



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 5

MAY 2015

Parker Elementary Community Mtg- May 5

Learn more about Parker Elementary School's site plan and design for the new school building, and the project schedule. Parker Elementary, located in Westbury, is a popular music magnet school. The original campus of Parker was constructed in 1959. The project budget is approximately \$29 million and is in Group 2 of the 2012 HISD Bond. The architecture firm is Brave Architecture. The agenda will focus on an update on progress of the design, plus an introduction of the CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk) and discussions on what to expect during the construction phase.

- ▶ **Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015
- ▶ **Time:** 6:30 PM to 8 PM
- ▶ **Where:** Parker Elementary
10626 Atwell
(at Atwell & Willowbend)



Spring White Elephant Garage Sale: Sat., May 9

WHEN: Saturday, May 9
8AM to Noon

WHERE: Westbury United Methodist Church Parking Lot (5200 Willowbend)

PARKING: St. John's Presbyterian (5020 W Bellfort) Handicapped parking on-site

RAIN DATE: Saturday, May 16

COME SHOP AT OVER 50 GARAGE SALES IN ONE LOCATION!



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NUSA is Coming to Westbury!

Neighborhoods, USA National Conference is in Houston from May 20-23. Westbury is one of 16 neighborhoods chosen to do a Neighborhood Tour for conference attendees on Friday, May 22. We need your help to make this event a success! Westbury Civic Club is also nominated for two awards at the conference; results will be published next month.

Volunteers Needed!

For more info., see page 18



H	<p>HEAVY TRASH for MAY is TREE WASTE ONLY. Pick-up for ALL of Westbury is Thursday, MAY 14 DO NOT PLACE TREE WASTE ON CURB UNTIL MAY 9 More info, see page 5</p> 	T
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Cookies With the Constables

Come meet the Westbury Constables who provide security throughout the neighborhood and have some cookies and dessert before the next WCC Board Meeting at Westbury Baptist on May 20.

Wed., May 20 @ 6PM

Westbury Pool Opens May 23



The Westbury neighborhood pool, operated by the City of Houston, opens Saturday, May 23, for the Memorial Day Weekend. The pool WILL be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 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 Westbury Pool will have two sessions of the popular Adult Water Fitness class starting June 16. There will also be a free children's learn to swim program. **For more info. on adult and children classes, see page 7.**



Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman	wccvp@westburycrier.com
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Treasurer	David Cummins	westburytreasurer@gmail.com

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Security	Leslee Cross	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Stephanie Lester	westburystephanie@gmail.com

Section Directors

Westbury 1	Meg Horner	
Westbury 2	Rocio Lara	
Westbury 3	Robert Montgomery	rmontgomery002@comcast.net
Westbury 3	Charlsey Porcarello	charlsey@swbell.net
Westbury 4	Eugene Sirls	
Westbury 4	Amanda Bess	
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	VACANT	
Westbury South	Robert Capps	
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	
Parkwest 2	Jeffrey Weiss	jhweiss@yahoo.com
Parkwest 3	Joe Niles	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

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)

NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appointment

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

Report Graffiti—Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) www.braysoaksmd.org
Use "Report A Problem"

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

Forestry Department, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Heavy Trash Violations and Questions, Neighborhood Nuisances, Parking Management, Solid Waste - Trash and Recycling, School Crossing Light Repairs, Water Main Break, and Sewer Repair, etc.

Stay connected!

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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President's Message

Developers create subdivisions, builders build the houses, and it is up to the people who buy those houses to make them into homes, and in turn, make the subdivision into a neighborhood. Westbury has a 60 year history of being a neighborhood lovingly shaped by the people who have called it home. Some of our earliest residents, members of the "greatest generation", still call Westbury home. Others came in the 70s, 80s, and 90s and stayed because of all the things that make this a great place to live. Over the past 15 years, hundreds of new families have moved into Westbury and those of us who raised our children here are watching a new generation raise their children.

Much of what the city provides its neighborhoods is just the basics and it is up to neighborhood to add the extras. The city provides police protection through HPD. We, as a neighborhood, want more and have contracted with Harris County Constable Pct. 5 for over 30 years to have community policing paid for by residents. When the new playground equipment was installed at Westbury Park last year, Westbury residents donated over \$10,000 to add the shade sails. The city maintains our parks and esplanades by mowing every 21 days and removing littering. That's it. All the trees, flowers, shrubs, plants, subdivision markers, or other improvements that you see on our esplanades or at our city parks have come as a result of the work of Westbury residents. When you look around Westbury, you can see the six decades of investment of time, talent, and treasure accomplished by you and your neighbors.

The tradition of improving our community continued in April as the Westbury Civic Club and the WAIC, our non-profit

partner, came together to celebrate "Keep Houston Beautiful Day" by hosting "Keep Westbury Parks Beautiful Day" with events in Westbury Park and Hager Park. It was a spectacular day and you can visit page 8 and 9 for pictures and the whole story. Thanks go out to all who worked to make this day a success!

The Westbury Community Garden celebrated its 5th birthday in March. Read about it on page 20. What a treasure that is! Today we have seven acres of green space that is home to what is arguably the largest, most successful and diverse garden in Houston. If the garden had not been built, that seven acres would now be home to a 250 unit federal affordable housing project. Our area already has plenty of vacant apartments available. The garden provides so much more!

As I write my president's message, Houston is preparing for the national Neighborhood USA conference and so are we. Westbury is among 16 Houston neighborhoods selected for a Neighborhood Pride Tour for conference attendees from all over the USA. Westbury is also among 12 finalists for the 2015 NUSA Neighborhood of the Year Award and the Westbury Crier is also a finalist for 2015 Newsletter of the Year. How cool is that?

The neighborhood tour will take place on the afternoon of Friday, May 22nd. What great things will we show our visitors: Westbury Park; Hillcroft esplanade and all the work that volunteers have done on it; the Westbury Community garden; and the Willow Waterhole and the future home of the Levitt Pavilion. We will also drive down a few residential streets to show off our great mid-century homes. Before we treat them to a barbecue dinner at Salem

Lutheran we will show them what became of the once iconic Westbury Square and show them the progress at the recently demolished Westbury Centerette. The theme of the convention is *Passion into Action* and Westbury embodies that passion. We will show our visitors how working together really did make a difference! See how you can help with the NUSA Tour on page 18.

A neighborhood is also defined by its schools. Westbury is lucky to have both public and private school options. This month's Crier has several pages devoted to Westbury High School. This is important information whether or not you have children or plan to attend HISD schools. First, strong public schools are good for Houston. Secondly as taxpayers the biggest chunk of our taxes go to HISD. The 2014 tax rate was 1.1967 of the 2.67% levied across the 8 taxing authorities; that's 45% of your tax dollars going not to the city (.631080), but to HISD. Won't you join us as we work to make Westbury High School a neighborhood school of choice again? Community meetings to showcase what the 2012 bond money will bring to both Parker Elementary and Westbury High School will be held in May. Come see where your tax dollars are being spent.

I hope some of you with a little spare time on your hands will consider serving on the WCC board or on a committee. Find your passion; you might be like me and find a whole new world surrounding you in Westbury.

Becky Edmondson



Board Notes : April 2015

- Donald Perkins, Chief of Staff for Larry Green spoke regarding various District K initiatives including Keep District K Beautiful day, a new Neighborhood 101 workshop, and NUSA
- Discussed possible discontinuation of the METRO Park & Ride to Downtown, 261 Bus.
- Discussed NUSA and Westbury's role in this years conference
- Discussed new trail initiative
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

WCC Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 20
7PM-9PM
Westbury Baptist
6PM—Cookies with Constables

Platou Community Center

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

STRETCHING EXERCISE CLASS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 from 9-9:45AM

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



MsBEEHAVEN QUILTERS

Tuesdays from 10AM to 2PM

For more information, contact Janie at 713-721-5526



GAMES *BRIDGE TABLE ADDED!

Wednesdays, 10AM to 12PM

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



PORTABLE PROJECTS

Thursdays from 9:30AM-11:30AM

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

LINE DANCING

Mondays @ 12:30PM

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

Family Fun Day #4:

Quilting

Saturday, May 23,
 10AM-2PM

Small quilting project. Supplies will be provided. This is a great learning experience especially if you have ever wanted to give quilting a try.

Health and Fitness

Workshop: June 22
 6:30-7:45PM

A good informative session, hosted by Fitness Instructor, Louis Moore. This workshop would nicely compliment the water fitness class at the Westbury Pool, see page 7.

Summer Enrichment Program

Youths, ages 6 through 13, can register for Summer Enrichment Program at the Platou Center NOW. This is a full day program full of activities including swimming, tennis, nature walks, etc. Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 for info.

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY A Weight Loss Support Group

Tuesdays 5:45-7PM

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

Ping Pong Leagues

Adult league ping pong will be on Fridays from 11AM to 2PM. Child league on Wednesday evenings. Any age and skill level is welcome to compete. For any questions or more information, call Dan at 713-723-7107

Meyer Neighborhood Library

5005 W. Bellfort

Phone: 832-393-1840 / www.houstonlibrary.org

New & Improved Story Times!

Baby Story-time: Every Tuesday, 10:30-11:15am

Toddler Story-time: Every Wed. & Saturday at 10:30 AM

Children's Story-time: 3rd Saturday, with Faithful Paws, 10:30-11:30AM

Adult Mystery Book Club

Call the Meyer Library for more information.

Youth Arts & Crafts

Thursdays, 4:30 –5:30PM

Come by after school and enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts. Explore making collages, stencil art, painting, origami, making jewelry and much more. All ages welcome.

HOURS

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

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

What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar May 2015

Mon 4	Westbury High School PTO Meeting 7PM Library—11911 Chimney Rock
Tues 5	Parker Elementary Community Meeting 6:30-8PM 10626 Atwell See page 1 for more information
Sat 9	Westbury White Elephant Sale 8AM - Noon 5200 Willowbend See pages 1 and 6 for more information
Sat 16	Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Sat 16	Westbury White Elephant RAIN DATE
Mon 18	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Westbury Community Garden Pavilion - 12500 Dunlap
Mon 18	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Wed 20	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30AM Salem Lutheran Church— 4930 W. Belfort
Wed 20	Cookies with the Constables—Westbury Baptist 6PM 10425 Hillcroft
Wed 20	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft
21-22	WCC Office Closed - NUSA Conference
Fri 22	NUSA Neighborhood Pride Tour 4-8PM See page 18 for more information.
Sat 23	Family Fun Day at the Platou Center 10AM - 2PM Quilting Project See page 4 for more details. 11655 Chimney Rock
Sat 23	Westbury Pool Open 1-8PM 10605 Mullins More information, see page 7
Mon 25	Memorial Day - WCC Office Closed
Mon 25	Westbury Pool Open 1-8PM 10605 Mullins More information, see page 7
Tues 26	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building by Hobby Lobby



RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH CALENDAR



May 2015	
Thurs 14	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 14	Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 28	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
June 2015	
Thurs 11	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 11	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 25	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

Important Trash and Recycling Info

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

Planning Calendar

May 5— Parker Elementary Community Meeting

May 9 - White Elephant Sale

May 16 - Rain Date for White Elephant Sale

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

May	Tree Waste	August	Junk Waste
June	Junk Waste	Sept	Tree Waste
July	Tree Waste	October	Junk Waste

Deed Restriction 411

Chickens, Ducks, Farm Animals, etc.

The Westbury Civic Club receives multiple questions about chickens, ducks and other farm animals. City Ordinances and your residential deed restrictions PROHIBIT having chickens on your property. Every residential property in Westbury / Parkwest has deed restrictions which are active and enforced (whether you have mandatory assessments or voluntary dues or whether you chose to pay them).

The residential deed restrictions for **all** sections of Westbury and Parkwest state: *No animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred or kept on any lot, except that dogs, cats or other household pets may be kept, provided they are not kept, bred, or maintained for any commercial purpose.*

Very few Westbury homeowners can comply with city regulations regarding minimum distance from a chicken coop to the nearest point of a residence, school, or church due to our lot sizes. Chickens are forbidden to be closer than 250ft to any residence, including the chicken owners home.

If you have a chicken or farm animal problem with a neighbor, please report it to BARC, via 311, and then report it to the WCC office with the service request number given to you by the city when you call 311.

ALL THE DEED RESTRICTIONS FOR EACH SECTION OF WESTBURY AND PARKWEST ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

Westbury Civic Club Policy: Garage Sales, Estate Sales, Yard Sales, Moving Sales

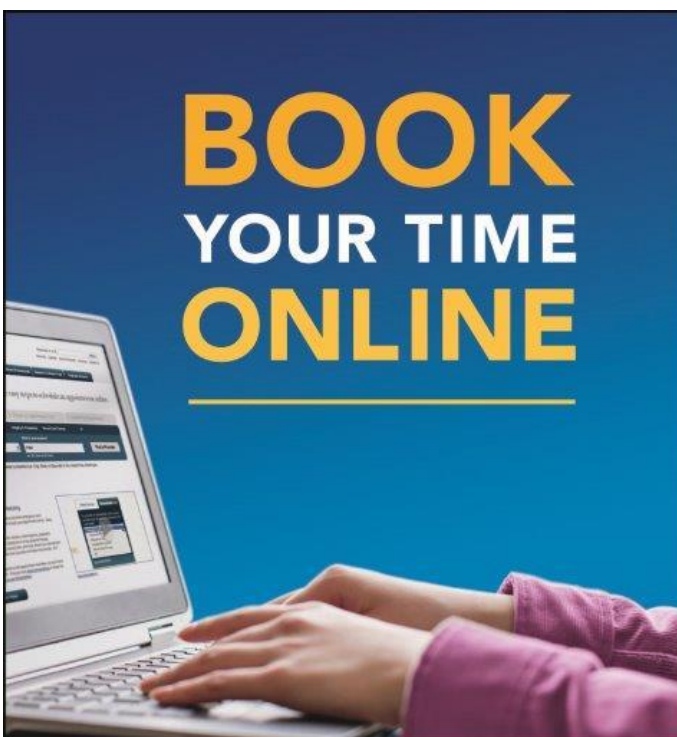
Purpose: The intent of this policy is to clearly convey the Westbury Civic Club restriction on garage sales, estate sales, yard sales or any other independent action of the kind.

Definition: Garage, Estate, Yard or Moving Sale: The sale of personal property in, at, or upon any residential lot or home. This includes, with limitation, sales of personal property from the garage, driveway, yard, patio or house area of such premises.

Policy: Garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like are not permitted in Westbury.

All sections of Westbury and Parkwest have deed restrictions that state "no noxious or offensive trade or activity shall be carried on upon any lot nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood". Garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like draw substantial traffic and contribute to: hindering the flow of traffic on major thoroughfares; impeding access to homes by emergency vehicles or residents due to parking congestion; parking violations on city streets or esplanades; parking violations from vehicles parked on front yards; and, parking violations from blocking public right-of-way on sidewalks. Furthermore, advertising materials for garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like contribute to: visual blight, trash along public streets, and violations of the city sign ordinance. The Westbury Civic Club considers garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like to be "an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood".

All sections of Westbury and Parkwest have deed restrictions that state the lots are to be used for single family or family residential purposes. The Westbury Civic Club considers garage, estate, yard, moving sales and the like to be commercial use of residential property.



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ADVANCING HEALTH

Westbury Pool

Westbury City Pool

Summer 2015 Schedule

May 23– June 7: Pool open Saturday and Sunday, 1-8PM

May 25 (Memorial Day): Pool OPEN 1-8PM

June 9– August 16: Pool OPEN Normal Summer Hours Tuesday—Sunday 1-8PM; Closed Monday

July 4: Pool OPEN, 1-5PM

August 22 - September 6: Pool open on Saturday and Sunday only, 1-8PM

September 7 (Labor Day): Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

FREE Water Fitness Classes

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 classes this year. See below for class descriptions and times.

Online registration (<https://apm.activecommunities.com/houstonparks/Home>) begins on May 26, or you can register with the instructor on class days, shortly before each class starts. The first day of class will be Tuesday, June 16, and the last day of class will be Thursday, August 7, 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.

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

Adult Water Fitness Class Schedule & Descriptions

Adult Hydro-Fit Power Training:

Tuesday 6:30PM - 7:45PM

Louis Moore will teach his highly popular *Hydro Fit Power Training* class again for the 9th year at Westbury Pool. This class is an athletic approach to water fitness training with sports-specific drills, intense cardiovascular work, intervals, balance/core training, martial arts, and plyometrics. This is a great way to improve your cardiovascular conditioning and muscular strength and endurance with minimal stress on your joints. Loud, rocking music is a part of the workout. Intensity: moderate to hard.

NEW Adult Aqua Zumba:

**Tuesday and Thursday 9-10AM,
Thursday 6:30PM - 7:30PM**

The city will be offering *Aqua Zumba* to help meet the needs of Westbury residents who prefer morning classes. This class combines high energy and Latin music with movement in the water, a combination that helps participants dance away their worries while staying in shape.

FREE Swim Lessons for Kids

The City of Houston will be offering a Learn To Swim program called *H2OSAFE* for youth ages 6 – 13 at the Westbury Pool. This class will consist of 3 instructional levels. More information is available at the city aquatic department's website:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/aquatics>



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Keep Westbury Beautiful Day

Keep Westbury Beautiful Day

The long tradition of improving our community through volunteer projects continued in April as the Westbury Civic Club and the WAIC, our non-profit partner, came together to celebrate "Keep Houston Beautiful Day" by hosting "Keep Westbury Beautiful Day" events in Westbury Park and Hager Park.

Westbury Park

This is the year of the butterfly for Keep Houston Beautiful and now, thanks to some hard work, the Westbury Park has a butterfly garden. Jennifer Edmondson and Laura Falk picked out the plants and created the design. Several dozen volunteers cleared the weedy, grass filled beds, planted the new plants and then spread mulch. The City of Houston parks department worked alongside us and brought over 100 bags of mulch to be spread in the two beds. Where did the mulch come from? It's the recycled tree waste that you put out on heavy trash day!

One of the biggest problems now that Westbury park is so well used and loved is an abundance of trash. Volunteers "planted" three new trash cans. Hopefully this will stem the problem of overflowing trash cans. Help keep our parks clean by picking up litter and cleaning up when you leave. Teach your kids the "Just Take 5" method of collecting any litter they come across and just take 5 pieces to the nearest trash can.

For those of you who donated to the Westbury Park fund, please know that the long awaited donor plaque is still winding its way through the approval process. You have not been forgotten!



**THANK YOU TO OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**



Keep Westbury Beautiful Day

Hager Park

Volunteers, led by Eugene Sirls, spread 65 bags of mulch donated by Scotts Miracle Gro to Keep Houston Beautiful around the newer trees in the park. Several bags of trash were filled by volunteers as they walked through the park.

In addition to this work, the Parks Department showed up the next day with several dump trucks full of mulch for the playground areas. The playgrounds look great with this new mulch added.


Park Stewards

Joe Turner, the Director of the Parks Department, once told Becky Edmondson that every successful park in Houston had an advocate. This person looked after the park; noticed the little things that needed fixing and lobbied to get them repaired. They lobbied for improvements. Each of our parks needs an advocate. If you live near Hager or Westbury Park, won't you consider becoming a park steward?




THANK YOU WESTBURY VOLUNTEERS AND THE CITY OF HOUSTON!






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5731 Portal Parkwest
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WHS Design Charrette

Westbury High School Design Charrette

Two of Westbury's schools were included in the 2012 Bond. Parker Elementary is hosting its final community meeting on May 5 before construction begins on the new building. Westbury High School is beginning the design process.

On April 21 and 22, the design charrette for the 2012 Bond project for Westbury High School, along with the projects at two other high schools, was held. The design charrette is a collaborative work session involving the Project advisory teams (PATs), the Designers for the project, the Program Managers and HISD staff. The collaboration allowed for the sharing of ideas for all three schools – a basis on which to build on the best ideas for each campus.

The event, hosted at the Houston Food Bank, was attended by both Cindy Chapman and Becky Edmondson as community members of the PAT. Also attending as a community member was Kathleen Ownby, former graduate of Westbury High School, founding member of the WHS Foundation and executive director of the Sparks Park program.

On the first day, fundamental design issues were presented and three different site configurations for how the new buildings might be placed on the existing campus were developed. The architects worked independently to develop design options responding to the issues. On the second day, those options were reviewed and we worked with the Architects to refine them. At the end of the second day, a preliminary design concept was approved by the PAT. The new baseball and softball



fields will be located on the vacant land HISD owns on Gasmer near Shell in the new configuration. The temporary buildings will all be removed and replaced with a real building and classrooms! The community will get a chance to look at the preliminary design at the first public meeting which is tentatively being set for the last week in May. Check Westbury Facebook for updates.



A LIFETIME OF CARE TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT.

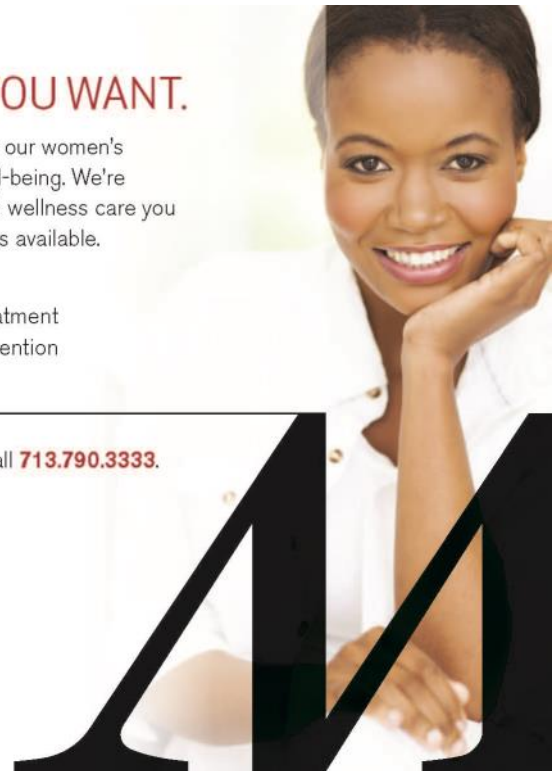
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Letter from WHS Principal

Much has been written in the Crier about Westbury High School. It is no secret that we as a neighborhood want HISD to make Westbury High School a school of choice for our children and to honor the commitments made to us during the 2012 bond.

In the meantime, HISD and Principal Catchings asked if they could submit an op-ed piece. Read below to see what is happening academically at WHS.

Higher Expectations Prepare Westbury Students for Future Success

By Jason Catchings, WHS Principal

When I became the principal of Westbury High School (WHS) nine months ago, my goal was simple: I wanted to raise the bar. I quickly found out I wasn't alone. I reached out to teachers, parents, students, and community members, and they all wanted the same thing — the best education possible for Westbury students.

Our thinking wasn't limited to our physical building and it didn't stop at high school graduation. We wanted WHS graduates prepared and ready to achieve great success in college, in careers and, most importantly, in life. We needed to truly invest in the future of our students. And we did this by setting high academic expectations. We knew if we raised the bar, our students would rise up to meet it.

We began the school year by challenging each of our juniors and seniors to take at least one of the 15 college-level Advanced Placement courses we offer. We challenged our freshmen to take at least one Pre-AP class in preparation for next year, and we challenged our sophomores to take either Pre-AP, AP or both. Nearly 800 students — almost half of our students — voluntarily accepted the challenge, agreeing to take on rigorous coursework in subjects such as biology, calculus, English, and Spanish.

This month, these same students will take their AP exams, giving them the opportunity to earn college credit — for free — while still in high school. Not only will students save money in college tuition costs, but they also will graduate from college faster and enter the workforce sooner, which increases their overall earning potential. As we began to place a strong emphasis on AP curriculum, we also began to see an interesting change in the culture of our school. We were telling our students they were capable of performing at a high level — and they were eagerly rising to meet our expectations.

Because of these results, we plan to beef up our Advanced Placement offerings. Next year, we're adding five new courses: art history, physics, human geography, statistics, and capstone, a class in which students learn how to do intensive research and present their findings through analytical essays and interactive presentations. These classes will be immensely helpful for our students as they prepare for college.

But we're not stopping there. We're also strengthening our career and technical education program, which provides students with eight potential career pathways, including automotive technology, health sciences and public safety.

In our automotive program, students begin learning about the principles of the transportation system, how automobiles work and what tools are needed to repair them. By their junior and senior year, students are tearing down engines and completing auto maintenance checks and light repairs. Students also have had the opportunity to shadow auto technicians at local shops and dealerships — BMW and Toyota among them. Many of our students will interview this month for paid summer internships with these companies. This program has been hugely successful for our students. More than half of the seniors already have passed their Automotive Service Excellence exam and will graduate with an industry certification in automotive technology. Many plan to continue their automotive studies at local community colleges and technical schools. A few plan to do the same in the military.

We've seen similar success with the expansion of our public safety program. Next fall, students in the program's firefighter track will be able to take dual-credit courses taught by licensed firefighters and emergency medical

technicians. These courses are offered through a partnership with the Houston Fire Department and Lone Star College. More than 200 students in the program will learn about fire safety and operations, community fire issues, and firefighting and emergency services leadership. At the same time, they will earn up to 19 hours of college credit that may be applied to an associate's degree in emergency medical services or fire science technology.

Though the year is not quite over, we already are seeing success stories. So far this year, our senior class has been awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships and financial aid. Thanks to these scholarships, our seniors will be headed this fall to colleges — Houston Baptist University, Texas A&M University, University of Texas, University of Oklahoma, and Alcorn State University — across the state and beyond.

We know we still have some work to do, but we are well on our way to providing our students with the very best educational experience possible, thanks to the support of our staff, parents, Trustee Wanda Adams, and community members. Our students want a better education. They want a good school with teachers who care about them. They want a bright future. And we will provide that to them because they deserve nothing less.

Jason Catchings is the principal of Westbury High School in the Houston Independent School District located on Chimney Rock in Westbury.



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Westbury Area Schools

Four Teachers at Parker Elementary Retiring

As the end of another school year begins to wind down, teachers across Houston ISD have begun to announce their retirements. Parker Elementary is celebrating the retirements of four "Pillars of Parker".

Riding off into blissful retirement are: Colleen Cummins (18 years), Lloyd Hughes (34 years), Karen Pikett (36 years), and Susan Shafer (27 years).

Friends of Parker are thrilled for these cherished teachers and have planned a **community celebration** for **Tuesday evening, May 26 from 6-8PM at Westbury Park**. All present and former students and parents and Westbury neighbors are invited to stop by to give their best wishes for their happy retirement. If you have questions or would like to help with the preparations of this event, please contact Autumn Jamison at president@cynthiaannparkerpto.org or [281.723.7465](tel:281.723.7465).



Colleen Cummins



Lloyd Hughes



Karen Pikett



Susan Shafer

Members of Fondren Middle School Football Team go One on One with JJ Watt of the Houston Texans

Members of the Fondren Middle School Football Team had a special surprise on Saturday, April 18th. They were invited to the Crowne Plaza Hotel to participate in the donation presentation from Papa John's Pizza to the JJ Watt Foundation. A check was presented in the excess of \$375,000. For security reasons, all of the guests at this private event had to have on a bracelet to be admitted. The students were unaware of who they were meeting until, the guest of honor, JJ Watt arrived around noon and stayed for approximately two hours. He brought hot pizzas for everyone to enjoy and answered questions for the guests. When he visited with the group from Fondren, they were able to ask questions and talk to him like he was just another football player which was a great way for the students to get to know him personally. In addition, he signed some fun-size footballs for the students.

According to Steven Wilson, the head football coach for Fondren Middle School, "The students were totally surprised! The players chosen exemplified leadership and responsibility both on and off the field. This was a great experience for both Fondren students and the JJ Watt Foundation. It was a great event with great people. Fondren Middle School Football team really enjoyed the celebration!"



WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

Football at WHS

Are you ready for some tailgating and football right here in Westbury?

May 21 at Butler Stadium Come out for the Blue and White Game at 6PM.

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Westbury Christian Students Win First Place!

Area Summer Camps, Programs, & Activities

*Westbury Christian Summer Camps (many options) go to www.westburychristian.org or call 713-551-8100 (1042)

*Westbury Baptist Summer Camp , <http://wbhouston.org/211975.html>

*Kid Adventure at St. Thomas More, www.kidventure.com

*Fencing and Robotics Camp at the Bayou City Fencing, call 832-338-9808 for more info

*Swim team at Maplewood, www.maplewoodsn.org

This is a sample list of area programming. This is not a complete list.

Westbury Christian Engineers-in-training "Float" to Top of Cardboard Regatta

Three groups of Westbury Christian School middle and high school students paddled corrugated cardboard and duct tape boats of their own design and construction at the first ever Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Jr. Cardboard Boat Regatta, held at HISD's Davis High School on Friday, April 17.



There were some epic sinkings and capsizings as two student engineers per team climbed into each boat and used cardboard and duct tape paddles to try and make their way across – and back – in the school's indoor swimming pool.

There were also some exciting moments and cheers of victory, as one of the WCS high school teams was one of only two competitors to successfully navigate the full length of the pool in both directions, earning them first place (see below). Another WCS high school team (comprised of four of the school's female international students) finished in third place and received the "Best Decorated" award, while one of the youngest teams (comprised of five WCS middle school students, including one in only 6th grade) finished in fourth place and received an Honorable Mention award for their competitiveness.

SHPE Jr. is a junior professional engineering society that just launched a chapter on the WCS campus two weeks prior to the regatta, with the assistance of University of Houston engineering student Elliott Martinez.

First Place Award Winners— Boat Captains Justin Curtis (10th) and Jace Turner (9th); Team Members: Nick Leeson (12th), Matthew Leidich (11th), Baxter Montgomery (11th) and Austin Prophet (9th)



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Crime/Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days April 20, 2015

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	10	6	2	0	18
Theft	9	9	5	0	23
Auto Theft	3	1	2	0	6
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	0	1	0	1	2
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	18	9	1	49

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

Beware of Door to Door Solicitation

Recently in both Westbury 1 and 2 residents became victims of the crime of distraction burglary. In Westbury 2, a man came to the front door and offered his services for yard work. When the homeowner went around to the backyard with him, an accomplice working with him went inside and stole her jewelry. Men posing as roofers did the same to a homeowner on Willowbend.

A good rule of thumb is not to engage the services of people that come to your door. An even better rule is not to open the front door to strangers. It goes against our politeness training to not open the door and these criminals use this to their advantage. Pick up the phone and call the constables with our Westbury Area Patrol and ask them to check out solicitors who come to your door.

Sometimes these criminals will follow you home and catch you as you get out of your vehicle. Be aware, be wary and be safe. And call the WAP Patrol! It is why we pay to have community policing.

Block #	Street	Crime
12200	Atwell	Burglary
12300	Braewick	Auto Theft
10800	Burdine	Burglary
6000	Cartagena	Burglary
5200	Creekbend	Burglary
11000	Dunlap	Theft
12200	Dunlap	Burglary
5800	Effingham	Theft
6000	Ettrick	Theft
5900	Fontenelle	Burglary
6000	Fontenelle	Burglary
5900	Greencraig	Theft
12100	Hillcroft	Auto Theft
6000	Hummingbird	Theft
5500	Redstart	Burglary
5900	Spellman	Theft
5800	Southminster	Theft
5100	Waycross	Burglary
5700	W. Airport	Theft
5800	W. Airport	Burglary
5700	W. Bellfort	Auto Theft

Single Family Residential Crime

Locations by block number, not exact address.

Stats for 30 days preceding April 20, 2015

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Westbury Area Patrol / Constables
281-463-6666

Westbury HPD Storefront
713-726-7126

HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

Brays Oak Management District (BOMD)
www.braysoakmd.org
(report graffiti)

Harris County Precinct 5 News

We are very pleased to announce the return of our sergeant, Fernando Hernandez! If you have any specific questions or problems, call 281-463-6666 and ask for the Westbury Sergeant to call you back! Welcome Back Sgt. Hernandez!!

Precinct 5 will do a home security check and they will come to neighborhood meetings. Think about hosting a block security get together; invite your neighbors and invite Precinct 5. Talk to your neighbors. Help keep crime out of Westbury.

Coffee With the Constables Recap

Thank you to Julia Elina for hosting the April Coffee with the Constables. We had a great turnout and residents got to have one on one time with the Constables and ask any questions they wanted! The May Coffee has switched to Cookies with the Constables on May 20 at 6pm before the WCC Board Meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!



HEAR SIRENS? WONDER WHERE THEY ARE GOING? CHECK OUT WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV/ACTIVEINCIDENTS TO SEE CURRENT HPD AND HFD CALLS

Cookies With the Constables

Join us at 6PM at Westbury Baptist on May 20 before the WCC Board Meeting to meet our Constables and have dessert!
Wed., May 20, 6PM

2015 Dues/Assessments

ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2

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

The amount of the 2015 Mandatory Assessments is \$230.

The 2015 Mandatory Assessments were due by February 1, 2015.

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

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

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

Mission of the WCC

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

2015 Westbury Civic Club Dues		*Please send this form in with your payment																													
Name(s) _____																															
Address _____																															
Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____																															
E-mail _____																															
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Make checks payable to: Westbury Civic Club, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mail to: P.O. Box 975182 Dallas, TX 75397-5182</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Online payment: paypal.com—Send Money to westburycc@sbcglobal.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Make sure to include your address or account number</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Sending multiple payments? Circle your payment choice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 payment of \$147.50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 payments of 98.34</p> <p style="text-align: center;">**Call the office for more payment options or questions</p> </div>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Westbury Civic Club Membership</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$40</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Greenspace Beautification</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$25</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Westbury Area Patrol</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$230</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">Subtotal</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$295</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="padding: 2px;">Additional Contributions:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Westbury Civic Club</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Greenspace Beautification</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Westbury Area Patrol</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Westbury HPD Storefront</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">Total</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">\$</td> </tr> </table>	Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$40	\$	Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$	Westbury Area Patrol	\$230	\$	Subtotal	\$295	\$	Additional Contributions:			Westbury Civic Club		\$	Greenspace Beautification		\$	Westbury Area Patrol		\$	Westbury HPD Storefront		\$	Total		\$
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<p>Water Heaters: Regular & Tankless</p> <p>Disposals</p> <p>Water Lines</p> <p>Gas Lines</p> <p>Drain Cleaning</p> <p>Under Slab Repairs</p> <p>Re-route kitchen & laundry pipes</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">ASTRO PLUMBING</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Full Service Plumbing and Repair Specialist</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">713-256-0017</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">★ JOHNNY LEWIS ★</p> <p style="margin: 0;">WESTBURY RESIDENT</p>	<p>New Sewer Lines</p> <p>Hydrostatic Testing</p> <p>Remodeling & Repairs</p> <p>Sinks</p> <p>Faucets</p> <p>New Drains under</p>
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Green News

Help Keep Westbury Beautiful Home by Home

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

Home Maintenance

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

***Dirt/Mold-** This particular winter was not only cold, but very wet. Please take a long look at your home and remove any dirt and mold build up on the gables, fascia boards, brick, window casings, gutters, and sidewalks.

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

Yard Maintenance

***Yard Work-** It is time again to get your yard work done on a regular basis. During

the winter it may not have been necessary to cut your grass on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The spring weather will help the grass grow much faster and require more upkeep. We have had an exceptionally rainy spring, so the grass is growing much faster. Weekly lawn maintenance may be necessary to keep your lawn looking manicured.

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

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

Trash and Recycling

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

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

Street Trees

All the trees located on City Easements are protected. Did you know all the trees located in front of your sidewalk belong to the City of Houston? Most Westbury property lines begin behind the sidewalk. If you witness the removal of a city tree from a street easement, please call 832-395-7200 immediately to report it so the City can minimize tree loss. This phone line is monitored 24 hours a day.

Do Not Blow Your Leaves into the Storm Drains!

As you have no doubt witnessed, Houston has occasional street flooding. Streets in Houston are designed to be channels for the raising water to gather into and then allow the water to flow into the storm drains. The rain water drains away and eventually ends up in Galveston Bay. Houston homes are set on higher ground, ideally, to keep them from flooding.

If you, or your hired lawn crew, blow leaves and debris into the storm drains, then the drain lines will be obstructed, resulting in slow draining and potential flooding. Though you might think your area is safe, there is a cumulative effect which can affect all of us since the drains are connected. Please, bag your excess leaves or compost them on property.

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City News

Neighborhoods USA Coming to Houston May 2015

Neighborhood USA (NUSA) is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. The 40th annual conference on Neighborhood Concerns will be held in Houston, May 20 to the 23. There will be workshops and tours of Houston neighborhoods. It is a great opportunity to network and develop ideas and best practices for neighborhood improvement. The theme this year is *Passion into Action*.

This year we submitted several award applications and we are thrilled to report that **Westbury is a finalist for Neighborhood of the Year award**. The Westbury Community Garden definitely embodies *Passion into Action*. The Westbury Crier has also been nominated for an award and we will find out the winners during the conference. Several years ago the *Westbury Crier* won a Silver award in the newsletter competition.

Westbury has also been chosen to be one of the NUSA Neighborhood Pride tour destinations for the May conference. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Becky Edmondson at 713-443-3951 or wccpresident@westburycrier.com. We need many volunteers to help out along the route on Friday, May 23 from 4-7PM.



Representatives from the Westbury Civic Club will be attending the conference.

METRO Proposal to Discontinue West Loop Park & Ride to Downtown

METRO is proposing to discontinue the METRO West Loop Park & Ride commuter service into downtown. They suggest that current patrons instead use the local bus (#68) to transfer to the METRO rail at the Texas Medical Center and then take the rail into the downtown. This would add an additional 30-45 minutes to the downtown commute. METRO needs to hear from affected West Loop Park & Ride riders about their concerns.



WHS Bond Project Community Meeting Date to be Announced.

It will possibly be at the end of May. Stay tuned to the Westbury Houston Facebook page and www.westburycrier.com

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Westbury Area News

Westbury Alphabet Soup

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

WAIC	Westbury Area Improvement Corporation
WCC	Westbury Civic Club
WWGC	Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy
WCG	Westbury Community Garden
WAP	Westbury Area Patrol (Constables)
BBA	Brays Bayou Association
SWH2000	Southwest Houston 2000
BOMD	Brays Oaks Management District
CARE	Compassionate Animal Rescue Effort
VIPS	Volunteers in Public Schools
PIP	Positive Interaction Program
FOLPH	Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston

Other common acronyms:

COH	City of Houston
DON	Department of Neighborhoods (City of Houston)
WPE	Public Works & Engineering (City of Houston)
HPARD	Houston Parks and Recreation Department
HCPCD	Harris County Flood Control District
HCTRA	Harris County Toll Road Authority
HISD	Houston Independent School District
HCC	Houston Community College

WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

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

Westbury Volunteer Corps

Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? Do you need to fulfill volunteer hours for your school or Scout group? The WCC's Volunteer Corps needs you! Please email Stephanie Lester at westburystephanie@gmail.com to join this team of neighborhood volunteers.

Westbury Trading Group - Facebook

The Westbury/Meyerland/Bellaire Trading Group is a Facebook group that has over 3,000 members. It allows area residents to sell, trade, or buy items from other area residents.

Links for Lost & Found Pets

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

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Happy 5th Birthday Westbury Community Garden!

March 28th was a BIG day for Westbury Community Garden as we celebrated our 5th birthday!

District K Council Member (CM) Larry Green honored the garden on its 5th birthday by presenting a Proclamation from Mayor Annise Parker proclaiming March 28th as "Westbury Community Garden Day". District K also presented Certificates of Recognition. At-Large Council Member Stephen Costello, who has been a big supporter of the garden, said a few words to those gathered about the importance of community gardens and the impact they have on food deserts.

Our emcee, Ross Asher, entertained as he introduced the Decorated Hat Parade and announced a tie for first place winners. Later, Asher made many visitors happy with drawings for all the door prizes. We thank our generous donors who are listed below.

Joining the celebration from the early days of the garden were: Alyce Coffey, of the Houston Solid Waste Dept., Anne Clutterbuck, our former Council Member under whose leadership the garden was first leased, Barbara Hite now with CM Larry Green's office, and

Robin Blut from Keep Houston Beautiful.

Becky Edmondson said that while we were celebrating the 5th birthday and honoring all those who had a part in the garden since its inception, that perhaps the biggest round of applause should be for the gardeners.

As part of the celebration, Sky King Falconry provided a fascinating show with birds of prey. Interesting booths entertained visitors with face painting, children's games, a lady bug release, wiggly earthworms in veri-composting, funny faces at Play with Your Food, curious live Texas snakes, wreath creations, and a wildflower display. PUCS food truck served yummy birthday cake to all!

Thanks to all who love our garden and made this day such an exciting success!

Many thanks to the following businesses for their 2015 Door Prize Donations

Barnes and Noble
Green Vegetarian Cuisine
Reginelli's Pizzeria
Urban Harvest
PUCS – Pop Up Coffee Stop (food truck)
Buchanan's Native Plants
iBurn LLC (gourmet hot sauce shop)
Fiori by Lisa Wright
Honey's Sno-Balls (food truck)

Photos credit to EJ Meyer and Debbie Gordon. Thanks!



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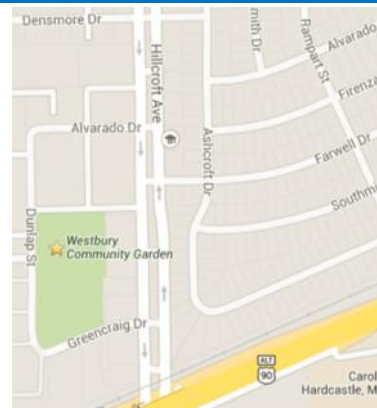
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Westbury Community Garden

2nd Annual Tomato Tasting at the WCG

Enjoy a tomato tasting on June 6 at the garden pavilion. There will be details on the www.westburycommunitygarden.org website soon. Last year we had 30 varieties of tomatoes including heirlooms and hybrids, big slicers, salad tomatoes and some wonderful cherries. Look for more info in the June *Crier*.



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.

YES Prep Northside Helps at Garden

On April 8, forty 6th grade students from YES Prep Northside came to the Westbury Community Garden to help on the Pocket Prairie. The main task of the students was to clear stalks of bamboo that had been dumped between the PIFF (Plant It Forward Farm) area and a native prairie that is being newly developed.

In one hour, 28 students, under the direction of Al Potvin and Wayne Slaiker, moved those dumped bamboo stalks closer to the street so that they could be hauled away. The other 12 students helped plant native plants or collect trash. Betsy Longoria and

Hazel Potvin directed plantings of penstemon, salvia coccinea, and rudbeckia plants in the prairie (see photo below). Students filled five bags with litter.

Thank you, YES Prep Northside. Altogether, 160 students from YES Prep Northside have come to Westbury to work on different projects. They have prepared the gardens at Foerster Elementary, planted trees at Hager Park, and worked on two prairie projects. We are so glad we could have their help.



A farm share program is also available with pick up at the Garden. Visit www.plant-it-forward.org for info.

Farm Stand at the Westbury Community Garden

A farm stand run by Plant It Forward Farms is open at the garden

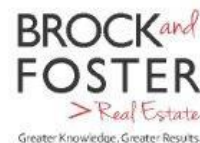
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Willow Waterhole News

Willow Waterhole Tour for Levitt Pavilion

A tour was given of the Willow Waterhole and of the site for the future Levitt Pavilion Houston. Members of the Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston Board accompanied by the Executive Director of Levitt Pavilion, Sharon Yazowski, toured the site in a bus provided by Westbury Christian School. Gary Zika, project director of Project Brays, gave an update on the excavation in basin 4 and the contouring of the banks to form the seating of the Levitt Pavilion. He also announced that bids were out for the excavation of basins one and six that are on the north side of South Willow Drive immediately adjacent to the Willow Waterhole Bayou.

Asked about the current connections of the basins to storm water in the area, Mr. Zika said, yes, the basins were connected to storm water conduits both on South Post Oak and South Willow. Once the last two basins are excavated then the final connections will be made to allow these two new basins to collect water. The final piece of the Willow Waterhole project will be going out for bid later this summer. The project will to build a spillover weir to take water flow directly from the bayou during high water conditions.

Bluebonnet Central

The bluebonnets were amazing at the Willow Waterhole this year. Did you get over to the Willow Waterhole to have your family blue bonnet pictures taken without having to drive miles away? No more driving far away to get those great photos.

WWW.WILLOWWATERHOLE.ORG



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Westbury Centerette Update

The contractor has finished up the demolition and clearing of the three acres at West Belfort and Chimney Rock that had been known as the Westbury Centerette. The owner of the property has given the Westbury Civic Club possession of the Old Westbury Centerette sign and we will be looking into ways that it can be used. The contractor also chipped off about a half of bucket of the blue and green tiles that we hope can be used for an upcoming public art project.

LA Fitness still plans to build a new fitness center on site. As information becomes available, we will let you know. Look in future *Criers* for more information.



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