



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- METRO US90A Update, June 5 at Westbury High School 6PM
- Do you want a big green trash can? See pg. 11 for more info!
- Keep Westbury Beautiful Initiative starts early June—Get those yards cleaned up!
- WCC Board Meeting: June 7PM @ Westbury High School
- June's heavy trash is JUNK WASTE

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Demo Day comes to Westbury

2 Buildings at 12540 Hillcroft Demolished

District K City Council member, Larry Green, and Mayor Annise Parker kicked off the City's 3rd Annual Demo Day in Southwest Houston on May 19. A total of approximately 190 blighted structures throughout the city will be razed as part of the mayor's 2012 demolition initiative. The structures approved for demolition were selected from a list of properties for which the hearing order date has expired and for which the owner has failed to bring into compliance. The initiative will continue until all of the designated structures have been demolished; the debris will be cleared in the weeks that follow.

The Westbury Civic Club is happy to report that the two commercial buildings at 12540 Hillcroft were included in this initiative and were demolished on the morning of May 21st. These buildings had been problems for years -- one had partially collapsed after a fire and the other was covered with graffiti and the roof was caving in after years of neglect.

We would like to thank all of the people who have worked on this problem over the years, from the people in Westbury who kept reporting it, to Neighborhood Protection who kept coming out and ticketing it, and to our elected officials Mayor Parker and CM Larry Green for standing up for us and making this problem a priority.



METRO UPDATE: US90A light rail line on JUNE 5

METRO will bring their latest plans for the US90A rail line to Westbury residents on Tuesday, June 5th, from 6 to 8 PM at the Westbury High School Atrium. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS.**

Residents on Greencraig and W. Airport should pay special attention.

If you work in the Medical Center you can get a preview of their plans June 5 from 11 AM to 2PM at the Texas Medical Center Food Court Areas, Waterside Café, at 6550 Bertner.

More information on page 11

Quiet Zone is in Effect

Can you hear the quiet now? Are you sleeping more soundly than usual? Has it gotten quieter at your house? Notice anything different? After many years of complaints about train horn noise at the railroad tracks located on the southern border of Westbury, the South Main/US 90A RAILROAD QUIET ZONE has finally become a reality. Effective Wednesday, May 16, 2012, train engineers are forbidden to sound their warning horns at the Chimney Rock, Hillcroft, Haviland, or Fondren railroad crossings, unless needed to warn about unsafe conditions.

Continued on page 7

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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

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

**THE WCC DOES NOT
ACT ON
ANONYMOUS
COMPLAINTS.
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO LEAVE
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

**It is a violation of city ordinance to have a lawn that is over 9 inches long.
Anyone can report to 3-1-1. Help Keep Westbury Beautiful!**

President's Message

It's been an eventful 30 days since I last sat to write this message. Today, the burned out, graffiti covered, blighted buildings at 12540 Hillcroft were demolished. Much thanks to the City of Houston for making it happen!

It is shocking to me how little respect some property owners have for the neighborhood in which they own property. If they have any compassion or decency towards their neighbors, one cannot see it in the way they allow their properties to become run down, derelict, falling down, weedy, and often vacant. And I'm not just talking about commercial properties. I'm talking about those eyesores throughout the neighborhood where mostly absentee owners allow their houses to become places they wouldn't want to have next door. Their out-of-sight is in our everyday line of sight. We are working to find solutions to these problems. Some take time -- some take way too much time -- but I have faith that eventually we will persevere!

You will read in this Crier that letters will start going out on unkempt lawns and visible trash containers. We are getting so many complaints in the office on these two items. No one likes to get these letters. I still remember how annoyed I was to receive a

letter about the leaves collecting along my curb. I even wrote a letter saying I would never pay dues again and said, if they had peeked in my windows they'd find an even bigger mess. If life's circumstances have put you in a position where things are out of kilter, then I apologize right now. So please accept these letters in the spirit of good neighborliness. If you need help, please let us know.

Overall things are good in Westbury. But you can't talk about the good without asking the decade old question: What about Westbury Square and the Westbury Centerette properties? Westbury Square is in litigation fighting a demolition order from the City of Houston. The Centerette is boarded up, so, while it may be a vacant eyesore, it does not meet the criteria for a dangerous building. Both of these properties are for sale. We just need to find some good folks to invest in Westbury. What do you want to see? A grocery store, a pharmacy, a new library, a new community center, a restaurant, an ice cream shop, a Starbucks?

Let me know what you would like to see. Let's work together to make something happen! Have a great summer!

Becky Edmondson

Board Mtg. Notes

- HCC Trustee Christopher Oliver congratulated WCC President Becky Edmondson on her honorary degree from HCC.
- Approved donations to Westbury United Methodist and St. John's for the use of their parking lots for the White Elephant Sale.
- Mary Seymour of Texas House Representative Borris Miles office brought a precinct map for the TX House Districts.
- Approved motion to support the expansion of single stream recycling in Westbury.
- Updates were given on various meetings and upcoming events.

WCC Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 20
7PM-9PM
Westbury High School

2012 Westbury Civic Club Dues

***Please send this form in with your payment**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

MANDATORY DUES PW 1 & PW2 PAST DUE

Thank You Westbury!

We greatly appreciate the residents who used the past *CRIER* issues to submit their 2012 dues.

Make checks payable to: Westbury Civic Club, Inc.

**Mail to:
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Dallas, TX 75397-5182**

**Online payment:
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Make sure to include your address or account number**

Sending multiple payments?
Circle your payment choice

2 payment of \$147.50

3 payments of 98.34

****Call the office for more payment options or questions**

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		\$

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock
 Monday-Friday 8AM—7PM (Wednesdays open till 8PM)
 713-726-7107

"Like" us on
 Facebook

**Effective June 4, 2012
 thru August 10, 2012,
 ALL day-time adult
 activities and classes
 have been CANCELLED.
 There are over 50 kids
 registered for the
 summer program so the
 focus will be on them.
 Ballroom Dancing will
 continue on Wednesday
 nights.**

Summer Enrichment Program
 Open to families with children ages 6-13. Crafts, games, field trips, etc. The Summer Enrichment Program is open daily from 8AM-6PM. Space is still available. Call the supervisor at 713-726-7107 or drop by to register.

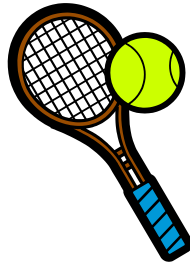
Free Lunch Program

Available for children, Monday thru Friday. For more information, call the Platou Center Supervisor



Free Tennis Lessons

Check out the free tennis lessons offered at Chimney Rock Park tennis courts by going to www.houstonparks.com



Kid's Programs

**Free Ballroom Dance Lessons
 Wednesday Evenings**
 Advanced Class 6-7PM
 Beginner Class 7-8PM
 Call Marilyn 713-729-9425



**FILL THE RECYCLE BINS AT
 CHIMNEY ROCK PARK**
 Put your cardboard boxes, newspapers, magazines, office and school materials into the bins and help raise money

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5318 Briarbend
 3 bed/2 bath
 Another One Sold!



5007 Redstart
 3 bed/2 bath
 Under Contract!



5006 Creekbend
 3 bed/2 bath
 \$238,500

Call for Information on Featured Listings ♦ www.waynemurray.net

What's Happening in Westbury

June 2012 Events & Meetings Calendar

Tues 5	METRO US90A Update Meeting 6-8PM Westbury High School Atrium - 10911 Chimney Rock METRO will update Westbury on the US90A light rail plan
Mon 11	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:15-7:45PM 12501 Dunlap under the pavilion
Sat 16	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow
Mon 18	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Wed 20	WAIC/S.N. #37 Meeting 8:30-10AM Salem Lutheran— 4930 W. Bellfort Westbury Area Improvement Corp and Super Neighborhood #37
Wed 20	WCC Board Meeting 7PM– 9PM Westbury High School - 10911 Chimney Rock
Tues 26	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South
June 30/ July 1	Yard of the Month Judging Get those yards beautiful! If interested in becoming a Yard of the Month judge, please call the WCC office at 713-723-5437. It's a great volunteer opportunity to do with a friend!

Want to stay connected? Want up to the minute updates? Want a voice and somewhere to complain? "Like" Westbury Houston on Facebook. We have 337 Likes so far. Are you one of them?

**"LIKE" WESTBURY
HOUSTON ON FACEBOOK**

June 2012 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

Thurs 14	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Tues 19	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE (South of W. Bellfort)
Wed 20	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE (North of W. Bellfort)
Thurs 28	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
JULY	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY

***** ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS *****

IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE TRASH CANS, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE AT LEAST 3 FEET APART

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Important Trash & Recycling Information

- 🗑️ Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- 🗑️ Yard waste MUST be in the correct biodegradable bags
- 🗑️ No heavy trash out before 6PM the Friday before pick-up date
- 🗑️ YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste and will not be collected with heavy trash. It is collected on Westbury's regular Thursday trash day as long as it is in the correct recyclable bags
- 🗑️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- 🗑️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
SW Trash Depository/Recycling Center 10785 Southwest Frwy
Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste and Recyclables. Current utility bill needed.
Environmental Service Center 11500 South Post Oak
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9AM-3PM; 2nd Saturday 9AM-1PM
Accepts Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste
- 🗑️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com for more trash and recycling information

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WCC 2012 Budget vs. Actual

WCC General Operation/Programs 2012*

General Income	Budget	Actual
Transfer + Refinance Fees	26,000	6,325
Advertising— Crier	36,000	13,197
Interest Income	1,300	130
Mandatory Membership	12,000	12,079
Non-Mandatory Membership	41,000	37,487
Donations—Civic Club	1,000	689
Community Garage Sale	2,000	1,200
Total General Income	119,300	71,107

Expenses —Administrative	Budget	Actual
Insurance	6,360	446
Rent— Office	8,850	2,720
Telephone & Internet	2,300	409
Electricity	900	396
Salaries & Wages	30,000	7,474
Payroll Tax Expense	2,400	654
Taxes Personal Property	390	0
Banking & Paypal Fees	3,800	1,650
Equip. Maintenance & Repairs	300	0
Training—Directors or Staff	1,000	0
Conferences/Meetings	300	160
Website— Maintenance & Hosting	2,200	30
Computer Hardware/Software	2,000	30
Postage—Regular	1,000	277
Office Supplies/Equipment	2,000	189
Professional Services	3,500	2,279
Printing/Copying	0	603
Total Expenses (Admin)	67,300	17,317

Expenses—General Programs	Budget	Actual
Programs/Hospitality	2,000	422
Deed Restriction Revision Project	7,000	0
Deed Restriction Enforcement	2,000	0
Crier— Prepare, print, distribute	30,000	9,160
Membership—Envelopes/Mailout	5,000	2,028
Community Garage Sale Expenses	2,000	504
Contributions to External Orgs.	1,500	700
Yard of the Month Program	2,500	0
Total Expenses (General)	52,000	12,814

Total Admin & General Expenses 119,300 30,131

WCC Programs with Restricted Funds 2012*

WAP Constable Patrol -Restricted Funds		
WAP Income	Budget	Actual
Mandatory Assessments	48,000	41,032
Voluntary Dues	150,000	171,307
Donations to WAP	12,864	10,109
Westbury Garden Townhomes	8,400	3,500
Total WAP Income	219,264	225,948

WAP Expenses		
Harris County Constable	219,264	73,088

Greenspace Beautification— Restricted Funds

Greenspace Income	Budget	Actual
Mandatory Assessment	8,150	7,030
Voluntary Dues	22,000	16,742
Donations to Greenspace	1,000	649
Other (Grants)	1,000	0
Total Greenspace Income	32,150	24,421

Greenspace Expenses	Budget	Actual
Monthly Maintenance	16,000	7,585
Water and Watering	8,000	82
Other (supplies, labor)	2,500	40
Special Projects	2,435	0
WAIC 10% of Revenue	3,215	629
Total Greenspace Expenses	32,150	8,336

***ALL AMOUNTS ARE AS OF APRIL 30, 2012**

\$\$\$\$ Free Copy of Tax Return on CD \$\$\$\$
 \$\$\$\$\$ Free Review of Prior Year Return \$\$\$\$\$

Pam Schertz, CPA

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Security / Crime

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37 * 30 days preceding May 23, 2011

	Single-Family Residential	Apartment/Condominium	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	8	7	0	0	15
Theft	10	8	6	1	25
Auto Theft	1	1	1	0	3
Robbery	1	3	1	1	6
Assault	1	1	0	0	2
Rape	0	1	0	0	1
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	21	8	2	52

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 5/23/12)

11900	Atwell	Theft
5000	Creekbend	Burglary
5900	Dawnridge	Burglary
11000	Doud	Theft
10900	Dunlap	Burglary
10900	Dunlap	Theft
5800	Duxbury	Assault
5700	Effingham	Theft
5700	Farwell	Theft
5700	Farwell	Auto Theft
5700	Fontenelle	Theft
5700	Fontenelle	Theft
6000	Fontenelle	Burglary
5700	Greencraig	Theft
5700	Ludington	Theft
10900	Oasis	Burglary
12300	Rampart	Robbery
6000	Spellman	Theft
5000	Stillbrooke	Burglary
5200	W. Bellfort	Burglary
5300	Willowbend	Burglary

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

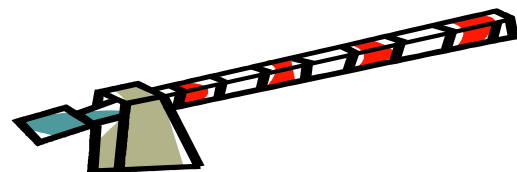
Railroad Quiet Zone, Continued from page 1

There has been a delay in getting the Quiet Zone implemented at the South Post Oak railroad crossing, but we hope it shall soon go into effect as well.

Most train engineers have already stopped sounding the horns, but the city asks that we allow the railroads some time to adjust as they have been previously been required to sound the train horns at each crossing and were fined for NOT sounding the horn. If you have concerns about continued horn soundings, please send the date and time of the horns to the Westbury Civic Club office by email. Be sure to provide the date, time, and location of the intersection of the horn noise (so that the train can be identified) or we cannot make a report.

A big thank you goes to the City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering Department, Traffic Operations, and especially, Katherine Parker, the Senior Project manager. The Westbury Civic Club has repeatedly requested a Quiet Zone since the first Quiet Zone was installed in Houston some years ago. When the city decided to seek permission from the federal regulatory agencies to install additional Quiet Zones, the Westbury Civic Club quickly applied to be included and has been persistently advocating on behalf of getting a Railroad Quiet Zone for our area.

Westbury welcomes its quiet, train-whistle free, nights.



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Westbury Backyard Tour 2012

On May 5th, over 100 people took advantage of the chance to see 7 wonderful backyard gardens and get ideas for use in their personal gardens. The gardeners worked hard for weeks to have their yards look extra nice for the tour. Wildflowers and butterfly attracting plants were of particular interest on the tour. The gardeners shared lots of ideas with their guests about where to get good plants and what types of plants thrive under different conditions.

Thank you to everyone who took the tour and the docents who were assigned to each garden to talk to the many guests. Thank you to the gardeners who opened the gates to their gardens on the 2012 Westbury Garden Tour:

- Laurie and Bill Hammons
- Shelly and Roy Johnson
- Noreen Wright and Betsy Cross
- Robin Bruce
- Ken and Molly Kent
- Wanda and Sergio Henao



Above: Clever wildflower display Noreen Wright & Betsy Cross



The Henao's



The Hammons'



The Johnson's



The Johnson's



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Robin Bruce



The Kent's

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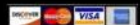
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Westbury has Big, Beautiful Yards!

Lawn and Garden Tips for Westbury

The heat's on, ladies and gentlemen. It's time to think about how to manage your landscape for the summer.

First and foremost: The Lawn.

Yup, we all have 'em, in one form or another. They form the basis of our landscape, and we like 'em best if they're green, lush, and weed-free. Here are some tips:

- ☀ A light layer of mulch (compost is even better) will help add nutrients to the soil and assist in retaining moisture. The earlier in spring you spread it, the better.
- ☀ Cut high and cut less often (in other words, let your lawn get a little longer than usual during the summer), and never cut back more than 1/3 at a time. The longer grass blades actually shade each other, again resulting in less need for supplemental watering, and you save wear and tear on your mower. Leave the clippings on your lawn to decompose into a natural fertilizer to feed the lawn.
- ☀ Pull weeds as soon as they get big enough to see. Try to pull up the root, and, whatever you do, don't let them flower! Once a weed puts on flowers, it's a short hop to seeds and then they're all over your lawn. And yes, pulling is still the best way to get rid of weeds (besides, it's good for your waistline).
- ☀ Water less frequently, but more deeply. The ideal lawn should never have to be watered. Unfortunately, most of us have some form of St. Augustine grass, which requires a fair amount of water to do well. The goal is to "train" it to do well with less water, and that means encouraging deeper roots by watering deeply but not so often.



Parkwest 3 Yard of the Month Winner for May

Yard of the Month May Winners

- Parkwest 1 & 2:** 5806 Sanford—Mrs. Johnnie Aden
- Parkwest 3:** 6010 McKnight—Martha Kontos
- Westbury 1:** 5211 Kingfisher—Mike Jakemer
- Westbury 2:** 10614 Burdine—Andrea Preisinger
- Westbury 3:** 5622 Cerritos—Carolyn Grace
- Westbury 4:** 5503 Dawnridge—Robert & Lilly Iappini
- Westbury 5:** 5934 Spellman—Jack Henderson
- Westbury South:** 12346 Nesmith—Doyle & Judy Martin

IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CIVIC CLUB THAT SOMEONE APPEARS TO BE POISONING THE OLEANDERS ON CHIMNEY ROCK JUST NORTH OF W. BELLFORT. WE ASK THAT THE CULPRITS PLEASE STOP. THEY ARE LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY AND IT IS ILLEGAL TO DAMAGE OR WORK ON THEM WITHOUT PERMISSION. OUR LANDSCAPING CO. IS WORKING ON A SOLUTION.

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ACTION NEEDED NOW: RECYCLING

Do You Want to Get Single-Stream (big green) Recycle Bins? Action Needed NOW!

Only about half of the homes in Westbury have city-issued large green recycle bins. The Westbury Civic Club gets many requests from residents who want to get this service. Whether you already have the bins and support this type of recycling across the rest of Westbury or if you want to get the big recycle bins for your own home, **now** is the time when you need to make your voice count. A window of opportunity for more of Westbury to have single-stream recycle bins has recently opened up, but many other communities across Houston will also want these bins. The supply will be limited. We want Westbury to be a "squeaky wheel" which will get attention from the city. We want some of those bins!



Here is the situation: Mayor Parker proposed a budget for next year (effective start is July) which includes purchasing 30,000 new big recycle bins. City council has not yet voted on this budget. First we need to get city council to approve purchasing these 30,000 bins and then we need to convince the city that some of those bins should be designated for Westbury. If you want to get more bins for Westbury, then contact (either by phone or email) the mayor, the five at-large council members, and both District K and District C council members to say something along the lines of:

I support Mayor Annise Parker's proposed budget to purchase 30,000 single-stream recycle bins and I also request about 2,500 bins to be designated for Westbury. The Westbury Civic Club, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, and the Westbury SuperNeighborhood have each endorsed motions to support the mayor's budget to purchase single-stream recycle bins and to request that about 2,500 bins be designated for Westbury. Westbury is located primarily in District K, but also has some homes in District C.

Don't forget to provide your name and address when you contact your elected officials, and feel free to personalize your message. Your elected officials notice when you speak up on an issue. If you care about this topic, then take the time to let your elected officials know what you think. There are a total of 16 council members and 7 represent Westbury either directly or indirectly.



Mayor—Annise Parker mayor@houstontx.gov 713.837.0311
 District K – Larry Green districtk@houstontx.gov 832.393.3016
 District C – Ellen Cohen district@houstontx.gov 832.393.3004
 At-Large 1 – Stephen Costello atlarge1@houstontx.gov 832.393.3014
 At-Large 2 – Andrew Burks atlarge2@houstontx.gov 832.393.3013
 At-Large 3 – Melissa Noriega atlarge3@houstontx.gov 832.393.3005
 At-Large 4 – C. O. "Brad" Bradford atlarge4@houstontx.gov 832.393.3012
 At-Large 5 – Jack Christie atlarge5@houstontx.gov 832.393.3017



US90A/SOUTHWEST RAIL CORRIDOR

Envision the Possibilities

Join us for community meetings to discuss US 90A/Southwest Rail Corridor

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and METRO announce the second round of public meetings for the US 90A/Southwest Rail Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Please join us for an "open house" session, where METRO staff and the project team will update you on the progress and results of the screening of alternatives and those that will move forward for review in the DEIS. The US 90A/Southwest Rail Corridor includes approximately nine miles of new construction and extends from the vicinity of Beltway 8 in Missouri City to the METRO Rail Fannin South Station, merging with the existing METRO Rail Red Line north to Wheeler Station.

Any person who requires language interpretation or special communications accommodations is encouraged to contact METRO at 713-739-4018 at least two business days prior to your meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your needs.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



June 5, 2012 – 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Texas Medical Center Food Court Area
(Waterside Café)**
6550 Bertner Street, Houston, TX 77030

June 5, 2012 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Westbury High School (Atrium)
11911 Chimney Rock, Houston, TX 77035

June 7, 2012 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Missouri City Community Center
1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77489

June 12, 2012 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

The Power Center (Southeast Ballroom)
12401 S. Post Oak Road, Houston, TX 77045

Westbury Pool & Parks

Westbury City Pool Summer 2012 Schedule

Questions? Call pool at 713-723-2192
Address: 10605 Mullins (near Parker Elem.)

Pool is open daily 1-8PM from June 2 to August 19, Closed on Mondays.

Wed., July 4—Pool OPEN 1-5PM

August 25 - September 2— Pool open on Saturday and Sundays only, 1-8PM

September 3 (Labor Day) - Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

Adult Water Fitness Class Schedule—

Wednesday & Friday
6-7PM (Hydro-Flow), 7-8PM (Hydro-Fit)

Fundraising Begins for Westbury Greenspaces

In the May Crier, we announced the creation of the “Friends of Westbury Greenspaces”. This Friends group will operate under the auspices of our long-time partner, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) 501(c)3 nonprofit. Donations will be tax deductible, as allowed by law. This year the project of the Friends of Westbury Greenspaces will be Westbury Park. Westbury residents Melanie Rosen and Bill Burhans have both stepped forward to work on this project.

Q: What will the City do?

A: The old playground area will be demolished and new playground equipment will be installed this fall. Parents will be pleased to learn that those pesky pebbles at the current playground will be replaced with a mulch surface.

Q: What needs to be added to this park that the city does not fund?

A: This playground needs more shade. If you are familiar with nearby Godwin Park, then you have seen the playground shade covers which make the park more pleasant in our sunny, hot Houston climate. The city does not install options like shade covers or covered picnic areas, so the neighborhood around Godwin raised money to implement them. We want these things, too.

Q: Where do I send my donations?

A: Please make your checks payable to the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC)/Friends of Westbury Greenspaces (make sure to note “Friends of Westbury Green spaces” since the WAIC has several active projects). You may drop donations off at the civic club office or mail them to the WCC office at 5322 W. Bellfort, Ste. 107, Houston, TX 77035.



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Keep Westbury Beautiful

Keep Westbury Beautiful Phase 1— Overgrown and Unkempt Yards

The Westbury Civic Club is starting a Keep Westbury Beautiful Initiative. Phase 1 will be to identify unkempt and overgrown yards in Westbury. We have received so many complaints about “bad” yards that we have decided a more proactive approach was necessary. We will be actively doing a street by street canvas beginning in early June.

Did you know that all sections of Westbury have deed restrictions and that all sections of Westbury must follow city ordinances? The City of Houston Ordinance states:

“(b) The following specific acts, conditions, and things are declared to constitute public nuisances and are hereby prohibited and made unlawful: (10) Permitting the existence of weeds, brush, rubbish, and all other objectionable, unsightly, and insanitary matter of whatever nature covering or partly covering the surface of any lots or parcels of real estate situated within the city...The word “weeds” as herein used shall include all rank and uncultivated vegetable growth or matter which has grown to more than nine inches in height or which, regardless of height, is liable to become an unwholesome or decaying mass or a breeding place for mosquitoes or vermin. The word “brush” as herein used shall include all trees or shrubbery under seven feet in height which are not cultivated or cared for by person owning or controlling the premises. The word “rubbish” shall include all refuse, rejected tin cans, old vessels of all sorts, useless articles, discarded clothing and textiles of all sorts, and in general all litter and all other things usually included within the meaning of such term.”

Did you know the visible storage of trash cans is also against city ordinance? Phase 2 is the visible storage of trash and trash containers. It is our second largest complaint generator. It isn't easy keeping those large cans out of sight, but it is the law. We will start featuring innovative ways others keep their cans out of sight.

We want Westbury to be the best and it is disheartening for neighbors, who work hard on their yards, to have a weedy unkempt mess next door. We know sometimes life's circumstances make it hard to keep everything the way they should be but we each have a responsibility to try our best. See page 9 for lawn care

Deed Restrictions – Avoid Headaches from “Setbacks”

All homes in the Westbury, Westbury South, and Parkwest sections of Westbury have active deed restrictions. Since Houston does not have zoning, it is common in Houston for communities, such as Westbury, to have deed restrictions, which define the use and size and placement of buildings, among other limits.

Every home has “setbacks”, which define where buildings can be placed on the lot. Oddly enough, your home may sometimes have different setback distances than nearby homes because the setback distances can be affected by which street your home faces, whether your house is on a corner lot, and other variables. To make matters more confusing, the setback distances may be different for your home than for your detached garage. In some cases, a configuration can be perfectly fine for one property and a violation of the deed restrictions at another.

Please be cautious when considering making modifications which could change how close any structures or buildings are to the front, side or back property lines. Please be cautious when dealing with garages. It is your responsibility to make sure that any changes you make are in compliance with the deed restrictions for your property. Setbacks are enforced by City Legal.

As a service to our residents, volunteers at the Westbury Civic Club review proposed construction plans free of charge and provide feedback. Their feedback in no way constitutes a legal opinion as to whether the proposed plans comply with the applicable deed restrictions. Neither the Westbury Civic Club nor individual volunteers have the authority to waive, amend, or alter any existing deed restrictions.



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Neighborhood and Area News

Hurricane Season Reminder

Hurricane season starts on June 1 and ends November 30. Now is the time to make your plans and gather supplies. For a hurricane, or other emergency, information will be broadcast on 740 AM and 88.7 FM radio stations. Houstonians are also encouraged to register to receive information from the city via CitizensNet. After you have signed up, the city will send information and emergency notifications to the contact information you have provided. If you have previously signed up, then take a minute to make sure that your listed contact information (address, email, phone number) remains current.

<http://cohapp.cityofhouston.gov/citizensnet/>

Meet Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniels

Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniels will be our guest speaker at the June Civic Club meeting on June 20th. Come hear about the new Harris County jury facility that opened last year and has helped improve jury turnout. The new Jury Plaza opened in July and features free Wi-Fi service, recharging stations, a snack bar and more comfortable seating. You will also learn about its great website that lets you track civil court actions and criminal history.

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Rita Woodward & WHS

Rita Woodward, longtime advocate for Westbury High School and one of the original founders of the Friends of WHS Foundation, was honored at a ceremony at the school on April 30. In the weeks prior to the ceremony, HISD spiffed up the "Rita Woodward Environmental Nature Park", located at the corner of WHS, with new landscaping plants and a better sprinkler system to fix damage incurred during last year's drought. Rita's park was full of lovely blooms for the event.

In recognition of her volunteer work, US Rep. Al Green presented Rita with a US flag and Texas Rep. Borris Miles presented Rita with a Texas flag. WHS AirForce ROTC students raised both flags up the WHS flagpole. Rita graciously donated the flags to the school.

2012 Summer Adult Water Fitness Classes

It's that time again! Louis Moore of the City's Parks Department has brought us the great news that we will have TWO, yes TWO, Adult Water Fitness Classes this summer at the Westbury pool. Enrollment is first come, first served. Space fills up fast as these classes are very popular. Bring a friend and have some fun working out!

The Adult Water Fitness Classes will start on June 5 and run till August 10. Classes are Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6-7PM and 7-8PM. Registration is available online at activenet11.active.com/houstonparks. You may be able to register at the pool once it opens, but beware, spaces fill up fast!

Dead and Dying Trees

Do you have a tree in your yard in the area between the sidewalk and the street that is dead, diseased or dying? Only the City may prune or remove these trees. Call 311 to report your tree. Once the tree has been marked by the city for removal or pruning, the contractor may take up to 30 days to get the work completed.



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