



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2016

Memorial Day Flood : One Year Later

Four More Floods! What Have We Learned? What is Happening Now? What is the Plan? What Can You Do?



MAY 2015



APRIL 2016

One year later, Houston, we continue to have a problem -- too much rain, poorly functioning storm sewers, and inadequate capacity in our ditches and bayous. These all add up to create a bad situation for those who live in the 100 year flood plain. The City of Houston has a tag line: "The City of Houston is a City of Solutions." **Westbury needs a solution!**

We are rain and flood weary. For the 400 or so homeowners in Westbury who flooded on Memorial Day 2015 Flood, the 100 who flooded during the Halloween 2015 Flood, the 30 who flooded during the Tax Day 2016 Flood, and the 10-15 who flooded on the May 14, 2016 Flood, every rain forecast brings uncertainty. There are plans moving forward to correct many of the problems, but we need more than plans, **we need ACTION.**

Read more about this issue on pages 8-11. To read about what action is needed and get some answers to questions about rainfall, flooding and exactly what is happening in Westbury. See pages 8-11.

Photos above: Flooding along the 5900 Block of Beaudry, taken from the same home

WCC Office Summer Hours

**Monday-Thursday:
8AM-Noon**

Friday: Closed

*If you need to visit the office outside of the posted hours, please call 713-723-5437 and set up an appointment time.

5322 W. Bellfort # 107
Houston, TX 77035

HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE

Heavy Trash for **JUNE** is **JUNK WASTE.**

Pick-up for ALL of Westbury is **Thursday, JUNE 9**



DO NOT PLACE JUNK WASTE ON CURB UNTIL JUNE 4.

Westbury Pool Opens May 28



The Westbury neighborhood pool, operated by the City of Houston, opens Saturday, May 28, for the Memorial Day weekend. The pool WILL be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, from 1-8PM. The pool is typically open Tuesday to 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 7. There will also be a **FREE** children's learn to swim program. **For more info on adult and children classes, see page 7.**



Great Day Houston Coming to the Willow Waterhole: May 27

Pack Your Bag Challenge 2016

Great Day Houston reporter Courtney Perna hits the streets every Friday with fun challenges. On Friday, May 27, the Willow Waterhole will be the "Pack your Bag Challenge" site. Two people will compete for the grand prize of a Houston weekend getaway, but there will be other ways to win fantastic giveaways. The games are easy and most of all, fun!

We encourage YOU to come to the taping of the event and have the chance to take the challenge and win a fantastic prize. You should arrive close to 8AM for a chance to be chosen to play. They want energetic people at the taping to promote this great area, the Willow Waterhole, in Houston.

Mayor Tuner and Council Member Larry Green are expected to be in attendance.

VisitHouston.com and **Great Day Houston** are giving you the chance to win a summer vacation!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE

5322 W. Bellfort #107, Houston, TX 77035

Jennifer Edmondson.....WCC Office Manager

NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO DUES PAYING

WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appt.

OFFICE HOURS/CONTACT

Monday - Thursday.....9:30AM-1:30PM

Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Telephone.....713-723-5437

Email.....westburyc@sbglobal.net

Deed Restrictions.....westburyc@sbglobal.net

Visit our website at www.westburycrier.com

"Like" us on Facebook at Westbury Houston

SECURITY

Pct. 5 Constables (WAP).....281-463-6666

including suspicious activity, burglar alarms and vacation watch

Emergency.....911

Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency..... 713-884-3131

Westbury HPD Storefront.....832-394-7520

CITY OF HOUSTON

District K Council Member, Larry Green.....832-393-3016

District C Council Member, Ellen Cohen.....832-393-3004

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

Platou Community Center.....713-726-7107

Meyer Library.....832-393-1840

Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office.....832-393-0955

Houston Help & Information.....311

For missed garbage pickup, water line breaks, potholes
sewer repairs, dead animals, traffic signals, heavy trash
violations, neighborhood nuisances, and other city services

CENTERPOINT ENERGY

Electric outage.....713-207-2222

Suspected natural gas leak.....713-659-2111

Street light repairs.....713-207-2222

Make sure to give pole number

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

County Commissioner Gene Locke.....713-755-6111

Graffiti.....www.braysoaksm.org

Shopping Cart Removal.....www.braysoaksm.org

Brays Oaks Mgmt. District - Use "report a problem" link

Poison Control.....1-800-764-7661

Harris County Tax office.....713-368-2000

Harris County Appraisal District.....713-957-7800

2016 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If no contact information is provided, contact the WCC
Office at westburyc@sbglobal.net or 713-723-5437

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wccpresident@westburycrier.com or 713-443-3951

Vice President.....Leslee Cross

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Treasurer.....David Cummins

westburyc treasurer@gmail.com

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Communications.....Libby Mondello

Community Relations.....Cindy Chapman

wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com

Deed Restrictions.....Jennifer Edmondson

westburyc@sbglobal.net

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rmontgomery002@comcast.net

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Westbury5E@westburycrier.com

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Parkwest 1.....William Grimsinger

Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss

Jweiss@txchiro.edu

Parkwest 3.....Joe Niles

parkwest3@westburycrier.com

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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endorses an advertisement in the newsletter. Perform
your own due diligence before contacting any advertiser.

President's Message

A year ago Westbury won the Neighborhood of the Year award from Neighborhoods USA and the *Crier* won second place in the Newsletter competition. Our award was for Physical Revitalization in recognition of our efforts to save the Westbury Community Garden. Back in 2009 a group of like-minded individuals set out to create a place to garden. Seven years later we have a seven acre oasis that has become so much more than anyone could have ever imagined! On June 4 the third annual "Tomato Tasting" event will take place. If you like tomatoes or if you wish you could grow them, this is the event for you. On the weekends there is a farm stand and you can also purchase a weekly farm share. (See page 21 for more information). When I picture that empty weedy unused plot of land, I am in awe of all that it has become. A Master Plan is being prepared and I believe we will continue to be amazed at what this awesome space brings, not only to Westbury but to the whole city. It surely shows what hard work, determination and a green thumb can create when people work together.

The Willow Waterhole is another one of those incredible spaces that is unique to Westbury. Like the garden, it was the vision of a few like-minded people who wanted to reduce the risk of flooding in the Brays watershed. Westbury's own Russell Shexnayder was the mastermind behind this space that will one day not only reduce flooding, but has the potential to become one of Houston's signature parks. I hope many of you were among the thousands who enjoyed music, fun, and friendship during the 4th annual Music Fest in April. (See page 20).

Sadly, the Willow Waterhole Detention basins and Project Brays are still not complete. The project that was to reduce the risk of flooding has been hampered by funding woes. HB5025 would bring that funding to all of the outstanding Harris County Flood Control (HCFCF) projects. The Willow Waterhole detention basins will be connected to the Willow

Waterhole Bayou (WWB) by the end of the first quarter of 2018. The two new basins adjacent to the WWB filled with water during both the April and May rain events. When the weirs and connections are done, all the basins will connect and move more water out of the WWB.

Let's talk flooding. There are 5,000 homes in Westbury and the majority of homes are NOT in the 100 year flood plain. However, several hundred homes are in the flood plain. Most of these homes, which had never had water in them for 40 years despite the flood plain designation, suddenly found themselves in harm's way in one, and sometimes more than one, of these rain events: April 2013, May 2015, October 2015, April 2016 and May 2016. Some improvements were made to our ditches and bayous, plus the two new basins that were dug along the WWB, dropped the number of homes involved from 400 to 100 to 30 to 10 in those flooding events.

What is happening? We have asked HCFCF to dredge two areas (the southern end of the Braewick ditch and the WWB east of Landsdowne) which were omitted in their contract from Dec 2014. The completion of Project Brays and the Willow Waterhole detention basins will help. Adding more detention in the Fondren area would also help keep their water out of Westbury. The City has a plan to replace our storm sewers.

Mayor Turner said in his inaugural address that he didn't want to hear about more flooding in Westbury/Meyerland, but wanted real solutions to the flooding issues. The April Tax Day flood brought water to neighborhoods all across Houston. This isn't just a Brays problem; many of the watersheds in Harris County had homes flood.

Mayor Turner is committed to finding ways to mitigate flooding and added a new position referred to as the "flood czar" to help. The new "flood czar" is Steve Costello and I am looking forward to working with him. You can read about this on page 10. Mayor Turner's

commitment hasn't turned out to be empty campaign rhetoric. After the Mayor heard that some Westbury homes flooded again on the May 14, I had a conversation with him on May 16. His concern is genuine.

It takes time to get things done through government channels, but I believe that, with all these actions in the works, the risk of flooding will be mitigated. For some whose home's elevations are just too low, hopefully, the grants will come through and they will be able to raise their homes. Some have already raised their homes.

I will end with the recommendation that everyone should buy flood insurance. It costs just a few hundred dollars per year if you are not in the flood plain. Some say our rain fall patterns are changing. Twenty inches have fallen in one day in Houston and Alvin holds the record at 44 inches. I choose to play it safe and buy flood insurance.

Summer is here! Our area pools are opening. Kids will be out of school so remember to be careful on our neighborhood streets.

Wishing you a Happy Memorial Day!

Becky Edmondson



Westbury resident Tom Behrmann with Becky Edmondson as she thanks David Minceberg for the part he played in securing the lease for the community garden.

Westbury Civic Club Board Notes—May 2016

- ⇒ The May WCC Board meeting had not occurred as of press time. Look in the July *Crier* for Board Notes from the May WCC Meeting
- ⇒ We look forward to seeing you at our June WCC Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, at 7PM at Westbury Baptist Church.

NEXT
Westbury Civic Club
Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 15
Westbury Baptist, 7PM

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

ALL REGULAR SCHEDULED PROGRAMS AT THE PLATOU CENTER ARE SUSPENDED FOR THE SUMMER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW.

ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME IN LATE AUGUST WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO IN FUTURE CRIERS.

The next Family Fun Day will be in September.

Summer Enrichment Program

Youths, ages 6 through 13, can register for Summer Enrichment Program at www.houstonparks.org. Only 50 spaces will be available so register your child early.

This is a full day program full of activities including swimming, tennis, nature walks, etc.

Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 for info.

Meyer Neighborhood Library

5005 W. Bellfort
Hours: See box below
Phone: 832-393-1840 /
www.houstonlibrary.org

June 2016 Events

Baby Playtime

Tuesdays, 10:30am – 11:15am

Come for creative and collaborative play! Explore with your little ones, get information about the skills your child is developing, and meet other parents and caregivers in your community. Intended for children ages 0-18 months.

Teen Craft

Thursdays, 2:30pm – 3:15pm

Get your craft on at the library with other teens! Geared for teens ages 13-18.

Kids Craft

Thursdays, 3:30pm – 4:15pm

Bring your imagination and let's get crafting! Create exciting projects at the library that you can show off at home. Geared for kids ages 5-10.

SPECIAL LIBRARY EVENTS ON PAGE 23

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.



*****MOVED TO ST. THOMAS MORE SCOUT HOUSE FOR THE SUMMER, WILL RETURN TO PLATOU ONCE SCHOOL STARTS IN THE FALL*****

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

A Weight Loss Support Group Tuesdays 5:45-7PM

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

HOURS

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



What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar June 2016

May 28	Westbury Pool Opens 10605 Mullins More information, see page 6	1-8PM
May 30	Memorial Day - WCC Office Closed	
May 30	Westbury Pool Open 10605 Mullins More information, see page 6	1-8PM
May 31 - June 1	WCC Office Closed	
Thurs 2	Westbury Meet & Eat Teotihuacan Mexican Restaurant—6579 W. Bellfort	6PM
Sat 4	Tomato Tasting at the WCG 12581 Dunlap—Westbury Community Garden Pavilion	10AM –11:30AM
Sat 4	Westbury Pool Open For Normal Summer Hours 10605 Mullins For more information, see page 6.	
Tues 7	Water Aerobics and Water Zumba Classes Begin Westbury Pool—10605 Mullins More information, see page 6	Various
Wed. 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting Salem Lutheran Church— 4930 W. Bellfort	8:30AM
Wed. 15	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft	7PM
Sat. 18	Audubon Society Bird Survey Meet at the Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow	8AM
Mon. 20	Brays Bayou Association Meeting The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow	7:30PM
Tues 28	SW PIP (HPD Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building by Hobby Lobby	

PLANNING CALENDAR

July 4—WCC Office Closed
July 20—NO WAIC Meeting

RALPH RIEGER, CPA

We believe in service above Sell!

Giving our clients peace of mind with sound tax planning and financial advice, effectively representing them in dealing with the tax authorities, and timely, tender, loving care in preparing their tax returns. Helping Texas business owners make their dreams come true by helping them create extraordinary businesses.



11415 Chimney Rock rieger@riegercpa.com 713-729-1122

RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH CALENDAR



June 2016		
Thurs 9	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY	
Thurs 23	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS

July 2016		
Thurs 7	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS
Thurs 14	Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY	
Thurs 21	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury	NO GLASS

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday. Recycling is every other Thursday. Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- ♻️ 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

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

June	Junk Waste	July	Tree Waste
August	Junk Waste	September	Tree Waste

Westbury Pool

Westbury City Pool Summer 2016 Schedule

May 28- June 5: Pool open Saturday and Sunday, 1-8PM

May 31 (Memorial Day): Pool OPEN 1-8PM

June 4- August 12: Pool OPEN Normal Summer Hours Tuesday—Sunday 1-8PM; Closed Monday

July 4: Pool OPEN, 1-5PM

August 13 - September 5: Pool open on Saturday and Sunday only, 1-8PM

September 5 (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 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>) began on May 16, or you can register with the instructor on class days, shortly before each class starts. The first day of class will be Tuesday, June 7, and the last day of class will be Thursday, August 6, 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 Circuit Water Fitness:

Tuesday 6:30PM - 7:45PM

A combination of cardio, strength training, and flexibility that takes you through a series of stations using effective circuit training principles and the latest aquatic equipment for a total body workout. The intensity is light to moderate.

NEW Adult Aqua Zumba:

Tuesday and Thursday 9-10AM,

Thursday 6:30PM - 7:30PM

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. It is based on the principle that a workout should be "fun and easy to do" allowing individuals to stick to the Zumba fitness program and achieve long term health benefits. The intensity is light to moderate.

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

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>



WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

Plumbco

Westbury 60th Anniversary

Westbury Civic Club 60th Anniversary Year of Celebration

We invite everyone in our neighborhood to come to at least one of these festivities during the year! They will all be a lot of fun and a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and get more connected with the community! More details to follow as the event dates get closer.

September 21: Westbury Civic Club Annual Meeting

September 24: Westbury Civic Club 60th Celebration Party

Date TBD: Westbury Covered-Dish Supper (*renewing a tradition*)

Date TBD - Westbury Family Christmas Party (*renewing a tradition*)

Date TBD - Westbury Wine Night

We need volunteers for ALL of these events!

Please email the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Sixty Wonderful Years

Westbury Civic Club

TIME IS ALMOST UP. WE NEED YOUR WESTBURY PHOTOS NOW!

We are still looking for photos from the 1950's-2000s depicting life in Westbury. You can drop them off in an envelope with your name, phone number, and address to the Civic Club Office or you can scan them and email them to at westburycc@sbcglobal.net. The photos will be on display at our celebration party as well as in the *Crier* throughout the year. If you have any questions, call Jennifer at 713-723-5437.

Johnston Middle School New Name Announced: Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School

On May 12, 2016, the Board of Trustees of the Houston Independent School District (HISD) voted to change the names of seven schools with names tied to the Confederacy. Albert Sidney Johnston Middle School will be changed to "Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School". The new names will take effect with the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

The current school uniform shirts with the JMS name and logo will be grandfathered in for the next three years as a courtesy to family budgets.

Westbury High School Updates

New Building Addition: Subcontractor bids are due June 9. Fencing will be started this summer along Chimney Rock and Dryad for the future construction. Work on the new school entrance will start this summer and then work on the building addition will begin later in the year.

Academics—Last day of school is May 25. Summer school will be Monday thru Thursday from 7AM to 5PM and the school will be closed on Fridays. The new Fine Arts magnet program will get funding for next year @ \$1,050/student.

Memorial Herman

Flooding FAQ

Flooding is a big topic in Houston right now. After multiple floods over the past year, it seems to be worse than ever. There are multiple factors and issues at hand when dealing with why do homes flood. It is just not a simple answer. There is a lot of mis-information out there on social media sites such as Facebook and Nextdoor.com. If you have a question, feel free to ask your neighbors on social media but you should also ask the Westbury Civic Club. Here are some frequently asked questions regarding flooding in Westbury.

How much rainfall are we getting?

The May 14 rain in Westbury was a deluge. Thankfully we now have a rain gauge in Westbury, so we know just exactly how much rain is falling. The Westbury gauge recorded 3 inches in 30 minutes and close to 5 inches in just over an hour. That's a lot of water! If you wonder how much rain we are having or what the water in our bayous are doing, visit www.Harriscountyfws.com. Gauges measure stream elevation and rainfall every 15 minutes at: Landsdowne at Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB), Willowbend at WWB, Rice Blvd. at Brays Bayou, and Gessner at Brays Bayou. See page 10 for information on the WWB gauge located on Landsdowne.

Is our rainfall increasing? It is not clear whether rainfall is increasing, but some believe that the City, County, and Federal governments are underestimating how much rain may fall, based on historical rainfall observations in Houston. New street storm drains are designed to hold a "2-year" rain event underground. "2-year frequency - a rainfall intensity having a 50 percent probability of occurrence in any given year, that occurs on the average every 2 years over a long period of time." Intensity is a combination of amount of rain and how quickly the rain fell. For example, 3 inches of rainfall in 30 minutes is much different than 3 inches over an entire day.

Why do our streets flood? Our streets are designed to hold water, as seen in the photo to the right. They will always hold water. They operate as a mini-bayou system until our drainage ditches and bayous can take the water from our storm sewers. **We need to find a way to keep drivers and their vehicles off of our yards and medians when the streets flood.** We need to keep the big trucks that push water into our homes off the road. The water will drain off, given time, and then people can safely be on their way. That being said, it is a legitimate question to ask how much water should reasonably be allowed to stack in a street during a rain event.

What about our storm drain sewers? We need new storm drain sewers. Several years ago, we ran a page in the *Crier* to collect flooding data from our residents. This data got us a drainage pre-engineering study, and it was determined that Westbury needed new storm drain sewers. If you attended the meeting on April 21, the city came to get public input on the new storm drain sewer project. Go to the website www.rebuildhouston.org to see the proposed projects. Public input is being taken NOW, so go online and give your input. This is a \$100 million proposed project to improve Westbury storm sewers.



Intersection of Creekbend and Checkerboard on April 18, 2016

Rainfall & Bayou Levels around Westbury

Event	Rainfall	WWB @ Willowbend	WWB @ Landsdowne	Brays @ Rice	# Flooded Westbury Homes
04/27/2013	7.20" (3.64" in 1st hour & 5" after 2)	48.10'	55.10'	48.72'	175-200
05/26/2015	7.48" (6.16" in 4 hours)	51.70'	56.70'	52.90'	420-450
10/31/2015	8.32" (5.04 in 2 hours)	48.56'	Not given	46.57'	80-100
04/18/2016	6.72" (4.8 in 3 hrs; 5.44 after 4 hours)	50.68'	55.55'	51.36'	25-35
05/14/2016	5.40" (4.88" in just over 1 hour)	44.86	54.86	43.29	10-15

Data from Harris County Flood Control. www.harriscountyfws.org

Boon Pet Care

Flooding FAQ

Why do some homes get water in them that are along or near the Willow Waterhole Bayou?

There are multiple reasons, but since we already know that Westbury has bad infrastructure and we were chosen for the Storm Drain Reconstruction project, we know that some homes flood because the storm drains need to be replaced, repaired, unclogged, or cleaned out. Next it must be understood that there are actually two Willow Waterhole Bayous: one flows East and one flows West. There is a dam that was constructed sometime after the bad floods of 1975-1976. The dam is located where the Braewick ditches meet the Willow Waterhole Bayou behind Lattimer and Beaudry and Braewick.

*On the west side of Hillcroft:

Water from both Braewick ditches are supposed to flow to the west-bound Willow Waterhole Bayou to the Fondren Diversion Channel which then flows to Brays Bayou. When Brays Bayou and the Fondren Diversion Channel get high, it affects the Willow Waterhole Bayou and Braewick ditches, thus flooding Westbury on the West side of Hillcroft. This is why this west side of Hillcroft saw minimal flooding on Halloween despite more rain in our immediate area. More detention is needed to the west of us. The Braewick Ditch that is South of the Willow Waterhole Bayou was not dredged as part of the most recent work by Harris County Flood Control. We have asked for this work to be done. Project Brays, which will widen Brays Bayou all the way to Fondren, MUST be completed. House Bill 5025 asks the federal government to fund ALL the Harris County Flood projects that are outstanding. Project Brays should have been completed by 2012. If it were already completed, then we would have less flooding.

*On the East side of Hillcroft:

Almost all of the water from Westbury South, Westbury 4 and Westbury 3 flows to the Willow Waterhole Bayou east bound. The homes on Ludington on the East side of Hillcroft are among the lowest in our area and have poorly functioning storm drains. The bridge along Landsdowne acts as a dam and an escape route for the water flowing from Hillcroft. The bayou overflows at Landsdowne but not typically further upstream.

The water takes over Ludington and floods homes from street, not the bayou. The Willow Waterhole Bayou to the West of Landsdowne was not dredged in the most recent work done by Harris County Flood Control. We have asked for this work to be done.

ADDITIONAL UPDATE from Mayor Turner:

As a result of what was learned at the Westbury Community Engagement meeting on April 21, Public Works staff has already been discussing how to provide a Local Drainage Project to help mitigate some of the flooding in the area of Willow Waterhole Bayou. There may be some minor drainage improvements to the existing infrastructure that can be done. The City will bring an engineering consultant on board in hopes of expediting this determination.

Why does it seem like flooding has gotten worse since the Willow Waterhole detention basins have been dug?

It is not a function of the basins. None of Westbury's storm drains are connected to the detention basins. Only South Post Oak and Ricecrest drain into the basins. Once the final phase of the project connects everything in 2017-2018, then water will flow from the Willow Waterhole Bayou directly into all of the basins. There is a temporary weir in place to allow some water to flow into the newest basin. We believe this helped limit flooding on Tax Day and on May 14. We hope that once all the connections are made that even more water will be taken out of the bayou, and thus out of the neighborhood.

But why are we seeing flooding?

There are multiple reasons but the most basic answer is that more water is coming into Brays Bayou from places upstream and around us. When the bayous fill up, our water can't get out of our streets and storm sewers. Some streets could have flooding due to collapsed, clogged, or failing infrastructure. If your street doesn't drain after the rain event has ended in a timely matter, report your storm drain for cleaning to 311.

Should there be more detention areas?

Yes. Even when we get new storm drains we will need extra capacity from Harris County Flood Control District to route the water. This means looking for areas of detention, nearby but upstream of us.

Should I get flood insurance?

YES. It is recommended that everyone in Harris County purchase flood insurance. Alvin, Tx, holds the record for most rainfall in a 24 hour period – an amazing 44 inches! If Westbury had gotten the 12 inches of rain that fell in the Cypress and Greenspoint areas, then the Tax Day flood would have devastated many more homes in our area. If you are not in the 100 year flood plain, it is just several hundred dollars a year.



Map indicating structural flooding. Red is highest, then yellow and green.

Want to be Better Informed about Drainage Issues?

The Brays Bayou Association has been advocating for flood mitigation in the Brays Bayou watershed since 1983. Their monthly meetings are open to the public and the next three speakers should be of interest to many Westbury homeowners.

Monday, June 20, 2016, **Eric Dargan, Deputy Director, Public Works and Engineering**, Street and Drainage Division will discuss the current pothole program and the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) program for streets and drainage.

Monday, July 18, 2016, **Gary Zika, Program Manager of Project Brays**, will discuss the updated schedule and what we can expect from the future timeline for Project Brays.

Monday, August 15, 2016, **Steve Costello, the new COH "Flood Czar"**, and former Councilmember, will discuss his responsibilities and what the job will entail.

Flooding Information

Stephen Costello Named “Flood Czar”

Mayor Sylvester Turner originally planned to name a “Flood Czar” during the Mayor’s first State of the City address on April 18. Ironically, the event had to be postponed due to extensive flooding across Houston, including in the Westbury area, by the flooding event now called the April 2016 “Tax Day Flood”.

On May 4, Mayor Turner announced that the new “Flood Czar” for the city will be **Stephen Costello**, a civil engineer and former city council member who lost the mayoral race last year to Turner. Mayor Turner said, “This Chief Resilient Officer, or Flood Czar, will serve as the City’s focal point for integrating regional resiliency efforts in the Houston area. He will interact with TXDOT, Harris County, the Flood Control District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State of Texas, TIRZs, super neighborhoods and developers. He will collaborate with city departments to design strategies for resiliency and will lead efforts to revise and update policies and ordinances to mitigate the risks of potential events like the flooding we experienced on April 18.”

When Costello was an At-Large Council Member, he and his staff attended Westbury Civic Club meetings and were interested in the issues that faced our neighborhood. His experience both as an engineer and as a former councilmember should be invaluable as he tackles regional issues and looks for real solutions.

Gauge for Rainfall & Water Level along the Willow Waterhole Bayou

The first flood gauge to be located in Westbury is located on the Willow Waterhole Bayou near Landsdowne. This is near Anderson Elementary / Hager Park and Westbury High School. Information from this gauge can be found at www.harriscountyfws.org/. The name of the new gauge is: Gauge 445 (the full name is “D112_445 Willow Water Hole @ Landsdowne Drive”). It will report rainfall amounts every 15 minutes when raining and will also report the water level in Willow Waterhole Bayou. There is a “Near Top of Bank” and “Out of Bank” feature on map.

HB 5025 – Approval by Congress is Important to Houston and Westbury

Houston Congressional legislators, Rep. Al Green and Rep. Gene Green, have co-sponsored HB5025 in response to the 2016 Tax Day flood. This proposed legislation is vital to Houston and to Westbury. HB 5025 requests \$311 million so that ALL the currently proposed flood projects in Harris County will be funded. The various flood projects have been funded piece by piece, over many years. Sometimes different projects in Harris County have been competing against each other for federal funding. As a result, flood control projects are way behind schedule in Harris County. For example, all homes in Westbury are in the Brays Bayou watershed, but Project Brays is YEARS behind schedule and would have already been finished if it had received full funding previously.

ACTION NEEDED. It is essential that the Texas and Houston Congressional politicians support this vital legislation. Please contact these politicians and let them know that it is important to you that HB5025 is approved in Congress to reduce flooding in Harris County.

Senate: Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz

House of Representatives: Kevin Brady, John Culberson, Al Green, Gene Green, Sheila Jackson Lee, Pete Olson, and Ted Poe.

Flooding: Streets and Drains

Flooded Streets? Hunker Down and Wait for the Water to Recede!

Properties were again in harm's way. During the recent heavy rains of May 14, just a handful of homes had water in them. However, many yards had damage caused by vehicles driving through them. As drivers disregarded flooded intersections and streets, they ended up driving onto our medians and through our yards trying to save their cars.

If you must be out driving in high water, please pull over into a parking lot or on to a driveway and wait for the waters to recede. Westbury United Methodist Church kindly opened their side parking lot gate to allow drivers on West Bellfort a chance to wait on higher ground. Sadly, plenty of vehicles just plowed ahead, pushing water further into people's yards and closer to their homes. Others kept driving until the road became utterly impassable, and then they drove across yards and medians, leaving huge ruts and other damage behind.

So you have a big truck and you are not worried about flooding out? Do you think it is fun to drive a vehicle through water and make big splashes? As you plowed through our interior streets,



Front yard damaged due to vehicles driving thru yards

you created waves of water rushing towards your neighbors' homes and into cars parked in low areas. Please stay off our flooded streets!

License plates and pictures of cars causing damages were obtained by many angry homeowners. Some of you can expect visits from the police or calls from insurance carriers.

Be a good neighbor and stay off the streets until the water recedes!

Protect Your Neighborhood Storm Drain

Did you know that if you protect your storm drain, you are protecting your property, your neighborhood, and the environment? Storm drains are for rainwater only. The main purpose is to help water flow away quickly from your home during heavy rainfall. If we litter our neighborhood streets with food wrappers, plastic bottles, yard waste, and/or construction debris, then we are increasing our chances of flooding.



Other pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizer, pet waste, paint, and automobile by-products hurt our water quality since the water flowing into the storm drains is not treated. Storm drains go directly to our bayous and ultimately into Galveston Bay.

But, we can all do our part to protect our neighborhood storm drains. Together we can keep our storm drains functioning better and ultimately our bayous and Galveston Bay clean. Please visit the Harris County environmental awareness website at www.CleanWaterways.org for more information and resources on helping us maintain cleaner waterways.

The Hidden Cost of Pavement

The causes and solutions for flooding are not simple. But, if you are wondering how more pavement affects flooding, then these research calculations are astonishing. According to research by Dr. Samuel Brody, a professor of marine sciences, landscape architecture and urban planning at Texas A&M University:

- ❖ "between 1996 and 2011, the Houston region increased its pavement, its impervious surface coverage, by about 25 percent, which is hundreds of square miles of pavement."
- ❖ Brody said, "Every square meter of pavement in Houston, on average, translates into about \$4,000 of extra flood damage".

Perhaps you are not used to calculations based on a square meter of area. These calculations indicate that each square foot of new pavement costs about \$372 of flood damages!

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Greg Wilson: New Football Coach at Westbury HS

Where There is a Wilson, There is a Way

*Westbury crowns former alum
Greg Wilson as new head
Football coach*

By: Kent Perschke

There are times in life when you meet someone and get a feeling that you got lucky to make their acquaintance. Greg Wilson is that man. At 6'5", Greg is imposing when you meet him, but as soon as he opens his mouth, you discover a sweet and articulate human being who is dedicated to his players, and students as well as being a loving father and husband. Coach Wilson has been married to his wife and best friend Britni for six years and they are raising two young sons. Greg's heart has always been as a Westbury Rebel, oops, I mean Husky. He returned to his Alma Mater at the beginning of this school year with the intent of bringing the greatness he experienced as a student-athlete back to Westbury.

Coach Wilson's playing days at Westbury were fondly remembered as being a key element in molding him into the man and athlete he became. He had a mentor in a coach we still are blessed enough to have as a part of our current football team, Darrell "Chief" Williams. After Coach Wilson's father passed, he cites "Chief" as being the man he looked up to most.

Greg played at Westbury from 1996-2000 as an offensive lineman. He racked up accolades, including being an All-District Offensive Lineman in 17-5A, both his Junior and Senior year. He was rated by Dave Campbell as one of Texas' top 300 Players, while maintaining a leadership position as Team Captain. He was voted as one of the Team Offensive MVPs his senior year by coaches and teammates.

Greg's commitment to academic excellence and his natural athletic ability landed him at the prestigious Rice University. He red-shirted his freshman year and played from 2000 - 2004 as a utility offensive lineman. The fact he could play all positions shows a flexibility and dedication to his craft that I believe we will see as the Head football coach of our blossoming program. As a senior at Rice, Greg was rewarded for his hard work by being named team captain, receiving offensive MVP honors, and earning All-Conference status. His college career culminated in an invitation to the Hula Bowl All-America game, which celebrates collegiate All-Stars. He was named a starter and remembers the game as an accomplishment he is proud of, one of the many accolades he earned as an athlete.

I have had the pleasure to watch him take control of our football program. He was not promised the job after he watched our Head Coach and Athletic Director depart after one year for other opportunities. He

just took control for the sake of our student athletes. He took control because he loves Westbury. He took control because that's the man he is and we are lucky to have him. Principal Susan Monaghan said, "I am excited to have Coach Wilson as the new Head Football Coach for the Huskies! He is an outstanding Westbury Alumni that represents strong academics and will help us build a culture of character, courage, and spirit among our athletes!"

Come out next year and support Westbury High School. I am glad to call him a friend and a colleague, but more so, I'm ecstatic in the fact that we found a leader of men who is dedicated to our school, our students and to our community. Please help us welcome someone who truly cares, Coach Greg Wilson!



Greg Wilson while playing at Rice U.

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Westbury High School Gala

The Friends of Westbury High School Foundation Gala held on April 23 was a great event. Fourteen deserving graduating seniors were awarded scholarships. These scholarships are underwritten by Westbury residents, alumni of WHS, and area businesses. Thank you to all of you who donate to this worthwhile organization. This year seemed all the more special as the honorees were Robert Lyle (raised in Westbury, WHS alumni Class of 2000, and current teacher at WHS) and the team of Westbury youngsters who won the Little League World Series (LLWS) in 1966, fifty years ago.

Steve Reeves, WHS class of 1971 and catcher for the LLWS winning team spoke at the gala:

“We are truly honored to be here and be part of this special evening with the scholarship winners and Coach Lyle. What a great organization the Friends of Westbury High School is. The work you do is fantastic in giving back to the school and providing scholarships to deserving students. When I was asked to represent the team and speak here this evening, I called Frank Staats, and asked him to tell me a little more about the event and what he wanted me to do. And he said, well, it’s been 50 years since the Westbury American Little League won the Little League World Series and we would like you to tell us about that summer.

Has it really been 50 years? That’s really hard to believe because, to us, it seems

like it was not that long ago. And if you were a part of it, who could forget that magical summer of 1966 when the stars aligned, everything came together perfectly, and a bunch of 11 + 12 year old guys, who were really just having fun playing baseball, achieved the ultimate goal in Little League baseball.

I don’t think we ever started out thinking we would go all the way. I mean, the Little League World Series was something you knew was out there, but some other team from some place you had never heard of always won. Right? So it began after our regular season when the coaches from our league picked 14 players for the Westbury American All-Star team. Two coaches were selected, Ray Plumb and Bill Raymer, and they had the task of taking the 14 guys, who had never played together as a team, and getting them ready to begin tournament play in a week or two. Not an easy task by any stretch of the imagination. But they did it.



We liked and respected each other and still do to this day. We had to win 14 games in a row and it took every one of those players and coaches to get the job done. Every one of those guys was important. We had some pretty good parts, but the sum of those parts was so much greater... As Bryan Boyne says... and I promised him I would use his line....there is no “me” in Westbury, but there is “we.”

And talking about the “we” in Westbury, we could not have done what we did without the support of the Westbury American Little League, the Westbury community and the City of Houston. The people of Westbury embraced us and wherever we went wanted to talk about the series or their memories of certain games along the way and we enjoyed sharing our championship with everyone.

That was 50 years ago and no team from Texas has won the World Series since... be proud of that...we are!”

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Crime & Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days April 20, 2016

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	6	1	1	0	8
Theft	4	2	5	0	11
Auto Theft	8	0	0	0	8
Robbery	1	0	1	0	2
Assault	2	2	1	0	5
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	5	8	0	34

*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 by block number, not exact address. Stats for 30 days preceding April 20, 2016

Block #	Street	Crime
12500	Ashcroft	Assault
12400	Ashcroft	Auto Theft
11900	Atwell	Auto Theft
5900	Bankside	Burglary
11700	Braewick	Theft
5800	Cartagena	Auto Theft
5700	Ettrick	Theft
5000	Hazelton	Theft
5000	Kingfisher	Auto Theft
5000	Kingfisher	Burglary
5600	Ludington	Burglary
12300	Mullns	Auto Theft
11900	Renwick	Burglary
5200	Spellman	Auto Theft
5900	Vickijohn	Auto Theft
5200	Warm Springs	Burglary
5200	W. Bellfort	Theft

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Westbury Area Patrol / Constables

281-463-6666

Westbury HPD Storefront

832.394.7520 *new number*

HPD Non-Emergency

713-884-3131

Do you hear sirens?

Go to <http://cohweb.houstonsirens.com/ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx>



What to do about Solicitors?

Solicitors sometimes go door to door in Westbury.



Remember, the Westbury deed restrictions do NOT prohibit soliciting in our neighborhood.



If you do not wish to have religious/fundraising/salespeople approach your home, place a visible sign stating "Private Property - No Soliciting".



If someone/situation looks suspicious, ALWAYS call the Constables - that's why we pay for them.



If the solicitor's ID badge isn't visible, do NOT open the door. Call the Constables. If the solicitors will not identify themselves, call the Constables.

The Westbury Civic Club notes that the city does not have an ordinance about solicitors and that many types of solicitation are protected as "freedom of speech" per the US Constitution. It is not a crime to use a public sidewalk. The constables will not arrest someone for soliciting door to door. However, calling the Constables may help deter criminals posing as solicitors. Be cautious about opening your door to strangers.

Recently there have been reports about solicitors going door to door selling magazines, claiming that they are students raising funds for a project or that they are children of Westbury residents. Other door to door salespeople have claimed to be there to check your alarm. Others were distributing test tubes to have you send your water in to be checked. Break-ins have occurred in the areas where these solicitors were working. Coincidence? Be safe, call the constables and report suspicious solicitation activity.

Coffee with the Constables

Dozens of Westbury residents came to the "Coffee with the Constables" event on May 14, sponsored by the WCC and the PUCS (Pop up Coffee Shop) food truck. Lt. Mitch Hutter, Community Liaison for Precinct 5 Constables, had giveaways for the children, while adults enjoyed coffee and other goodies from PUCS. Our Sgt. Hernandez was on hand to introduce our new night deputy, Deputy Debbie Albert.



Driving Around Westbury

Slow Down and Save a Life

There are no streets in Westbury that have a posted speed limit above 35 MPH. Willowbend and all of our residential streets are 30 MPH. The speeding on our major thoroughfares and residential streets seems to be at an all time high. Another man lost his life in a one car accident on Hillcroft, just south of Ludington, on April 30. This makes the 8th death in Westbury in 18 months. There have been four deaths on Hillcroft, two on West Bellfort, and two on Chimney Rock. The speeding is out of control on these streets as well as Willowbend. The newly paved Willowbend has become a raceway.

The Westbury Civic Club has asked HPD and Precinct 5 for assistance in helping to dissuade these heavy-footed speeders. Tickets are being issued to speeders. Precinct 5 brought one of their speed reporting trailers, and it will be moved to various locations throughout Westbury. We would like to get the reputation that speeding through Westbury is a bad and costly idea.



Speed Trailer on Hillcroft placed by Constables Pct 5. It will be moving around Westbury.

Willowbend Overlay Project Update

The majority of the Willowbend overlay project is completed. The WCC contacted the City of Houston Public Works to ask why an eight foot span on Willowbend just east of Atwell was not asphalted when the rest of the road was worked on.

This is what they had to say: "The contractor encountered a shallow and truncated 48-inch RCP (Reinforced concrete pipe) during the removal of the existing base on Willowbend. A section of the street was left open until the storm sewer issue is resolved. The design engineer and contractor are working to provide detail drawings and time for the procurement and installation of the storm sewer."

The Project manager will follow up and provide us the schedule as soon as it's available.

Hillcroft Bridge Repair

It's hard to believe, but the Hillcroft bridge repair has yet to begin. The rain and flooding on April 18 stalled the work. "Curb cuts" to the esplanades to allow the traffic to be safely rerouted were in the process of being completed. Once the bridge repair begins, the project will last several weeks. We urge you to avoid this area if possible and find alternate routes. This is repair work; replacement of the bridge is several years away.

Sixty Wonderful Years
Westbury Civic Club

Westbury Area News

Summer Street Sign Cleaning Contest

Have you ever had friends visiting say they had a tough time seeing the streets signs in Westbury? Have you noticed the signs are covered in grime and mold and have lost their reflective properties? Many of these signs are original to our neighborhood and have never been cleaned. Can you clean the signs on your block or can you recruit some neighbors to help? It simply takes liquid cleaner with bleach and some paper towels to do the job! Just another way to make Westbury shine!

If you have cleaned a Westbury street sign, please send an email to Bill Burhans at burhans56@yahoo.com to inform him of its location. Make sure to include a before and after photo. You will be then entered in a drawing for a chance to win one of two \$100 gift cards. You may submit as many street signs as you wish. One entry per pole.

Remodeling your home? Adding On? Do you know your deed restrictions? Did you know that the Westbury Civic Club can look over your proposed plans for free before you start construction? We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen. Did you know that Westbury 2, Westbury 3, and Westbury 5 have a 25 foot rear setback for the main structure? Did you know that there is a minimum percentage of brick that must be on your home? Did you know that you can't build in front of your building line? We want to help you! We want you to find out about possible violations before it costs you money and time. Several homeowners in the past couple years have had to tear down and/or modify their construction due to deed restriction violations. **The City of Houston does not review deed restrictions when issuing permits.** They require a signed affidavit acknowledging that the plans comply with your deed restrictions. This holds YOU, the homeowner, accountable for knowing and complying with your deed restrictions. We are here to help you. All deed restrictions are available online at westburycrier.com.

AIR TEAM

NEW AD

Keep Storm Drains Clean & Clear

If you have a storm drain inlet in the street in front of your home, check it regularly. You should remove any debris including newspapers, twigs and leaves from the grates. Also, look inside and see if you have standing water. If your storm drain is full of water and if has NOT rained recently, report to 311 for storm drain cleaning and maintenance.

Please keep the curb line in front of your house free of leaves by raking and bagging them weekly. It is spring and the oak trees are dropping their leaves, and our storm sewers are filling up with them because some homeowners are not keeping their curbs clean. Remember if you use a yard service to tell them not to blow your leaves or debris out into the street. The debris should be bagged or composted. This will help get the storm water on its way more quickly. It is important for storm water to be able drain freely and as quickly as possible.

Westbury Meet & Eat

Come out to Teotihuacan Mexican Restaurant at 6579 W. Bellfort every 1st Thursday of the month to meet Westbury residents. This event is open to anyone who lives in Westbury.
June Meet & Eat: Thurs., June 2 @ 6PM

Links for Lost & Found Pets in Westbury

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

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2016 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 2016 Mandatory Assessments is \$233.50. The 2016 Assessments are due by February 1.

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.

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").

Why Should I Pay My Dues? What are the Benefits?

- Protects your investment in your home by keeping Westbury a strong and vibrant neighborhood.
- Keeps the doors of the Civic Club office open and staffed.
- Protects your home and family with the Westbury Area Patrol through Constable Precinct 5.
- Improves the looks of our esplanades, parks, and green spaces.
- Advocates for City services and infrastructure improvements
- Hosts two White Elephant Community Garage Sale events each year
- Organizes community get togethers such as Coffee with Constables and National Night Out

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.

Please send this form in with your payment

2016 Westbury Civic Club Dues

By filling out this form, you are giving the WCC permission to send you communications. We DO not sell your information or give it out to other entities.

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Want to send your support in multiple payments? You may choose any

amount to pay in any increment throughout the year. Here are a few examples:
 2 payments of \$167.50 is \$335/yr
 3 payments of \$111.67 is \$335/yr
 4 payments of \$83.75 is \$335/yr
 5 payments of \$67 is \$335/yr
 12 payments of \$28 is \$336/yr

Westbury Civic Club Dues*	\$50	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$285	\$
Subtotal	\$335	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Westbury Area Patrol (WAP)		\$
Total		\$

*The Westbury Civic Club Dues encompasses all operations, programs, and services including greenspace, of the Westbury Civic Club, except patrol services.

Thank you for supporting the Westbury Civic Club and our important programs. We can't do it without you!
 To contact the WCC Office, email westburycc@sbcglobal.net or call 713-723-5437.

NEW

Larry Mercer

Full page Ad

Neighborhood Partnerships

Neighborhoods to Trails—Southwest, Inc.

For many years Westbury has been working towards creating a comprehensive trail system. Thankfully, a group of like-minded citizens from many southwest Houston neighborhoods have formed an organization called “Neighborhood to Trails –Southwest, Inc.” (NTT-SW) to do just that. They are dedicated to developing hike and bike trails to provide safe, economical, and environmentally friendly transportation from the Brays Bayou trail system to destinations in southwest Houston.



The group met with Justin Bates of the National Park Service (NPS) last month. It will apply for an NPS grant for the NPS to facilitate the project planning process. In order to spread the message, the group has recently created a website www.nttsw.org.



NTT-SW volunteers also hosted a booth at the April 2016 Willow Waterhole Music Fest, where they met many enthusiastic area residents who want hike and bike trails connections. Eugene Sirls represents Westbury in this group, as do Cindy Chapman and Becky Edmondson.

Super Neighborhood Alliance

The Westbury Super Neighborhood is an active participant with the Super Neighborhood Alliance. The May meeting featured Councilmember Kubosh speaking about his program to get all the submerged cars out of our bayous. Twenty-four automobiles were removed through a pilot program that both the city and county funded. Shockingly, there are still over 100 cars in the Sims, Brays and Buffalo bayous that have been identified on radar.

Following CM Kubosh was Sherry Weesner of Scenic Houston. Scenic Houston’s mission is to preserve and enhance the visual character of Houston. Scenic Houston believes attention to the visual aspects of Houston’s streetscapes is key to maintaining healthy neighborhoods in a vibrant, economically competitive city. To that end, Scenic Houston is updating their Streetscape resource guide and would like input from the public. Visit them at <http://www.scenichouston.org/streetscape-houston-project> to take a short survey. They would also appreciate photographs of good and bad streets for the next update of their resource guide.



Next Level Urgent Care

Boy Scout News

Eagle Scout Project in Westbury South

Noah Riehl from Troop 99 chose an Eagle Scout project that included the planting of 16 trees on a barren stretch of the Hillcroft esplanade at Airport Road (see before and after pictures). The project was completed on May 14 with the assistance of ten additional scouts and four adult leaders from Troop 99.

Noah was pleased his project was done during Westbury's 60th Anniversary and will improve an area that has been targeted by the Westbury Civic Club for beautification efforts. Per Marcia Hartman, Chairperson of the Westbury Greenspaces Committee, "this esplanade area fronts businesses on both sides of Hillcroft, and is a gateway into our community. Noah's project will significantly change and beautify the site. It is great to have another 60th Anniversary project."

Pine trees for Noah's project came from the inventory at the Westbury Community Garden. They were donated by Trees for Houston and were lovingly nurtured for several years by WCG members. Noah was responsible for designing the pine forest, the logistics of getting trees and tools on site, and the planting, staking, and mulching of the trees. He raised funds and recruited and scheduled volunteers to help complete the project.



BEFORE



AFTER

Dabney Kennedy Scout Pavilion and Circle at the Willow Waterhole



The plans for the Dabney Kennedy Scout Pavilion and Circle were unveiled at the 2016 Music Fest. Here in Westbury we know Dabney as a long time community leader. He has served as the long time past president of the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation and past president of the Westbury Civic Club, and past Vice President of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.

In the scouting world, Dabney Kennedy epitomizes the lifetime Scout and lifetime Arrowman. His life has been devoted to leading and serving the Order. As an adult, Dabney Kennedy served 20 years as Lodge Adviser, 22 years as Section Adviser and more than 40 years as part of the National Order of the Arrow Committee or its Founder's Advisory Council. Kennedy is credited with creating and designing the Founder's Award. He has participated in more than 35 national events. Dabney received the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award in 1969 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

To honor his long service to scouts and to Southwest Houston, a planned scouting pavilion in the Willow Waterhole Greenspace will bear his name.



Council Member Larry Green, Dabney Kennedy and Mayor Turner with the newly unveiled plans for the Scout Pavilion

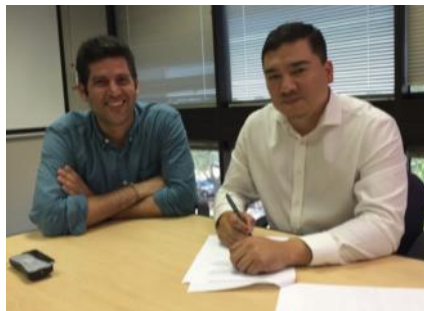
Sixty Wonderful Years Westbury Civic Club

Pro Foundation Repair

Westbury Community Garden — 12581 Dunlap Houston, TX 77035

Master Plan Gets Started at WCG

The Master Plan process for the Westbury Community Garden gets underway. Eric Leshinsky (Asakura Robinson Company) and Richard Rodriguez (Brays Oaks Management District) signed the Master Plan contract on May 4, 2016. Funding for the Master Plan is being provided by: Brays Oaks Management District, District K Councilmember Larry Green, United Way of Greater Houston, and the non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (Westbury Community Garden project).



Transit of Mercury Across the Sun



Amelia Goldberg brought her pink, 8-inch telescope to the Garden on May 9 so that visitors could safely see the "Transit of Mercury across the Sun", which last occurred ten years ago in 2006.



LOCAL FARM STAND

Buy Fresh, Locally-Grown Veggies

You can buy fresh locally-grown veggies, right here in Westbury on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Westbury Community Garden. Plant It Forward Farms provides Houston with fresh, local produce by helping refugees grow their own urban farm businesses. Each farmer is trained to farm using organic methods and to sell their produce through farmers markets, farm stands, restaurants, and farm shares. Get to know our farmers and learn about organic gardening. We offer the freshest produce available in Houston. All of our produce is grown within city limits and without the use of chemicals or pesticides.



June Farm Stand Hours

Friday: 4PM-7PM
 Saturday: 11AM - 7PM
 Sunday: 11AM - 7PM



3rd Annual Tomato Tasting Saturday, June 4, 9:30AM - 11AM

The tomato plants are lush and setting fruit at Westbury Community Garden. By the end of May we'll have ripened tomatoes galore, just in time for the 3rd Annual Tomato Tasting. If you'd like to taste and compare tomatoes in our informal tomato tasting, come and join us! Our gardeners and other tomato growers will supply a wide variety of heirloom and hybrids of all sizes, shapes and colors. It is really a sight to see!



A \$5 donation gets you a score card to rate each numbered tomato as to its sweetness, tartness, juiciness, meatiness and other attributes in the slicer, salad and cherry tomato categories. Then choose your favorite in each category and we'll vote for overall best slicer, salad and cherry. Once scoring is done, we'll reveal the names and descriptions of each tomato.

Last year we had over 30 tomato varieties to taste. Come just to taste or save your notes for tomato planting time next year. There will be drawings for prizes. Plain crackers, flat breads and water will be provided to 'cleanse the palate.' This is a fun event for the whole family. Hope we see you there!

The garden is located at 12581 Dunlap. West of Hillcroft near South Main at Fonmeadow.



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2016 Willow Waterhole Music Fest



Council Member Green and Mayor Turner

The 2016 Willow Waterhole Music Fest was a rousing success, with over 4,000 people attending the 4th Annual event. The first day of the Music Fest held on April 23 was fantastic. The weather was great. The food was great. The vendors were great. The music was FANTASTIC. Unfortunately, the second day of the event had to shut down early due to a thunderstorm racing through Houston. Mayor Sylvester Turner, Precinct One County Commissioner Gene Lock, Councilmembers Larry Green and Amanda Edwards, and other politicians dropped by for the event. Mayor Turner promised that Willow Waterhole deserves to be a city Signature Park and also that he wanted to help find funding to improve the Dryad driveway to the event area.

The organizers of the 2016 Music Fest held at Willow Waterhole say: "Thank you to the amazing lineup of musicians, attendees, craft vendors, food trucks, volunteers, guest hosts, city officials, and EVERYONE who made last Saturday so fun! Please feel free to email us at willowwaterhole@gmail.com with suggestions for next year!"



Zydeco Dots performing at Music Fest



Crowd enjoying the music



Arts & Crafts Fair



Willow Waterhole
Greenspace Conservancy

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Meyer Library Special Events

Steve Burton's Magical Entertainment

Wednesday, June 1, 11AM – 12PM

A family-friendly magic show that includes live animals, comedy, music and special treats for all helpers.

LEGO Robotics

Wednesday, June 8, 11AM – 12PM

LEGO my Robo! Strengthen your programming and engineering skills as you work in teams to create non-traditional machines and devices with LEGO.



Meyer Library
5005 W. Belfort
Houston, TX 77096
832-393-1840

Toddler Storytime

Saturday, June 11, 10:30AM – 11:30AM

Toddle around with us for stories, songs, and activities that will help develop your toddler's social, motor and literacy skills. Intended for children ages 18-36 months and their caregivers.

Capoiera Class

Wednesday, June 15, 11AM – 12PM

The Brazilian Arts Foundation presents a truly unique art that combines martial arts, dance and music; students will learn essential moves and strategies.

Read with Paws-itive Pups

Saturday, June 18, 10:30AM – 11:30AM

Woof! Woof! for reading books! Come and read with our trained therapy dogs! Children are invited to relax and read aloud their favorite picture books alongside comforting canine companions to ease their reading discomforts and paws-ively encourage them. Intended for school age children (5-10yr. olds).

Pop Shop: Hula Hoop Building

Wednesday, June 22, 11AM – 12PM

For a handmade life take a Pop Shop class. Materials to make cool crafts, accessories and goods will be provided. Please note that due to a limited number of supplies, registration is required.

Para Los Niños Bilingual Storytime

Tuesday, June 28, 4PM – 5PM

¡Bienvenido! Come explore the library, all of its resources and our parent workshops that will teach strategies and activities to improve family literacy and parents' abilities to serve as their child's first teacher in a friendly, bilingual environment. Each of the workshops includes a story-reading modeling session and a series of learning activities for use at home related to the workshop's theme. This program is conducted by the Children's Museum of Houston.

Express Children's Theatre

Wednesday, June 29, 11AM – 12PM

Mr. B. B. Wolf is up to new tricks as he runs for President of Fairytale Land. His opponents accuse him of many evil deeds. Did he really huff and puff or is it just a huge misunderstanding? Very interactive and just plain fun!

Pajama Storytime

Thursday, June 30, 6:30PM – 7:15PM

Snuggle up to a good book at the Houston Public Library's Pajama Storytime. Wear your pajamas and bring your bedtime friend as we sooth you into an evening Storytime. All ages welcome.

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