the Parks Dept., Public Works, and General Services talked about CIP projects in the works for District K. The Parks Dept. spoke about the Westbury Park playground project which they now say will be completed this summer. General Services talked about a library building slated to replace the existing Meyer Library at a new site. Also, the Southwest Houston Police Dept. Substation (the "Beechnut" HPD substation) will be moved to a new HPD building to be built near S. Post Oak, just south of US90A. Public Works made a presentation about Rebuild Houston and how roads will be selected for improvements.

Once the presentations were complete, it was time for Questions and Answers. **Becky Edmondson**, WCC President, thanked the city for the efforts in revitalizing Westbury. She asked that something be done about Westbury Square. She asked for a new community center to be built in conjunction with the new library and mentioned the *Company on Stage* theater. She reminded them that our infrastructure, streets, water lines, etc are aging and in need of replacement. **Marcia Hartman**,



*Westbury residents waiting in line to speak at CIP Meeting.
Photo Courtesy of Michelle Smith*

President of the Westbury Community Garden and Vice President of the WCC, spoke eloquently about the garden and asked Mark Ross of the Parks Department how to get the city involved in the acquisition of this 7-acres as permanent greenspace.

Russell Schexnayder, resident, spoke about Willow Waterhole bayou and alleviating flooding issues in Westbury. **Cindy Chapman**, WCC Director, thanked the At-Large City Council Members who were in the audience for attending the District K meeting. She pointed out problems with specific streets and certain leaking water mains. Westbury Christian School asked for safer sidewalks. There for moral support and wearing their community t-shirts were Westbury residents **Dita Geary**, **Hazel Potvin**, **Karen Schubert** and

Tom Gwillim. Bob Schwartz, President of the Brays Bayou Association and a resident of Marilyn Estates, spoke about the needs of the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve. Interestingly a couple, who do not live in Westbury but were there to speak about another issue, complained about street flooding problems near the intersection of Willowbend and Hillcroft.

It was a productive meeting and the city and citizens left with a better understanding of progress that had been made and the continuing needs of District K.

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Westbury Pool

10605 Mullins @ Willowbend (near Parker Elem.) 713-723-2192

Westbury City Pool Summer 2013 Schedule

May 25– June 9: Pool open Saturdays and Sundays, 1-8PM

May 27 (Memorial Day): Pool OPEN 1-8PM

June 11– August 18: Pool OPEN Normal Summer Hours Tuesday—Sunday 1-8PM; Closed Mondays

July 4: Pool OPEN, 1-5PM

August 24 - September 1: Pool open on Saturday and Sundays only, 1-8PM

September 2 (Labor Day): Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

Questions? Call pool at 713-723-2192

Address: 10605 Mullins (near Parker Elem.)

FREE Water Fitness Class

Stay in shape this summer and cool off at the same time! The city will once again offer **FREE** water fitness classes for adults at Westbury Pool this summer. These classes are very popular. There will be 2 different classes this year, both on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. See below for class descriptions and times.

Online registration begins on May 6, or you can register with the instructor on class days, shortly before each class starts. The first day of class will be Tuesday, June 4, and the last day of class will be Thursday, August 8, at the Westbury Pool. If you have questions, call the city Adult Sports Office at (832) 395-7274.

Water fitness is a great exercise for any age, any fitness level and any body type. Wear appropriate swimwear, Aquatic shoes are advised, and always bring a bottle of water for hydration.

**Westbury Pool will be closed for general swimming use during fitness classes

Adult Water Fitness

Class Schedule & Descriptions

Adult Hydro-Flow Training: Tues & Thurs 6-6:50PM

An integrative approach to water fitness training with light cardiovascular work, balance/core training, flexibility, and Ai Chi. Progressive rock and new age music is a part of the workout. Recommended for cross-training. Intensity: light.

Adult Hydro-Fit Power Training: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-7:50PM

This class provides an athletic approach to water fitness training - with sports-specific drills, intense cardiovascular work, balance/core training, martial arts, and plyometrics. Improve your cardiovascular conditioning and muscular strength and endurance with minimal stress on your joints. Loud, rocking music is a part of the workout. Recommended for cross training. Intensity of exercise: moderate to hard.



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Code Violations

Be a Neighbor, NOT a Nuisance!

The City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods (DoN) seeks to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by reducing blight and substandard living conditions. All of these municipal code violations described below carry fines ranging from \$50 to \$2,000.

These violations can be reported to the city by calling 311 or using the 311 mobile app. Please record the assigned city service number for the violation. It is also helpful to let the WCC office know of these problems so that we can follow-up on the status. A committee of the Westbury Super-Neighborhood, including reps from the WCC, is working with DoN and the Houston Police Department in a new collaborative effort to monitor and resolve these and other nuisances to our neighborhood.

Overgrown Lots: The property owner/occupant is responsible for maintaining weeds and grass at nine inches or less and brush and shrubbery at seven feet or less.

Dangerous Buildings: Vacant buildings must be kept locked and all points of entry must be covered.

Rat Attractions: Property owners may not accumulate lumber, boxes, barrels that may be used for rat harborage.

Garbage, Rubbish, Trash, and Open and Visible Storage of Materials: Junk, trash, litter and rubbish cannot accumulate on a lot. This includes: No dead trees, tires, refuse, glass, building materials, appliances, inoperable boats and junk vehicles, auto parts, appliances, furniture, tires, paper, tree trimmings, cardboard and other offensive material.



NOTE – Some residents mistakenly believe that it is a trash violation only if they place trash out on the street too early for collection. If you have a pile of trash sitting in your driveway or front yard waiting for the next Tree Waste or Junk Waste collection day, then that pile of trash is considered to be blight and it is a violation. It is a violation to be accumulating trash ANYWHERE on your lot – whether it is in your front, side, or back yard. It is also a violation for your city trash receptacles to be stored in plain sight or to be placed at the street too early or left standing too late. See photo.

Boat Trailers: The boat must be stored so that water cannot accumulate and the trailer must be operable.

Broken Fences and Structures on Property: All fences and accessory structures including detached garages and sheds must be in structurally sound condition and in good repair.

(Photo depicts two trash violations: visible trash container in middle of driveway and visible storage of trash, rubbish, and building materials)

Know What to Report to 311

Thank you to the many Westbury residents who downloaded the new 311 App! We are very excited about this new tool. One of the first hurdles in using the app successfully is knowing what type of violations and problems can be turned into 311. Here's a list of common issues.

- *Bad yards—Weeds over 9 inches—311
- *Heavy Trash Violation—311
- *Storage of Trash/Debris—311
- *Traffic Sign Maintenance—311
- *Street Repairs—311
- *Water Main Break—311
- *Trees in City Easement/ Right of Way need removal or pruning—311



Trash Can Contest

Trash Cans, Trash Cans, Trash Cans

Did you know that your trash cans should be kept out of public view? Leaving your can/cans in public view can result in a citation. We get complaints from neighbors who obey the law and are tired of looking at their neighbors' trash receptacles. We would like to help the whole neighborhood get in compliance. But we need your help.

If your house has an attached garage it takes some effort. At a minimum, trash cans should be stored behind the building set back line and screened from view. They should not be stored on your driveway, in front of the garage, or even worse, on the front porch.

If your house has a detached garage, then it is a little easier to get your trash cans out of view. Many homes now have added gates across the driveways and now it is not as easy to get the cans behind the gate and out of view. The cans should not be stored in front of the gate or in your front yard or on your porch.

We are lobbying regularly for all of Westbury to have Single Stream recycling and that means a second large can to screen from view. Have you found an innovative way to screen your cans? Perhaps you've been meaning to get around to this and now is your chance to implement it and win a prize!

Trash Can Placement Rules

- Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM Thursday
- Trash cans must be removed by 10PM Thursday
- Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- Trash cans must be stored out of sight.

Hidden Trash Can Contest



Send us a picture of your "hidden" trash can solution to enter our contest. Tell us a little bit about your design and an estimated cost to build it. Be sure to include your address and a way to contact you. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories from elaborate to simple, and from innovative to functional. First place is \$100! The plan is to judge them in July, so get your entry in. I've seen some great trash can screens on Oasis, W. Bellfort, Starkridge and beyond. You can't win if you don't enter! Send your entries to the Westbury Civic Club office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net with a subject line of "Trash Can Contest" by 11 PM on July 8, 2013. If you don't have access to email, then snail mail us or come by the office with the requested information.

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Community Partner: Dept. of Neighborhoods

Overgrown yards. Derelict buildings. Trash. These blights and other problems degrade our neighborhood and can be extremely frustrating to live near. This month we feature the Department of Neighborhoods as our community partner.

DoN is a new city department formed by Mayor Annise Parker less than 2 years ago.

"The Department of Neighborhoods (DoN) is an entity dedicated to improving quality of life in our neighborhoods through expanded outreach, stronger community partnerships and improved government responsiveness. This constituent-based service concept creates a "one-stop shop" for

accessing City services and resolving neighborhood issues." Katye Tipton was named director of the Department of Neighborhoods by Mayor Annise Parker and Houston City Council on May 31, 2012, after serving as interim director for several months.

The DoN division of Inspections & Public Service (IPS) aims to defend and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods

through the active enforcement of city ordinances and the reduction of blight and substandard living conditions.

For difficult problems, additional resources may need to be involved. For example, the front page of this newsletter shows the demolition of 5822 Cartagena in April. This achievement involved help from DoN, plus city Legal, plus the Houston Police Department (via the Differential Response Team - DRT). Starting in May 2013, we will be working even more closely with the city to resolve problem properties. The plan is for the Westbury SuperNeighborhood / WCC to prepare lists of our problem properties. Once each quarter, representatives from

Westbury will meet in person with leaders from DoN, HPD-DRT, and the Health Department to review stubborn and/or difficult properties. Status reports will be prepared monthly for our SuperNeighborhood. The goal is for neighborhoods and the city to work more closely together to solve problems. We are hopeful that this approach will be better at resolving some of our chronic or recalcitrant problem properties.



5822 Cartagena

Continued from page 1...

In the March Crier, we published a picture of the home with large holes in the roof and again reported it to 311; to the city legal department; to HPD's DRT division and to District K. It is fair to say they were all shocked at the condition of the house. The city legal department persuaded the owner to demolish the structure. We met his contractor at the demolition and were told that there are plans underway to build a new home.

Many thanks to Jennifer Edmondson for diligently staying on top of the issue. We owe major thanks to the City's Legal Department, especially Donna Edmondson and Tim Douglass. And as always we thank our very competent and hardworking city councilmember Larry Green and his Chief of staff, Donald Perkins and our constituent representative Barbara Hite. It is amazing how many talented and dedicated City of Houston employees work on our behalf.



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2013 Dues Form

2013 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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dues letters
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apologize
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Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$40	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$230	\$
Subtotal	\$295	\$
Additional Contributions:		
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Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
Total		\$

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Crime/Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days preceding April 18, 2013

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	1	2	0	0	3
Theft	14	4	4	1	23
Auto Theft	Error	On	Website	X	X
Robbery	2	2	3	0	7
Assault	1	3	0	0	4
Rape	0	1	0	0	1
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	12	7	1	38

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

National Police Week: May 13-17

The Houston Police Department will observe National Police Week beginning Monday, May 13 through Friday, May 17. The purpose of this observance is to increase the public's awareness of the role of police officers and to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives so that we can live in safety and peace.

The Houston Police Academy, located at 17000 Aldine Westfield, will be conducting free tours of the facility. These tours will begin with an orientation at 9:45AM and conclude at 1PM

Displays and demonstrations from the following divisions/units:

K-9, Motorcycle, Robot, Bomb Squad, Dive Team, Helicopter, Mounted Patrol, S.W.A.T., Police Pursuit Driving

Tours are scheduled via e-mail: HPD.Museum@HoustonPolice.org
The tours are scheduled on a first come first serve basis so please schedule your tour as soon as possible.

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 4/18/13)

Block	Street	Crime
5800	Alvarado	Theft
11300	Atwell	Theft
12100	Atwell	Theft
10700	Burdine	Theft
10700	Checkerboard	Theft
5600	Dawnridge	Theft
6000	Dryad	Theft
10600	Dunlap	Theft
5700	Ettrick	Assault
5700	Greencraig	Theft
11400	Hillcroft	Theft
5700	Ludington	Robbery
5800	Ludington	Robbery
5500	McKnight	Theft
10600	Oasis	Theft
11000	Renwick	Theft
5700	Spellman	Theft
5500	Warm Springs	Burglary



Westbury Crime Alert: Stolen Tires

Please be aware that there have been multiple vehicles that have had attempted theft of tires. The thieves park down the street so might appear to be on foot. They have been seen rolling tires down the street. The vehicles being targeted are mostly trucks. These are not necessarily fancy or special tires, mostly factory tires. The majority of the incidents have been North of W. Bellfort.

Several deterrents to this type of theft are tire locks, additional outside lighting, parking vehicles in garages when possible. There are tire locks available for purchase at more auto part stores.

If you see anything suspicious, please call the Pct. 5 Constables at 281-463-6666.

Wondering what's going on with all those sirens are that you can hear? Go to houstontx.gov/activeincidents and look up HPD and HFD Active Calls.

**WAP Constable Dispatch
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Houston (and Westbury) Home Values

Houston Home Prices

The *Houston Chronicle* on April 14, 2013 listed housing prices across Houston. Here is data for selected subdivisions in southwest Houston. *The median price per square foot means that of all the homes sold, half sold for a higher price and half sold for a lower price.* This data does not include home sales in 2013; also, housing inventory is now at a 10-year low for the Houston metro area, so prices continue to rise. Prices continue to lag in areas with high foreclosure rates. We suspect that the big increase in house value in Westbury (Sections 1 to 5) is partly aided by property investors who are buying properties to remodel and then resell. Westbury is THE neighborhood to live in!

Subdivision Name— in alphabetical order (Southwest area)	Median Price per square ft 2011	Median Price per square ft 2012	% Change in median 2011-12	% Ave. Annual Change in median 2007-12	% of homes foreclosed in 2011 and 2012
Barkley Square	111.77	126.43	13.1	3.5	zero
Braeburn Valley	71.21	62.29	-12.5	-1.8	17%
Braeburn Valley West	48.17	37.13	-22.9	-8.9	41%
FondrenSW - Northbrook	46.98	66.64	41.8	5.5	7%
Fondren SW – Northfield	48.48	52.26	7.8	-0.8	32%
Fonmeadow	32.53	30.57	-6.0	-10.3	55%
Glenshire	61.05	56.12	-8.1	-2.7	26%
Maplewood North	129.50	114.36	-11.7	-0.7	zero
Maplewood South	96.61	102.13	5.7	1.5	zero
Maplewood West	73.46	70.52	-4.0	-1.4	zero
Marilyn Estates	130.31	111.62	-14.3	-1.0	3%
Meyerland	138.83	149.75	7.9	n/a	3%
Robindell	80.80	80.79	Zero	-1.5	3%
Sharpstown	56.78	58.06	2.3	-4.9	30%
SouthPost Oak Manor	83.18	82.97	-0.3	n/a	zero
(Westbury) Parkwest Sections 1 to 3	94.07	105.95	12.6	n/a	12%
Westbury - Sections 1 to 5	85.13	102.33	20.2	n/a	6%
Westbury South	48.00	45.23	-5.8	-8.0	30%
Willowbend	130.49	123.47	-5.4	n/a	7%
Willow Meadows	132.47	117.23	-11.5	-2.3	1%
ALL Houston area homes sold in 2012 (almost 60,000)		74.25	4.2		17.3%

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The Company OnStage

The Company OnStage: A Diamond in the Rough

There's a jewel in Westbury Square. For 36 seasons, The Company OnStage (COS) has been presenting quality, affordable entertainment for children and adults alike. And while much of Westbury Square is gone, or fallen into disrepair, COS charges forth, passionate about providing an introduction to the arts for the children of southwest Houston.

In 1977, Joyce Randall McNally, formerly the associate director of Houston's Alley Theater, began offering acting classes for children and adults at St. John's Presbyterian Church in the Westbury area of southwest Houston. Later, a small discotheque in Westbury Square was rented on Saturdays, and in spring 1978, COS presented its first season of two children's shows, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Aladdin and His Magic Lamp*. In 1982, COS moved to its present location in Westbury Square and transformed space that had been used as a lamp store into a community

theater. The children's productions were expanded to five per season, and COS began offering productions for adults.

"The Company OnStage was my first experience with live theater. The excitement of seeing a story come to life never gets old to me and I'm thrilled to be a part of bringing that same joy to kids today," says COS Board Vice President Kathryn Noser. "I believe that live theater is an important part of our culture. By providing shows and classes in our community, the Company OnStage helps to keep that culture alive and fosters imagination and creativity."

In keeping with the vision of Joyce McNally, COS also continues to offer classes at the theater. Actors In Wonderland is a one-week summer drama camp for students entering 1st – 5th grades. Campers learn the basics of the theater experience including stagecraft, improvisation, storytelling, character development and acting. Each session will be fun, energetic

and educational as the students work together to create an original production.

The theater is still focused on providing great productions, too. Opening in April are two can't miss shows - *Wildest Dreams*, a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, and *The Magic Ring Dang Do* by COS founder Hank McNally. *Wildest Dreams* runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM, *The Magic Ring Dang Do* runs Saturdays at 11AM and 1:30pm. Shows run through June 8th.

For more information on the theater, classes or how you can get involved through auditions or volunteering, log on to www.companyonstage.org.

Performance schedule

Wildest Dreams: by Alan Ayckbourn
May 3 - June 8, Fri and Sat, 8PM

The Magic Ring Dang Do: by Hank McNally

May 4 - June 8, Sat 11AM & 1:30PM

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Spring 2013 White Elephant Sale

The Westbury Civic Club has been hosting a community "White Elephant" garage sale twice a year for decades, but the April 2013 community garage sale event may have had the best weather EVER. The weather was crisp, cool and sunny.

As you may remember, the term "white elephant" refers to a treasure that you want to get rid of, and many satisfied customers were seen hauling off their newly found treasures. Our hardworking volunteers found some new treasures, too. One volunteer found an area rug and another bought vintage mixing bowls, a small sofa, and a gate destined to be yard art.

Kudos to our WCC Office Manager Jennifer Edmondson for her many hours spent organizing this event. Jennifer strives to make improvements each time, based on the experiences from the previous year's event, and she solves new problems as they arise. Who would have thought that there would be a porta-john shortage in Houston in April? One visitor from Kingwood was assisting her Westbury family with their booth, and she commented that our Westbury community garage sale was much better organized than one she had participated in the Kingwood area recently.

Any event of this type needs many volunteers to help run it. Working in shifts, our volunteers show up at 5AM in the morning and don't leave until every single "booth" has been packed up and the parking lot is clean in the

Volunteers from left to right: Joe Niles, Becky Edmondson, Cindy Chapman, Jennifer Edmondson, & William Grimsinger



afternoon. They mark the booth spaces in the morning, set out 50 traffic cones to control parking, check-in each seller, keep the crowd waiting outside the sales area until it is time, work with the two security officers to handle parking or traffic issues as they arise, and answer any questions. Directors on the WCC Board who volunteered were: Becky Edmondson, Marcia Hartman, Cindy Chapman, Leslee Cross, William Grimsinger, Pam Schertz, and Joe Niles.



Long line waiting for the sale to start!

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Keep District K Beautiful: Willow Waterhole

Huge Volunteer Turn-Out at the Willow Waterhole

Willow Waterhole was definitely getting tons of care and attention on April 6, 2013, during a volunteer work event scheduled to celebrate *District K / Keep Houston Beautiful Day*. A total of 174 volunteers worked on the event, including more than 116 student volunteers from thirteen different schools. There were 44 ROTC and National Honor Society students from Westbury High School, 23 students from Memorial High School, and 21 students from Westbury Christian School who participated. Russell Schexnayder organized the event for the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.



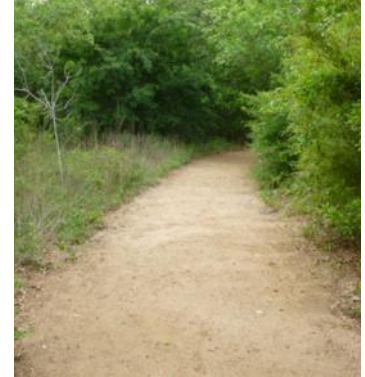
Litter Pickup

Over 20 acres of the park were delittered. Plastic grocery bags collected were tied together to form a rope over 50 feet in length to publicize this type of pollution. Thank you Melanie Roy with BHS.



Tree Planting and Mulching

Fifty shrubs and small varieties of trees were planted along South Willow. Five dump trucks loads of mulch were spread - creating one new mulch island and expanding the two existing ones. The trees in the fourth grove were mulched.



Bayou Trail Worksite

Crushed granite was spread and packed to repair damaged trail areas. The trail was cleared of grass and weeds. Leaves were raked away. Overhanging branches were trimmed. Two perennial wildflower beds were dug and mulched at the entrance to the trail. The volunteers did trail repair work that a contractor had quoted \$2000 to do.



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Willow Waterhole Annual Meeting & Master Plan

The Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy (WWGC) held its annual meeting on April 18 at Westbury Church of Christ. It was a busy, well-attended meeting. Business first with WWGC Board Elections and an update from Raouf Farid, Project Manager of Project Brays. He reported that excavations at Compartment 5 would be complete in about a month. He also announced that the initial excavation on the east side of Post Oak was underway and that portion of work would be complete by the end of the year.

Welcome to the new WWGC Board. Dabney Kennedy made a presentation to Howard Sacks to thank him for his service as president the past 10 years and noted that "success is a good idea coupled with hard work".



And then the fun part began. A team from the SWA Group led by James Vick invited the audience to sit back, relax, and daydream a "wish list" for

amenities or activities to be implemented at Willow Waterhole in the future. A Powerpoint presentation displayed various examples to get folks thinking:



Highly active items: Adventure biking, Dog park, Canoe and kayak, Fitness program plaza, Running trails, Bike share station, Festival grounds
Active items: Nature trails, Adventure paths, Disc golf course, Frisbee lawn, multi use areas, Outdoor classroom, Children's play area.
General items: Restrooms, Art installations, Parking
Passive: Pier fishing, Model boat launch, Yoga Pilates area, geo-caching, Birding platform, Reading rooms
Highly passive: Habitat restoration areas, Art nooks, Movie nights

After listening to the Powerpoint presentation, the audience was divided into four groups – each with its own set of large maps, pictures of activities or amenities, and pads of blank paper. Each group was invited to discuss what types of activities they thought would or would not be suitable for different areas of the site. Each group then taped pictures of desired activities at preferred locations on their large maps. The interactive exercise generated many interesting discussions and ideas. This exercise was merely a beginning step, and the Master Plan will continue to be developed. Stay tuned for more planning meetings and ways that you can get involved in this exciting process!



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Willow Waterhole News

Houston Audubon Society “Birdathon” Team at Willow Waterhole

The Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve had its own Houston Audubon Society (HAS) “Birdathon” team this year – the WILLOW WATERHOLE WING NUTS. The Birdathon is a competition to see which team can see the most bird species and/or raise the most money for the HAS. The team surveyed the Reserve and surrounding neighborhoods to see how many bird species they could see in a single day from dawn until dusk. The team of Mark Meyer, Ben Hulsey, Peggy Boston, and Joy Hester saw 54 species over a 13-hour stretch and walked “every inch” of the reserve.



Highlights of the day included: Roseate Spoonbills, Ibises, and a flock of 65 semi-palmated sandpipers. The HAS sponsors a monthly bird survey each month at Willow Waterhole. How many total species have been observed during these surveys? There have been 178 different species so far!

To learn more, please visit www.houstonaudubon.org. They will host a “Basic Birdwatching for Beginners” class on the morning of May 4, 2013, at 8 AM at Willow Waterhole, starting at the Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 South Willow.

Westbury Resident to Receive Award from Trees for Houston

Trees for Houston has announced that Westbury resident Russell Schexnayder is a recipient of their Jim Rylander Memorial Arbor Award for 2013. TFH wrote, “Your work, commitment and contributions to planting, protecting and promoting trees in the last year have helped make Houston a greener city”. Russell will be recognized with other 2013 winners in May.



Russell has participated in tree plantings on Westbury esplanades since 2008. In 2012, Russell personally mulched and pruned 200 trees planted at the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve using mulch provided by Trees for Houston and the Parks Department. During his daily tour of the park, he inspects the trees, providing immediate attention to any trees which need water or staking.

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Neighborhood & Area News

Audubon Society Bird Survey

Saturday, May 18 at 7AM
Meet at The Gathering Place
parking lot at 5310 S. Willow.
Bring your binoculars and good
shoes for walking. Come
prepared to see many species
of birds.

Remodeling your home? Adding On? Remember, please let the Westbury Civic Club office look over your proposed plans before you start construction.

We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen, and without a doubt you would like to find out before wasting money on construction that later has to be modified or demolished. Obtaining a city construction permit requires your written acknowledgment that the plans comply with your deed restrictions.

49 Chimney Rock Bus Route Changes

METRO has proposed a change to the 49 Chimney Rock bus route. If approved by the METRO board, then the change will go into effect on Sunday, June 9, 2013, for Weekday and Saturday service. A public hearing was held in April. The bus will be changed from a 40-foot bus to a new, smaller 27-foot bus with a capacity for 15 riders. These new vehicles include all the amenities of the 40-foot buses: overhead route signage, visual and auditory stop announcements, and increased seating options. The smaller buses will comply with the American Disabilities Act and will have bike racks. The fare will be the same for all buses.



Dogs, Dogs, Dogs

Barking dogs. Bark, bark, bark! Do you know if your dog barks all day long while you are at work or in the evening when you are out to dinner? Do you know whether your dog barks every time your neighbor walks outside? No, you probably don't. Why don't you take this article as an invitation to ask your neighbor about your dogs? Often people don't know what to say and that anger and resentment builds.

Recent success: One Westbury resident was so frustrated by their neighbor's dogs that they finally rang their doorbell and instead of being calm and friendly launched into a tirade. Luckily the neighbors were nice and understanding and a solution was achieved. Don't wait until you are furious.

Walking the dog. Dogs must be on a leash. And please **Scoop the Poop.** You think it's gross to scoop up poop when it's your own dog? Think how your neighbor feels when he has to scoop up poop from your dog.

Dogs running loose. Your dog must be inside your home or in your fenced backyard. If your dog is not confined, then the dog **MUST** be on a leash.

Recent problem: A dog in Westbury South kept the Post Office from delivering mail to an entire street for weeks. Residents had to go to the post office to get their mail. Talk about inconveniencing our neighbors! Frustrated residents came to the WCC. Our Office Manager called our city council representative, the post office, and our congressman. The post office is finally again delivering mail to that street.



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Westbury Community Garden

March 23 Garden Work Day Brings Volunteers

The Westbury Community Garden has been pleased to recently welcome volunteers from various organizations who have offered their time and effort to aid the garden. This is the time of year to attack those fast-growing spring weeds, refresh mulched walkways, and work on projects.

A scheduled work day at the garden on March 23 drew workers from **Westbury United Methodist Church (WUMC)** and **Riceville Mt. Olive Baptist Church**. Even the weather cooperated: cool and misty when we first started, stayed cool and cloudy during the work period, and finally started a heavy mist just as we were getting ready to quit--can't get more perfect than that. **ReUse Houston** delivered a square yard of crushed concrete which we used to spread in the low places at the front of the driveway. We cleaned and re-mulched almost half of the walkways, pulled weeds in the orchard and mulched around the fruit trees, and made a special project out of cleaning up the aisles around one of our new gardener's beds.



Tips for Growing Tomatoes & Peppers

Who doesn't like a ripe, juicy tomato or fresh, crisp pepper -- especially one right off the vine from your own home garden?

Tomatoes can be determinate or indeterminate, hybrid or open-pollinated (the so-called Heirloom tomatoes). The sprawling indeterminate varieties tend to take up more space, but don't necessarily require support (in fact, some gardeners think they are less pest-prone if allowed to sprawl), and can bear fruit over a long period of time. The determinate varieties, single stalk, are more upright and compact, and tend to bear fruit over a shorter time. They are more suitable for container growing, due to their size, but should have at least a 15-gallon pot. The indeterminate varieties, on the other hand, do better in the ground and generally require a sturdy cage at least 4 feet high (6 may be better) and 2 feet across. By all means, experiment with different varieties, but be sure to plant some of the cherry-type tomatoes -- the kids love 'em and will eat them straight off the vine.

Peppers are all easy to grow from transplants available in the stores now. Pepper plants tend to be a little more compact than tomatoes, and you can actually use the larger so-called "tomato cages" they sell in the stores, for peppers. (Just don't use them for tomatoes because they aren't big enough or



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Keep District K Beautiful: Westbury Community Garden



Community Garden Hosts Volunteers

On April 6, the Westbury Community Garden was one of the official sites participating in the "District K / Keep Houston Beautiful Day" event. Everyone worked hard and then we celebrated with a lunch party under the pavilion. Two city Council Members worked at the garden for part of the event. District K CM Larry Green shoveled mulch before heading off to visit the other District K events. At-Large 5 CM Jack Christie worked hard for 90 minutes shoveling and spreading mulch. Other volunteers included: students from Houston Community College and Wharton Junior College – Sugar Land, student nurses from the **Texas Women's University - College of Nursing**, students from **George Ranch High School** in Ft. Bend County, and a **"Rotaract" team from Katy-West Houston**. Rotaract is a service club sponsored by Rotary International for people younger than 30 years old.

Many thanks to all the gardeners who participated in these events, including: Ross and Dawn Asher, Kat Elder, Hazel Heddings, Hazel Potvin, Jayashree Soman, Tom Gwillim, Mike Wilson, Nan Curie, Bill Parker, Dita Geary, Marcia Hartman, Eugene and Antoinette Sirls, Cindy Chapman, Wayne Slaikeu, Candy Salmon, Becky Stemper, and Sherri Savoy. Sorry if we forgot to list anyone.

Top: Volunteers hard at work

Left: CM Larry Green and CM Jack Christie





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