



# Westbury Crier

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2013

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- WCC Board Meeting: June 19 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist
- June's heavy trash is JUNK WASTE. Pick up is JUNE 13 for ALL of Westbury.
- Adding on to your home? Make sure to call the WCC office first!
- Check out the Trash Can Contest on page 15

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Platou Schedule	4
Calendar of Events	5
Pool Safety	6
Westbury Pool	7
Vintage Westbury	8
Education	9
Reading is Fun	10
Crime/Security	13
April Flood	16
April Flood	17
Westbury Gala	18
Bird Watching	19
Westbury Garden	20
Jazz Fest	22
Yard of the Month	23

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## June 8 Dinner & Movie at the Willow Waterhole

On Saturday, June 8, the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy will host a Dinner & Movie night at the Willow Waterhole. The event begins at 6:30 with dinner and dessert available for purchase from Tejano Salsa and Honey's Sno-Balls.

The movie for June is *March of the Penguins*. The movie will be shown from approximately 8PM to 9:30PM. The movie will be projected on an outdoor screen near the South Gazebo. Bring your own blankets and chairs and enjoy. This is a great family event, so grab everyone and come on out!

**FREE Admission. FREE Parking. FREE Water. FREE Popcorn.**

For easy parking, the gate to the Willow Waterhole off Dryad (next to Westbury Little League) will be open. No outside food and beverages.



**Huge Movie Screen!**  
**Plenty of room for blankets and chairs!**  
**FREE FUN! FREE FUN!**

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## Westbury Pool Now Open

The Westbury pool is typically open Tuesday-Sunday 1-8PM and closed on Mondays. **For the full summer pool schedule, see pg 7.**

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

**DON'T MISS JUNK WASTE PICKUP THIS MONTH JUNE 13**

**DO NOT PUT OUT HEAVY TRASH BEFORE JUNE 8.**

The next Junk Waste pickup isn't until August 8.

## Westbury Park Playground Replacement Update

On May 9, 2013, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department informed the WCC that demolition of the existing playground at Westbury Park and construction of a new playground is expected to start during summer break. The project has been delayed about a year. Scope of work includes: demolish and replace existing playground, pavilion, site furnishings, site grading, sidewalks, landscaping and irrigation.

We thank our wonderful Westbury residents who have contributed funds for additional shade amenities at Westbury Park that the city does not provide.

## Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman	wccvp@westburycrier.com
Secretary	BJ Turner	wccsecretary@westburycrier.com
Treasurer	Pamela Schertz	wcctreasurer@westburycrier.com

## Directors at Large

Communications	VACANT	wcccommunications@westburycrier.com
Community Relations	Cindy Chapman	wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com
Deed Restrictions	VACANT	wccdeedrestrictions@westburycrier.com
Flood Control & Infrastructure	VACANT	wccflood@westburycrier.com
Greenspace Beautification	Carlos Mata	wccmaintenance@westburycrier.com
Membership	Janie Schexnayder	wccmembership@westburycrier.com
Security	Leslee Cross	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT	wccvolunteers@westburycrier.com

## Section Directors

Westbury 1	Sylvia Rendon	Westbury1@westburycrier.com
Westbury 2	Austin Chen	Westbury2@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	VACANT	Westbury3E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	Ron Brown	Westbury3W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	VACANT	Westbury4E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	Vicki Eldridge	Westbury4W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	Genie Mitchell	Westbury5W@westburycrier.com
Westbury South	Robert Capps	Westburysouth@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	Parkwest1@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 2	Peter Zografos	Parkwest2@westburycrier.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)

**FREE NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS**

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

**Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch**  
**281-463-6666**

HPD Non-Emergency  
713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)  
713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront  
713-726-7126

Platou Community Center  
713-726-7107

Poison Control  
1-800-764-7661

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

**District K Councilmember Larry Green**  
**832-393-3016**

District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen  
832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee  
713-755-6111

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

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

Forestry Department  
Graffiti

Hazardous Waste Disposal  
Heavy Trash

Neighborhood Protection  
Parking Management  
Recycling

School Crossing Light Repairs  
Water and Sewer Repair

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# President's Message

At the end of April, Mayor Parker gave her 2013 State of the City Address. I always like to read it as it invigorates my view of this great city that we live in.

As she listed Houston's strengths she said: *"it's not going to be enough until every Houston family's life is better--from the roads we drive on, to the jobs we work, to the neighborhoods we live in, to the schools we attend and the parks where our children play. The best city can and will get better. That's been my goal as Mayor: to improve our role as a great global city of business...while also focusing on making Houston a great place to raise a family and a great place to live."*

One of my goals as WCC president is to work with the City to make sure that Westbury is the best neighborhood that it can be. Specific aims:

- ☑ That our streets, drainage and sewer infrastructure are up to par.
- ☑ That our schools are improved -- both Parker and Westbury High are receiving building funds from the last bond vote.
- ☑ That all our parks are improved like Westbury Park

☑ That our library, slated to be rebuilt, will serve our area for another 50 years or more.

☑ That Westbury is as secure and crime-free as possible.

The mayor ended with this: *"We still have much to do, but we're making terrific progress. The state of our city is strong. The state of our future is unlimited."*

That could be said for Westbury as well. We still have work to do: We need to make sure that ReBuild Houston dollars are spent here to fix our aging infrastructure where necessary; we need to save the Westbury Community garden; we need to amend our deed restrictions to insure another 50 years of living in a good safe neighborhood.

Thinking about the last 50 years I had occasion this month to speak to three of Westbury's treasured pioneers. One was the third resident in Westbury. The year was 1952! One was a founder of Westbury Baptist Church. One bought their home in 1958. I've written before about the need to preserve Westbury's history. Maybe one of you has a

passion for this and would like to work on the project. There's a picture on page 8 of Willowbend in about 1957. It's hard to imagine this area so barren.

Things are definitely not barren today! With all the recent rain, our yards seem exceptionally green and lush. And while April showers bring May flowers; our April deluge brought lots of flooding woes to Westbury. Please report any HOME flooding or sewer back up issues to 311. We would appreciate your reporting them to our office as well. We thank all of you who have already done so.

Have a safe and happy summer. Take a water fitness class at Westbury (Parker) pool. Come out to the Willow Waterhole for the first *Dinner & Movie* night on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Take a walk or bike ride at the Willow Waterhole as it seems about 10 degrees cooler with the breeze and water. Visit Westbury, Hager or Chimney Rock parks. Have a barbecue and invite your neighbors. Celebrate what makes Westbury such a great place to live...that's you!

Becky Edmondson

## Board Notes:

- ◆ Security update on new Constable assigned to the WAP contract, Deputy Vo.
- ◆ Passed motion for the WCC to financially support a morning water fitness class at the Westbury Park.
- ◆ Discussed flooding issues at length specifically from the April 27 rain event that flooded over 50 Westbury homes; a map of flooded homes has been started
- ◆ Thank you Jackie Murray with Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water

**WCC Board Meeting  
Wednesday,  
June 19  
7PM-9PM  
Westbury Baptist**

## Subscribe to SW News Online

The *Southwest News* is a valuable neighborhood weekly newspaper, but not all Westbury residents receive a paper copy delivered to their homes. This can be remedied by anyone who can receive email. Go to [www.village-southwest-news.com](http://www.village-southwest-news.com) to sign up to receive a weekly email with a link to the E-edition (electronic edition) of the newspaper. It will appear in your email on Tuesdays.

*Southwest News* reporter Michelle Leigh Smith has recently done articles about Westbury and Willow Waterhole. These articles explain in detail the activities that happen in our community and those who work to make the community better.



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# Platou Community Center

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Facebook

11655 Chimney Rock

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

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

## Summer Enrichment Program

Registration is NOW open!  
Program begins on June 3. Open to children ages 6-13. Hours are 8AM to 6PM. Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 for more info.

## Free Meal Program

Available for children 18 and under Monday thru Friday. For more Information, call Dan at the Platou Center at 713-726-7107



Have a  
Safe  
and  
Healthy  
Summer.  
Stay Cool  
and  
Well  
Hydrated.

All Adult programs at the Platou Center are cancelled for the summer except Ballroom dancing, TOPS, and Portable Projects\* (see below). On Monday August 12, the usual daytime and evening programs for adults will resume. The fall schedule will be published in the August Crier.

## TOPS- Take Off Pounds Sensibly: Weight Loss Support Group

Tuesdays 5:45-7PM. Drop in or call Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or Naomi at 713-988-2233

Ballroom Dance Class Wednesdays, 6-7PM Advanced, 7-8PM Intermediate. Call Marilyn at 713-729-9425. No partner required.

## Volunteers Needed

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

Don't forget you can  
recycle paper  
& cardboard at  
Chimney Rock  
Park!



\*Portable Projects has moved to Bayland Community Center for the summer. Thursdays from 10AM to Noon.

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# What's Happening in Westbury

## Events & Meetings Calendar June 2013

<b>June 1-2</b>	<b>Yard of the Month Judging in all sections of Westbury</b> Have a nomination? Call 713-723-5437 What to judge a section? Call 713-723-5437
<b>Tues 4</b>	<b>Water Fitness Classes Start at Westbury Pool</b> For Class Schedule, see page 7 10605 Mullins (near Parker Elementary)
<b>Sat 8</b>	<b>Dinner &amp; Movie at the Willow Waterhole 6:30PM-9:30PM</b> 5300 1/2 Dryad—entrance next to Westbury Little League More info see page 1
<b>Tues 11</b>	<b>Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM</b> Pavilion at Community Garden— 12501 Dunlap
<b>Tues 11</b>	<b>Westbury Pool Now Open for Summer Days!</b> Pool hours - 1PM to 8PM, Closed Mondays 10605 Mullins (Near Parker Elem.)
<b>Sat 15</b>	<b>Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM</b> Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
<b>Mon 17</b>	<b>Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM</b> The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
<b>Wed 19</b>	<b>WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30-10AM</b> Salem Lutheran—4930 W. Bellfort Open to all Westbury residents!
<b>Wed 19</b>	<b>WCC Board Meeting 7PM- 9PM</b> Westbury Baptist Church—RM C103 Open to all Westbury residents!
<b>Tues 25</b>	<b>SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM</b> Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South

**MOVE THAT JUNK!**  
**JUNK WASTE PICKUP IS JUNE 13**

## City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

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

## Planning Calendar

**July 4: Westbury Pool Open 1-5PM**  
**July 4 & 5: WCC Office Closed**

## Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

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

July 2013	
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Heavy Trash— <b>TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY</b>
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

## Important Trash & Recycling Info

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

# Pool & Water Safety

## Pool Safety and Violations

The summer heat has arrived! We want everyone in Westbury to have a safe summer. The Westbury Civic Club's New Environmental Affairs Board met with the City of Houston's Health and Human Services pool inspectors in May. We discussed swimming pools and safety. The WCC office has received numerous phone calls regarding unmaintained pools.

All residential pools must be fenced. The fence must be at least 4 ft high and in good condition (no gaps over 4 inches) with a self-latching gate. The pool water must be maintained.

Report a violation as soon as possible if,

- There is a house, occupied or unoccupied, with a pool or spa that has not been properly maintained. This can result in green or black water that may breed mosquitoes.
- There are any slats broken or missing from a fence surrounding a pool or a spa. This also includes both vacant and occupied houses.
- If a house or property has any type of outside above-ground pool or spa that is not enclosed by a secure fence.

To report a violation, call Health and Human Services at 832-393-5100 or go fill out a quick and easy online form available at [http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Environmental/pool\\_complaint.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Environmental/pool_complaint.html),

After reporting the violation, please call the WCC office with the address so we may follow up on the report.



**Unmaintained Pool Violation**

## Pool Fence Violation



## Common Water Safety Rules

- 💧 Buddy Up - make sure you never swim alone
- 💧 Swim in safe areas - only swim when a life guard is on duty
- 💧 Life Jackets - wear a life jacket if you cannot swim and while on a boat
- 💧 Reach or throw don't go- to assist someone in trouble reach to them with a pole, broom or stick, you can also throw something such as a cooler or ball
- 💧 Follow the rules - follow posted rules and warning flags when swimming
- 💧 Never ever in bad weather- do not swim during storms
- 💧 Feet first - never dive into shallow or unknown water
- 💧 Learn to Swim!

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# Westbury Pool

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

## Westbury City Pool Summer 2013 Schedule

**June 8 – June 9:** Pool open Saturday and Sunday, 1-8PM

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

**July 4:** Pool OPEN, 1-5PM

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

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

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

## FREE Water Fitness Class

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

There is a possibility that a morning water fitness class will be added to the schedule. As of press time, the WCC office did not have confirmation. For more info or to check availability, call the Westbury Pool at 713-723-2192 or the WCC office at 713-723-5437.

The first day of class will be Tuesday, June 4, and the last day of class will be Thursday, August 8. Register online or in person at the Westbury Pool before class. If you have questions, call the city Adult Sports Office at (832) 395-7274.

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

## Adult Water Fitness Class Schedule & Descriptions

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

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

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

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



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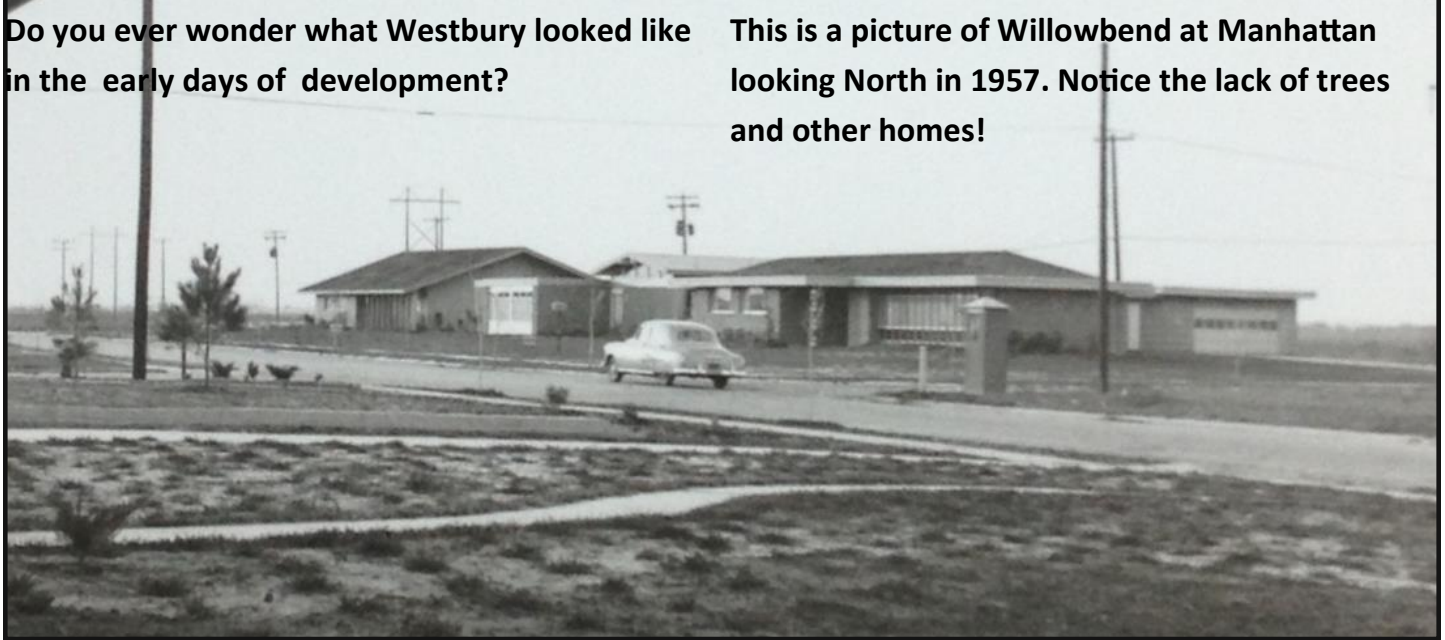
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# Vintage Westbury

Do you ever wonder what Westbury looked like in the early days of development?

This is a picture of Willowbend at Manhattan looking North in 1957. Notice the lack of trees and other homes!



Here is the same viewpoint of Willowbend and Manhattan in 2013. Wow, the trees sure do make a difference! The power poles are a good reference point for both pictures.

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## Education Challenges in Texas

On May 14, former HISD Superintendent Dr. Billy Reagan spoke about educational challenges facing Houston and Texas in an event sponsored by Southwest Houston 2000 and the Brays Oaks Management District. The Westbury Civic Club sponsored a table at this breakfast event for our SuperNeighborhood. Some highlights include:

**Not Ready for Work** – literacy problems jeopardize economic competitiveness of the Houston metropolitan area

**Low Reading Skills in Houston area** – the majority of students are reading far below the rigors of their curriculum and textbooks. How can students learn if they can't comprehend their textbooks?

**Convenient Reporting of Test Scores in Texas** – about 30 years ago Texas changed how it

measured school progress. The politicians and textbook publishers control testing and it is a huge business. National tests show no progress in Texas, but our state tests show improvement?

**College Unreadiness** – students who go to 2 or 4 year college who do not have adequate skills require remedial classes and often do not graduate.

**Income Gap and Re-segregation** – Houston is increasingly segregated by income and the worst schools are in the poorest areas.

### Proposed Solutions

**Pay Teachers Better** – retain good teachers and recruit more excellent students into teaching

**Improve Neighborhood Safety** – violence detracts from school performance

**Use Technology to Reduce Negative Impact of Mobility on Student Performance** – up to 1 in 5 students in HISD miss up to six weeks of school due to moving from apartment to apartment

## Parker Elementary – Update on New School

In November 2012, voters approved a school bond referendum which includes funds to replace Parker Elementary. Although Parker is in the second set of schools which will be built under the bond program, HISD recognizes that the music magnet program and the site involve greater design challenges, so HISD has allowed more time for the design process.

A Parker Elementary Project Team has been created with members from the school, parents, and the community. On April 29, the school Project Team interviewed 3 architectural firms and provided comments to the HISD Procurement team, which will make recommendations to the HISD Board for approval. Once an architectural firm has been approved and signed, then the design work will begin. At least three community meetings will be held.

Check out Parker's new website at [www.houstonisd.org/parkerelem](http://www.houstonisd.org/parkerelem)

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# Reading is Fun!

## Houston Public Library Summer Reading Program

**Go Under Cover** by reading your favorite books during the 2013 John P. McGovern Foundation Summer Reading Program (SRP). This is a free program for youth from 0 – 18 years of age that rewards reading with a free book for the home.

Registration has already begun and extends through August 1. Visit any Houston Public Library location or register from your home computer, through August 1, 2013. The Westbury library branch is the Meyer Library located at 5005 W. Bellfort.

To participate, read or listen to books, enter book titles or time read on your online reading log either at home or with the help of your librarian. Upon completion, go to your local Houston Public Library location to pick up your prize at the 5, 10, 20 and 30 book levels.

### INCENTIVES:

**5 books or 5 hour level:** certificate, entered into daily prize drawing.

**10 books or 10 hour level:** one free book.

**20 books or 20 hour level:** additional free book, a coupon for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and a buy one adult ticket/get a child's ticket free for the Houston Zoo.

**30 books or 30 hour level:** one voucher for a free ticket to a Houston Astros game (children K-12) and entered into a Grand Prize drawing for a Kindle Paperwhite, an Apple iPod Nano 16GB, or a Lego 8MP Digital Camera



### ARE YOU AN HISD STUDENT?

If you are, you can participate in the HISD Summer Reading Club by joining the Houston Public Library's Summer Reading Program. By reading ten books you are eligible to receive incentives from Houston Public Library's Summer Reading Program AND incentives from the HISD Summer Reading Club. One program, two ways to win. For more details on the HISD Summer Reading Club visit: [www.houstonisd.org](http://www.houstonisd.org).



### Freedom School Program

Westbury United Methodist is hosting a summer reading program from June 24 to August 2. The *Freedom Schools* program provides summer enrichment through a model curriculum and boosts student motivation to read, helps generate more positive attitudes toward learning.

This is a FREE program for kids Kindergarten thru Fifth grade. It is provided through a partnership with the Children Defense Fund and Duke University. It is an all day camp from 8AM to 3PM with meals included.

For more information, call Westbury United Methodist at 713-723-0175.

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# 2013 Dues Form

## 2013 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Attention  
Westbury 4  
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Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$40	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$230	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$295</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Additional Contributions:</b>		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$</b>

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# Crime/Security

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

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	6	4	0	0	10
Theft	15	12	7	5	39
Auto Theft	Error	On	Website	**	**
Robbery	1	1	2	0	4
Assault	0	3	0	1	4
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>57</b>

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

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

Block	Street	Crime
11900	Atwell	Burglary
6000	Beaudry	Theft
5700	Cerritos (x6)	Theft
10900	Doud	Burglary
5600	Dryad	Theft
5600	Ettrick	Theft
5700	Greencraig	Theft
5700	Ludington	Robbery
5900	McKnight	Theft
5900	Sanford	Theft
5700	Southminster	Burglary
5800	Southminster	Burglary
5200	Starkridge	Theft
5700	Stillbrooke	Theft
5600	W. Airport	Burglary
5700	W. Airport	Theft
5000	Willowbend	Theft

**Welcome Deputy Constable Lyndon Vo! He's the newest deputy assigned to the Westbury Contract!**



**Wondering what's going on with all those sirens that you hear? Go to [houstontx.gov/activeincidents](http://houstontx.gov/activeincidents) and look up HPD and HFD Active Calls.**

**WAP Constable Dispatch  
281-463-6666**

## NextDoor.com

*Nextdoor.com* is a private social network for neighborhoods. Some of your neighbors have joined this website and want others to learn more about it. We first learned about it when Channel 11 did a story about its success in Dallas. Others learned about it from a Wall Street Journal article.

Here is a brief overview from the website: *Nextdoor.com* is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and keep up to date in real time. And it's free. Thousands of neighborhoods are already using *Nextdoor.com* to build happier, safer places to call home.

People are using *Nextdoor.com* to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike

*Nextdoor.com*'s mission is to bring back a sense of community to the neighborhood.

To learn more go to the website: [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)





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Neighborhood  
Specialist

# Westbury Area News

## Hidden Trash Can Contest



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

## TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Article submitted by Eva Quearry, Westbury Resident

As a 24-year Westbury/Parkwest resident, I have always read the *Westbury Crier* to keep up with what's happening in our neighborhood. Periodically, I would see an item under "Platou Community Center" for a weight loss support group called TOPS and wondered what in the heck that was all about. Asking around I discovered that I knew a lot of people who were familiar with TOPS even if they had never been a member. Finally, in January 2012 I made myself go to the meeting, dreading that I'd have to weigh in front of strangers (I don't even weigh in front of my husband!). To my relief, the ladies were warm and welcoming, and encouraged me to try TOPS. Caveat: There is a weigh-in but only the *Weight Recorder* knows the number.

Members are in charge of programs, so we take turns presenting something of value to the group related to healthy living, which could be a topic on food, nutrition, exercise, diet, et cetera. Some of our recent topics have included the real scoop on artificial sweeteners, reading & interpreting nutrition labels, Eggs – friend or foe?, How much protein do you really need? We also enjoy occasional contests, which encourage weight loss or weight maintenance.

I'm sure that each TOPS chapter has its own personality, but when I joined TOPS I definitely did not want to be in a judgmental environment. I have found TOPS to be exactly as described in its mission, which is to "support our members as they take off and keep off pounds sensibly," and to promote successful, affordable weight management with a hands-on approach. Because TOPS Club Inc. is a structured organization, there are chapter meetings with very reasonable annual dues, as well as national dues, all for less than \$1.00/week.

Here's what some of our members are saying:

Dorothy, Marilyn Estates Resident: "TOPS has helped me to stay accountable. I have been a member for many years & enjoy the friends I've made. We have fun meetings & good contests."

Josie, another Westbury resident: "I was a former member of TOPS and about 3 years ago I saw an item in the *Westbury Crier* about a chapter that met at the Platou Center, so I rejoined. My goal is to keep my weight in line – the accountability helps."

Why don't you join my fellow TOPS members and me by joining our chapter? The summer is a great time to start! (See box on left for info)

## TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

**Meetings:** Tuesday, 5:30-7:00PM

**Where:** Platou Community Center

**Contact:** Eva Quearry, 713-721-9462  
Or Dorothy 713-723-4441

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# April 27 Westbury Flood

## Flooding in Westbury

The rains of April 27<sup>th</sup> brought almost 8 inches of rain in a short period of time filling our streets and yards with water. For some Westbury residents this water actually entered their homes. We are trying to gather as much data as possible; **if you had water in your home or had trouble with your sewer, please let us know.** Of course this was an extreme rain event, but it pointed out problems with our storm water system, our sanitary sewer system and our ditches. **If you have not done so, please report flooding or sewer issues to 311 and to the WCC.**

When the City evaluates areas that need infrastructure improvements they look at 311 calls. Our CM Larry Green was talking to the City about the flooding in Westbury and was told (at that time) there wasn't much reported to 311. Our aging infrastructure can't get replaced if the City doesn't know it is broken.

## Driving through Flooded streets

Some damage to homes was done by people driving through flooded streets. Trucks driving too fast down the streets sent wakes into homes that otherwise might not have been flooded. **Please keep this in mind during future rain events.**

## D-139-04 Ditch Update

Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) drainage ditch D-139-04 runs through the northern part of Westbury along Hummingbird. An alert resident living beside this ditch notified the WCC and the City back in September of 2012 that she was concerned that the section of ditch near the Banbury School of Dance was holding an unusual amount of water. We referred her concerns to HCFCD, which ordered a flow line survey for the segment where the problem occurs. The flow line survey has been completed and HCFCD plans to remove an accumulation of silt and sediments in the channel that has restricted water flow in that section of the ditch. In April 2013 there was a storm which dropped between 6 to 7.5 inches of water during a few hours here in Westbury. Some house flooding was reported on the streets that border this ditch, but we are hopeful that the pending work by HCFCD will restore the full drainage capacity in this section of D-139-04.



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# April 27 Westbury Flood



5900 Block Beaudry



5800 Block Cartagena

Thank you to the residents who emailed the WCC office pictures of the flood. If you have any pictures of your street during the April 27 rain event, please email them to the WCC office at [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net)



6000 Block Lattimer

## Thank You City of Houston Solid Waste Dept.

Monday morning after the flooding the City's Solid Waste Department was in Westbury with their heavy equipment to pick up downed trees and residential heavy trash caused from the flood waters. It was such an incredible response and we owe them a great big THANK YOU. Director Harry Hayes, pictured below, was on the sidewalk speaking with homeowners as they thanked him for removing their soggy carpets and ruined furniture.





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# Westbury High School Gala

The Friends of Westbury High School held their annual Gala on Saturday April 27. WCC President, Becky Edmondson, was honored at the Gala as an outstanding Westbury High School Alumna and community leader. Twelve scholarships were to be awarded to Westbury High School Students.

Unfortunately, April 27 was the day of torrential rains and floods in the Westbury area. They had 181 RSVPs but only 48 people could make it to Braeburn Country Club due to the extreme weather. Only one of the twelve students could make the event.

The 2013 Gala will probably always be remembered for the rain and lack of people but those that braved the floods and made it across Brays Bayou had a wonderful evening, full of door prizes, great auction items and delicious food.

WCC Office Manager, Jennifer Edmondson took a picture of Brays Bayou as she crossed it going to the Gala. The bayou didn't breach the banks but it came awfully close.



## Congratulations

### Westbury High School Class of 2013!



Above: Brays Bayou at Chimney Rock at approx. 7PM April 27; Right Top: Rita Woodward, Becky Edmondson, Frank Staats, WHS Scholarship winner, Kaye Griggs, & Peter Kwan; Middle Right: Becky Edmondson speech; Bottom Right: Becky Edmondson's grandson got to attend the Gala due to flooding.

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# Bird Watching for Beginners

A free “Basic Birdwatching for Beginners” class was conducted at the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve on a crisp Saturday morning on May 4, led by instructors Joy Hester and Mark Meyer. Both instructors are volunteers with the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) and are familiar with the site since they participate in the monthly HAS bird surveys held at Willow Waterhole on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. For more information about birding at Willow Waterhole, go to the Houston Audubon Society website at [www.houstonaudubon.org](http://www.houstonaudubon.org)



The 20 students ranged from beginners to those who were seeking an introduction to birding at Willow Waterhole. For many, it was their first time to visit Willow Waterhole. Joy and Mark briefly explained some basic information about guidebooks and binoculars, and then it was time to explore. Despite the fact that so many people make a good bit of noise as they walk around, participants were pleased to observe a variety of birds during the pleasant morning for a total of 21 types.

The next HAS Bird Survey at the Willow Waterhole will be on Saturday June 15 at 7AM. Meet at the Gathering Place at 5310 S. Willow.



**Did you know that over XX different types of birds have been seen at the Willow Waterhole?**



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# Westbury Community Garden

## Westbury Community Garden News

Well, when it gets right down to it, you can't buck Mama Nature. After a lovely spring which got the Community Garden off to a wonderful start, we received the rain we'd been praying for—buckets and buckets and buckets of it! And as if that weren't bad enough, then we got HAIL. Not just pea-sized hail, but big, clunky plant-flattening hail. In a matter of moments our lovely garden plants were reduced to bare sticks—it was quite a shocking experience for those who had never seen it before.

Thank heaven for the internet! Someone posted pictures of the damage to the garden on Facebook, and offers of help immediately began pouring in from other gardeners around town who had been luckier. St. Luke's Methodist Community Garden, Memorial Hermann Hospital, and the Bear Creek Master Gardeners all sent plants they could spare (and some I think they couldn't) to help give us something hopeful to replace our lost plants. So, what started out as a very upsetting experience, ended up showing us Houston's caring community of gardeners. We will be forever grateful, and hopefully will be able to return the favor someday.

In the meantime, things are perking up and we are all replanting as fast as we can. The rain did help—we'd just like a little less next time, and maybe have it a little more often!

Garden on!  
 Marcia Hartman, President of Westbury Community Garden



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13622 Wilshire Dr 3 beds, 3 baths, 1613 sq. ft. View Details   Show On Map	\$188,000 \$188 / S.F.	138 days	SOLD
4817 Waycross 3 beds, 2 baths, 1627 sq. ft. View Details   Show On Map	\$229,900 \$157 / S.F.	44 days	ON MARKET
4008 Briarwood Dr 3 beds, 2 baths, 1737 sq. ft. View Details   Show On Map	\$214,900 \$175 / S.F.	3 days	ON MARKET
48 sq. ft. On Map	\$237,200 \$156 / S.F.	44 days	ON MARKET
42 sq. ft. On Map	\$248,000 \$188 / S.F.	98 days	SOLD



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Market Snapshot is brought to you by Brock & Foster. Susan Brock is a specialist in Westbury and the surrounding areas. With more than 12 years experience she offers an individualized experience that has earned her a five-star client experience rating. Susan is a licensed broker and REALTOR.®

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# Neighborhood & Area News

## Audubon Society Bird Survey

Saturday, June 15 at 7AM  
Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow. Bring your binoculars and good shoes for walking. Come prepared to see many species of birds.

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

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

## Stay informed about Westbury News

In the past, the WCC primarily contacted residents via the monthly Westbury Crier newsletter or by mailing letters. Thanks to social media, there are faster ways to communicate with our residents.

**FACEBOOK:** We post current events and announcements on Facebook and we now have over 600 friends who receive our Facebook postings. Recently several dogs have been reunited with their owners through the use of Facebook media. You can find us at "Westbury Houston".

**EMAIL:** We realize not everyone uses Facebook, so we will begin posting announcements on our website as well. It is easy to subscribe and these announcements will come straight to your email. Go to [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) to subscribe. We encourage Westbury residents to stay in touch with us via social media.

## New Law Defines Space Needed to Maintain Traffic Safety for all Road Users

Mayor Annise Parker and Houston City Council unanimously approved an ordinance to **protect Houston's cyclists and other vulnerable road users by requiring cars and other motor vehicles to keep a separation of more than three feet while passing**, and trucks or commercial vehicles to keep a separation of more than six feet. The ordinance is effective immediately.

**Vulnerable road users** are defined as a walkers or runners; the physically disabled, such as someone in a wheelchair; a stranded motorist or passengers; highway construction, utility or maintenance workers; tow truck operators; cyclists; moped, motor-driven cycle and scooter drivers; or horseback riders.

This ordinance prohibits any motor vehicle occupant from throwing any object or substance at or against them.

## Genie Mitchell: Westbury 5 Section Director

I moved into the Westbury neighborhood in the fall of 2011 to live near my daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and Stephen Cook. My hobbies include herb gardening, reading and crocheting.



Neighbors here are friendly and welcoming and I am impressed by the level of participation and leadership in Westbury schools, churches, civic programs and community events.



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# Willow Waterhole JazzFest

Approximately a thousand music lovers came out to the 1st Annual Willow Waterhole Jazz Fest on May 5. The JazzFest featured 8 hours of free live jazz music in a picturesque setting. Patrons enjoyed a light breeze and beautiful weather quite different from the hail and torrential rains which caused the event to be rescheduled.



The afternoon began by highlighting the outstanding jazz programs at local public and private schools. Students from Emery Wiener School started the program, followed by students from Parker Elementary and Westbury High School. Performers from Johnston Middle and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) completed the segment featuring students. After the schools performed it was time for the professionals to take the stage. The professional jazz musicians displayed a variety of talents and styles.

One of the most exciting parts of the Jazz Fest for long-time Westbury residents was the re-emergence of Honey's SnoBalls. Look



for their yellow van in a Westbury area parking lot coming soon! Tejano Salsa was also on hand with yummy tamales for sale. Also available for purchase were turkey legs, hot dogs, sausage on a stick, beer, wine and sodas. A kid favorite was the face painting!



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# Yard of the Month: April and May

## April Yard of the Month Winners

### Parkwest 2

5730 Benning - Samara & Michael Hurle

### Parkwest 3

5903 Arboles - Jeff & Karen Burns

### Westbury 2

11123 Cedarhurst - Terri Melton & Cindy Allen

### Westbury 3

5323 Spellman - Donna Babin

### Westbury 4

5834 Duxbury- Mario Uresti

### Westbury 5

5914 Hummingbird- Ken & Lavinia Fair

### Westbury South

12337 Ashcroft - Charlotte Norman



Westbury South April Yard of the Month

## May Yard of the Month Winners

### Parkwest 1

5623 Bankside - Katie & David Coughlen

### Parkwest 2

5734 Stillbrooke- Carol Greenburg

### Parkwest 3

5914 Warm Springs - Ester Tsuyi

### Westbury 2

5258 Briarbend - Curtis & Nellwyn Graham

### Westbury 3

11418 Mullins - Deborah Liss

### Westbury 4

5835 Duxbury- Hector Mendez

### Westbury 5

10607 Kirkside - JR & Edith Collins

### Westbury South

5826 Southminster - Homeowner



Westbury 3 May Yard of the Month



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