



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2021

Drive-Thru Event

Tuesday, June 15, 5PM-6PM

WCC Parking Lot - 5322 W. Bellfort
Pay your 2021 Dues, Meet WCC Board Members, Ask Questions
More information on page 20



Westbury Volunteer Opportunities

For over 60 years, Westbury residents have volunteered to help make our community great. There are several opportunities to get involved in the month of June and beyond.

WOW Workday—Litter Pick-up at Willow Waterhole

Saturday, June 12, 9-11AM

For more information, see page 6 or 17.

Join the NEW Westbury Green Team

Join this new, fun group of volunteers who will work throughout Westbury on "Green" projects and monitor our 7 miles of esplanades and 3 city parks. Volunteer opportunities can vary from planning, to hard labor and more. To join the Green Team, email westburygreen@gmail.com.



HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

The Atlantic hurricane season starts on June 1. Being prepared and knowing what to do are key. There is no need to panic if you are prepared and have a plan. Pages 8-10 contain many helpful articles about storm prep, flood insurance, weather resources, and more.

It has been over a decade since the Galveston-Houston region has experienced a true hurricane. Yes, Harvey was a hurricane when it made landfall in Rockport, TX, but it was a tropical storm when it arrived in Houston, so wind was not our issue. The damage from a direct hit of a hurricane is very different than Harvey flooding. Hurricanes in Houston are typically major wind events that can cause long power outages.

We live in a huge city close to the coast, so there is different advice for certain areas. It is important to know where you live. Westbury is NOT in an evacuation zone. A long-time hurricane saying is, "Run from the surge, hide from the wind". This means that the average Westbury homeowner should remain at home, inside sheltered in place, during the event. See page 10 for tips on what to do if a hurricane is coming.

Preparing for a storm that may or may not come can be very stressful. Hurricane Laura in 2020 was a very narrow miss. Too many times storms shift and predicted tracks change. Hurricane Ike, in 2008, was originally forecast to make landfall further South towards Corpus Christi. It was only 2 days before landfall that it became clear that Galveston-Houston were in for a direct hit.

When there is an active storm in the Gulf of Mexico, you should always pay close attention to a trusted weather source on what is happening with the storm. Page 8 has a list of weather sources. If in doubt, go straight to the National Hurricane Center website, www.nhc.noaa.gov.

Flooding is still a concern with hurricanes. Any time it rains in Houston, we are concerned about flooding. Hurricanes can bring localized flash flooding with heavy rain bands, so streets could flood. Properties that regularly flood during high rain events could flood, depending on the rate of rainfall. However, this is no different than any other major rain storm in the sense of flood risks. Page 9 gives the links to the flood gages and how to look up that information and how the Westbury gage and weirs work.

The National Hurricane Center predicted 2021 would be another very active season. We hope you find these resources helpful. Make a plan, be prepared, and stay safe.

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HEAVY TRASH

June 2021

Thursday, June 10
JUNK WASTE

July 2021

Thursday, July 8
TREE WASTE ONLY

IMPORTANT TRASH NOTICE

The City will likely be late for Heavy Trash pick-up. Heavy Trash dates are still the 2nd Thursday of each month. As of press time, the City is weeks behind. Expect Heavy Trash Delays

RECYCLING

July June 2021

Thursday, June 3
Thursday, June 17

2021

Thursday, July 1
Thursday, July 15
Thursday, July 29

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE

5322 W. Bellfort #100, Houston, TX 77035
Jennifer Edmondson.....WCC Office Manager

***Appointments available Mon-Thurs, 9AM-1PM**
Call 713-723-5437 or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net to set appointment time.

NOTARY SERVICES are available by appointment ONLY.
Masks required.

CONTACT US

WCC Office Telephone.....713-723-5437
WCC Office Email.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net
Deed Restrictions.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net
WCC President.....wccpresident@westburycrier.com

Visit our website at www.westburycrier.com
“Like” us on Facebook at Westbury Houston

SECURITY

Pct. 5 Constables (WAP).....281-463-6666
Report property crimes, suspicious activity, and vacation watch
Emergency.....911
Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency..... 713-884-3131
Southwest HPD Station832-394-0400

CITY OF HOUSTON

District K CM, Martha Castex-Tatum.....832-393-3016
District C Council Member, Abbie Kamin.....832-393-3004
Deed Restriction Enforcement (City Legal).....832-393-6333
Platou Community Center.....713-726-7107
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 Rodney Ellis.....713-755-6111
Graffiti.....www.braysoaksmd.org
Shopping Cart Removal.....www.braysoaksmd.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

2021 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contact the Westbury Civic Club at 713-723-5437 or westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Cindy Chapman
wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President.....Marcia Hartman
Secretary.....Katherine Wingfield
Treasurer.....Becky Edmondson

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Communications.....Lauren Figard
Community Relations.....Tony Robert
Deed Restrictions..... VACANT
Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Jennifer Edmondson
Greenspace Beautification.....Mat Funk
Membership.....Susan Brock
Security.....Maria Cervantes
Volunteer Coordinator.....VACANT

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Westbury 3.....Jonathan Hansen
Westbury 4.....Eugene Sirls
Westbury 4.....VACANT
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Westbury 5.....Donna Strom
Westbury South.....Brandon Richard
Parkwest 1.....Angie Furnari
Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss
Parkwest 3.....Lisa Placke

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Westbury Civic Club , Inc.

Message from the Westbury Civic Club President

The heavy rains in May brought anxiety and reminders of past flooding events in Houston. The June edition of the Crier newsletter typically features a lot of information to help you be better prepared for future bad weather situations, because hurricane season is starting on June 1. The more you know, the more in control you will be of your circumstances. The extended power outages back in February were a reminder that extreme weather can happen at any time of the year. The Big Freeze gave us an unpleasant experience with no electricity and a Boil Water Notice with barely any water pressure. NOW is the time for you to do an inventory and start replenishing your hurricane supplies. You don't have to do it all at once; you can add a few items every time you visit a store. Think to yourself, what items would you need if there is no electricity? What if the water is not safe to use without boiling, or there is barely any water pressure? What if grocery stores and gas stations are closed for a week or longer?

Also, if you do not have flood insurance, then you should strongly consider purchasing it. The Harris County Flood Control District recommends that everyone who owns a home in Harris County should have flood insurance. While your property might not be in a mapped flood plain, anywhere it can rain, it can flood. If you rent a home, please know that standard renter's insurance does NOT cover flood damage; only a flood insurance policy covers contents during a flood. Be aware that you cannot purchase flood insurance if a storm has already formed in the Gulf of Mexico, and a new flood insurance policy takes a full 30 days before it goes into effect.

The weather caused a cancellation of the Volunteer "Working on Westbury" event in May. We will continue to schedule volunteer activities in Westbury in the coming months because it is a great way for you to help make our community a better place to live while meeting others who have similar interests. Continue to monitor this newsletter about future events. Did you participate in the City-Nature Challenge? Several of us did, even on the rainy first day of the competition, and the City of Houston was a state, national, and international winner! Read more on page 16.

One new volunteer committee, which was not impacted by weather, was the Library Action Committee. It is exciting that a beautiful new regional library will be built in the heart of Westbury nearby to the Westbury fire station, on the site of the "old post office", which currently is the site of a vacant shabby building. Despite being on the banks of the Willow Waterhole Bayou, the site is high and does not flood. Read more about this committee and the future library on page 4.

During the COVID pandemic, I regret that the Westbury Civic Club sometimes had delays in responding to inquiries. Just like you, we had to figure out new ways of doing things and had to overcome obstacles we had not anticipated. The Westbury Civic Club office is now open by appointment. Please call 713-723-5437 or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net to set up an appointment. Notary services have also resumed by appointment only. We hope to open the office fully at some point this summer. If you have an unanswered email or phone call, I urge to please try again. The office is working and responding to inquiries.

The WCC has been holding monthly drive-thru events in our parking lot for residents who wanted to talk to us or who wanted to pay their WCC dues in person. The next I Love Westbury event will be on Tuesday, June 15, 5-6PM. I encourage you to come out and meet your WCC board members. The board has been holding monthly WCC board meetings by Zoom, and we will continue that format in June and July.

It is now the summer vacation time! Please note that the HISD school year ends on June 11, later than normal. Please be mindful of school speed zones in June. Meanwhile, some private schools have already finished the school year, so please be mindful of children playing outside during the summer season. The Platou Center is resuming adult programming on June 1. See page 4 for more information.

Hope you all have a great summer!
Happy Father's Day!

Cindy Chapman



WCC Board Notes - May 2021

- ➔ Guest - Gary Zika, Harris County Flood Control. Gave project updates on bridges on Brays Bayou, Willow Waterhole basins, earthen dam in Westbury, and home buyouts. See page 11 for full update.
- ➔ Guest – Richard Nguyen, Solid Waste Dept. discussed new program by the City, to help curb recycling errors.
- ➔ Board vacancies—Ray Mora resigned as Deed Restriction Chair. This position is now open and listed as such in the Crier. If you are interested in this position or any other vacancy, please email wccpresident@westburycrier.com
- ➔ Library Action Committee had their first meeting in May. See page 4.
- ➔ Yard of the Month resumed in May and will continue through September.
- ➔ Board voted to continue meeting virtually via Zoom meeting in June and July. Will discuss August meeting at the July board meeting.



Westbury Civic Club
Board Meeting
June 16 @ 7PM

Held via Zoom Streamed LIVE
on Westbury Houston
Facebook page

Platou Community Center at Chimney Rock Park

11655 Chimney Rock Rd
713-726-7107
platou@houston.tx.gov



- ➔ Supervisor: Ilea Balderston
- ➔ Assistant: Justin Thomas

Platou Center Opening June 1 for Adult Classes

Adult Program Schedule

-Programs will run from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday – Friday

- Exercise— M/W/F, 9–10am
- Quilting— Tuesday, 9am–1pm
- Games— Wednesday, 10am–12 pm
- Chair Yoga— M/F, 10–11 am
- Movies— Thursday, 10am–12pm

Temperature checks and social distancing will be enforced.
 Face coverings are strongly encouraged.
 Frequent cleaning and sanitizing will be maintained.
 For the full City of Houston Policy please visit: www.houstontx.gov/adminpolicies.
 For questions and/or comments, please contact Ilea Balderston at 713-726-7107 or ilea.balderston@houstontx.gov.

Playground, basketball, and tennis courts are open.

Library News

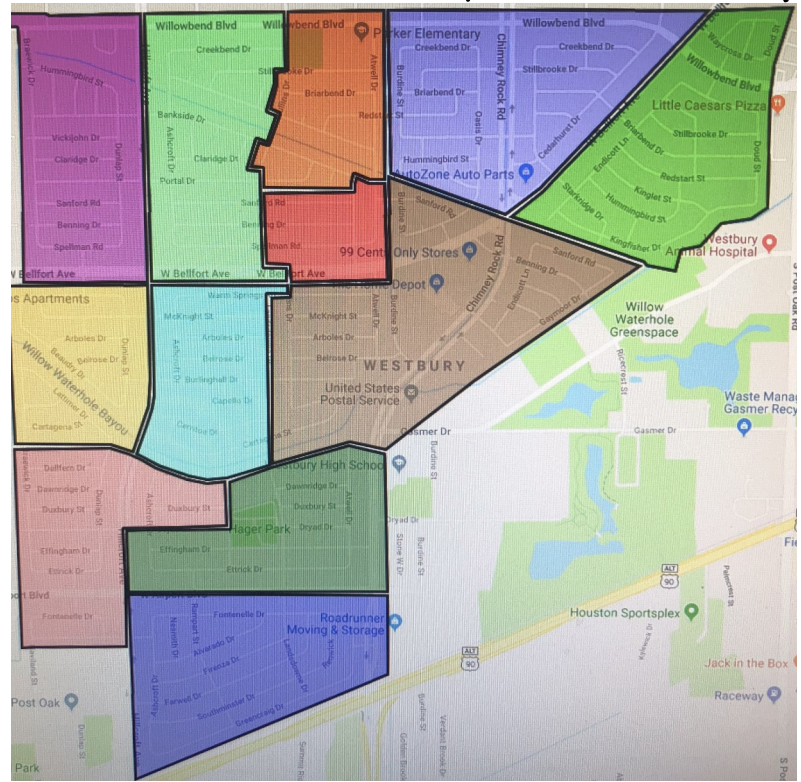
The new Westbury Library Action Committee met for the first time in May. This committee is made up of Westbury residents and board members. The goal of the committee is to advocate for the Westbury library and see what Westbury residents want in the new library. The Library Action Committee is researching other libraries to get ideas of what we could have in the library. The committee is also working on a list of concerns that the nearby neighbors have such as: traffic, safety, and lighting. The committee is meeting bi-weekly and one of the first goals is to do a survey of Westbury residents to see what everyone wants.

The new library in Westbury will be located on Belrose at the site of the old post office. It will be a new building. The WCC and the Library Committee are trying to get a copy of the plans for the new library.

The City Library Naming Committee is starting to review the name submissions. Look for future Criers for more information on the library name. The next action will be a city-wide vote to narrow the choices for the City Library board to finalize their choice.



Map of Westbury by Section



Westbury is the 2nd largest neighborhood in the City of Houston with 5,000 homes. One reason Westbury has remained such a viable and desirable neighborhood is because of the very active Westbury Civic Club. The WCC has been advocating and working hard for the neighborhood for over 60 years. We often refer to different sections when talking about current or upcoming city projects, crime, or events. This handy map can also be found on our website, www.westburycrier.com.

	Parkwest 1	198 homes
	Parkwest 2	443 homes
	Parkwest 3	311 homes
	Westbury 1	543 homes
	Westbury 2	530 homes
	Westbury 3	853 homes
	Westbury 4	834 homes
	Westbury 5	501 homes
	Westbury 5	150 homes
	Westbury South	563 homes

What's Happening in Westbury

June 2021 Calendar Events/Meetings

Mon 5	WCC Office Closed
Thurs 10	JUNK WASTE Heavy Trash pickup All of Westbury
Fri 11	Last day of school for HISD
Sat 12	WOW! Working on Westbury 9AM-11AM Willow Waterhole— meet at entrance on Dryad More information on page 6 or 17
Tues 15	I LOVE Westbury 2021 Dues Event 5PM— 6PM 5322 W. Bellfort parking lot
Wed 16	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 9:30AM Held via Zoom Live streamed on Facebook, WAIC Houston
Wed 16	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Held via Zoom Live streamed on Facebook, Westbury Houston
Sat 19	Houston Audubon Bird Survey 7AM Willow Waterhole Meet at Gathering Place, 5310 S. Willow
Sun 20	Happy Father's Day

PLANNING CALENDAR

Sept. 15—WCC Annual Meeting

Oct. 30—2021 Music Fest
at Willow Waterhole



WCC Office Open by Appointment Only

Monday—Thursday, 9AM-1PM
Email westburycc@sbcglobal.net to set your appointment
Notary services are available by appointment only.

All About Trash

Trash, yard waste, recycling, and heavy trash are picked up by the City of Houston.



Regular Household Trash

Pick-up is EVERY Thursday. Regular household trash goes into the black trash can.

Yard Waste

Pick-up is EVERY week either on Thursday or Saturday or any day the City decides to come by. Yard Waste MUST be placed in the correct City bio-degradable bags.



Recycling in Westbury

All of Westbury recycles on Schedule A. Recycling is every other week. Recycling goes into the green trash can.

June 2021

Thursday, June 3
Thursday, June 17

July 2021

Thursday, July 1
Thursday, July 15
Thursday, July 29

Heavy Trash Schedule

All of Westbury is on the same schedule for Heavy Trash. Pick-up is on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Odd months are TREE WASTE ONLY and even months are JUNK WASTE months.

June 2021

JUNK WASTE
Thursday, June 10

July 2021

TREE WASTE ONLY
Thursday, July 8

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- 🗑️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday.
- ♻️ Recycling is every other Thursday.
- 🗑️ Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- 🗑️ Yard waste is picked up on Saturdays.
- ♻️ Westbury is on Recycle Schedule A
- 🗑️ NO Plastic Bags in green recycling bins
- 🗑️ 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 with City logo
- 📞 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 & recycling info

Get Involved Today!

Working on Westbury @ Willow Waterhole

WOW Workday — Litter Pick-up

Come join us at the Willow Waterhole for another workday at Westbury Lake on Saturday, June 12, 9AM-11AM. The WAIC, along with the WCC, is hosting monthly regular workdays in Westbury greenspaces. This workday will again focus on litter pick-up at Westbury Lake. The WAIC will provide trash bags and grabbers.

What: Working on Westbury (WOW) Workday

When: Saturday, June 12, 9-11AM

Where: Westbury Lake—meet at the gazebo, 5300 Dryad



Volunteers picked up litter at the Willow Waterhole in January 2021

Drive-Thru Event

Tuesday, June 15, 5PM-6PM

WCC Parking Lot - 5322 W. Bellfort

Pay your 2021 Dues, Meet WCC Board Members, Ask Questions

More information on page 11



Eyes on Westbury



Do you wish you could see the detention basins and weirs at the Willow Waterhole? Do you want another way to monitor flooding? Let's get cameras! Join this new group to help get "Eyes on Westbury." This group will research camera options, contact HCFCDD for access questions, fundraise if needed, look into other options with cameras and lights. If you are interested in joining the "Eyes on Westbury" group, please email westburycc@sbcglobal.net.



CAMERAS TO MONITOR WEIRS AND BAYOU

WESTBURY ACTION COMMITTEES

Westbury Flood Action Group—Westbury needs new infrastructure (storm drains) and better flood control along our bayous and ditches. Recent work at the Willow Waterhole basins and weirs helps with some rain events, but Westbury needs real answers to the repetitive flooding. In the 1980s, Westbury had a very active Flood Action Group that was instrumental in getting changes and action. The WCC board reactivated this group at the October WCC board meeting. If you are interested in joining, please email westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

Deed Restriction Revision Action Committee

Westbury's deed restrictions are outdated and need to be revised. If you have already emailed regarding this group, please email us again, we have lost some data with a computer change over. If you are interested in joining, please email westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

Library Action Committee

See update on page 4.

YOUR HEALTH IS STILL IMPORTANT



While the pandemic isn't over yet, seeing your Houston Methodist doctor is still smart — and safe.

No matter what's going on in the world, taking care of your health should always be a priority. At Houston Methodist, our primary and specialty care doctors are available to provide expert care for you and your family — safely. And we are taking it one step further to protect you: Houston Methodist will require all employees and employed physicians to get a COVID-19 vaccine. See your doctor virtually or in person, or use Virtual Urgent Care for 24/7 on-demand video visits.

Schedule an appointment today.
houstonmethodist.org/care-options

HOUSTON
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LEADING MEDICINE



Why Support the WCC?

Westbury is a unique neighborhood. While all 5,000 homes in our Westbury neighborhood have active deed restrictions, only 463 have mandatory assessments. This means the Westbury Civic Club heavily relies on voluntary financial contributions from residents.

Westbury has historically had strong voluntary support because residents understood the great benefits of the WCC and our programs. The past several years contributions to the Westbury Civic Club and Westbury Area Patrol have been down. By working together, we can meet the challenges head on and keep our neighborhood the jewel that it is. We all want a safe, flood free neighborhood with great schools and nice neighbors!

The total amount for the **2021 Voluntary dues are \$360**. That is less than a dollar a day! The Westbury Civic Club dues are \$60 for the year. The WCC suggests a contribution of \$300 for the Westbury Area Patrol (a paid contract with Precinct 5 Constables).

Why are Westbury Dues Mailed to a Dallas Address?

You are mailing your payments directly to our bank's processing center in Dallas. This allows your payments to be processed immediately. You may also drop off the payment directly to the WCC Office or pay online at www.westburycrier.com

NEW ONLINE RESIDENT PORTAL COMING SOON

We have heard from our residents that they would like to have better options for communications with and payments to the Westbury Civic Club. We agree! We are excited to announce that the WCC is transitioning to a new property management software which adds some features that you residents have been requesting.

We will have a single portal where homeowners can make online payments, view payment history, view important documents, submit requests, and update contact information. The new system will make it easier for you to contact us, and for us to contact you and to be able to track your requests or concerns. There will be more payment options available, including the ability to set up auto-pay scheduled payments.

The office is currently working on the transfer of data and we should have the new system up and running for you soon. Future Criers will have detailed instructions on how to access and use the new system.

In the meantime for those of you that like to pay your dues early, please continue to use the dues form below or paypal.com. You can still pay your dues through our website, www.westburycrier.com.

Go to westburycrier.com then to the Dues and Assessments page.

The available payment options on the selection menu are:

- WCC Dues — \$60
- WCC Constable — \$300
- WCC Dues + Constable— \$60 + \$300 = \$360
- Custom Amount—You can enter your own amount

Once you get to the payment page you can opt to pay with your PayPal account, or pay directly by credit card.

**Pay your 2021 dues
ONLINE at westburycrier.com**

Please send this form in with your payment

2021 Westbury Civic Club Dues

DO NOT USE FOR 2020 DUES

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

**Make checks payable to:
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.**

Mail to:

**P.O. Box 975182
Dallas, TX 75397-5182**

Online payment:

**www.westburycrier.com
www.paypal.com to email
westburyc@sbglobal.net**

Make sure to include your address

Westbury Civic Club Dues	\$60	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$300	\$
Subtotal	\$360	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Total		\$

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

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.

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 \$180 is \$360/yr
- 3 payments of \$120 is \$360/yr
- 4 payments of \$90 is \$360/yr

ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1 & 2

Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments. These assessments may be adjusted by the most recently published annual percentage change for US Urban Wage Earners, US City Average, in accordance to the deed restrictions.

The 2021 Mandatory Assessments of \$250.90 *Due Date Extension-4/1/21 due to mailing issues.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Weather Wary in Westbury

Does rain make you nervous? Are you unsure on the weather forecasts? Does listening to the news weather reports make you panic? You are not alone. Houston weather over the past couple years has made us all very wary, if not scared, of storms.



Houston gets rain. The trick is to know where and how much. There are many good websites and apps available that can help guide you before rain events or during them. One good piece of advice is to look for warnings and alerts from the actual source, for example the National Hurricane Center. This is not a complete list but just one meant to help guide you and add to your storm preparations.

Harris County Flood Warning System

www.harriscountyfws.org

This website is extremely helpful **during** a rain event. It shows real time bayou levels and rainfall amounts at gages that have been installed along the bayous. **Gage 445** is located in Westbury on the Willow Waterhole Bayou at the Landsdowne bridge. Gage 440 is located on Brays Bayou at S. Rice. A new tool just introduced is the ability to sign up for Flood Alerts by gage. Another tool available on the website is a Flood Inundation real time map that can help residents make critical decisions regarding life and property during events. If you are ever curious about the rainfall amounts and rate, you can also look up historical data.

National Hurricane Center

www.nhc.noaa.gov

If there is a chance of a named storm or there is a current named storm, the National Hurricane Center is your go-to source. During an active named storm, there will be multiple updates issued along with many different maps. These include the wind probability, the storm track cone, storm surge, tides, and many more.

Hype-free Weather Forecast

www.spacecityweather.com

This website is dedicated to covering Houston weather news and forecasting with accuracy and without hype. Space City Weather was founded in October 2015. This website isn't about making money or getting "hits", it is truly about providing residents and business owners a quality forecast to make informed decisions. Eric Berger and Matt Lanza provide the best forecast for Houston weather. You can also follow them on Facebook.

Be Alert. Be Weather Smart.

Sign Up for Power Outage Alerts

A helpful alert service about Centerpoint power outages is Power Alert Service (PAS) which can notify you, friends and family of a power outage, its restoration progress, and when the electricity comes back on.

Thanks to upgrades, you can send alerts to up to five texts, five emails and five phone numbers.

<https://www.centerpointenergy.com>

Do You Have Flood Insurance?

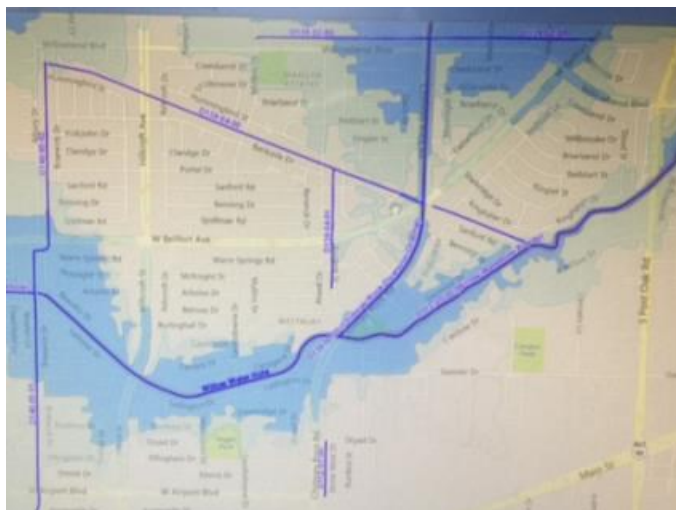
While the majority of Westbury is not in the 100 or 500 year flood plains, floods can happen anywhere given the right circumstances. Only 15% of the structures that flooded during Harvey had flood insurance. Did you know the record for rainfall in a 24-hour period is held in nearby Alvin, Texas? 44 inches! The good news is that, if you are not in a flood plain, then you can buy peace of mind for just a few hundred dollars a year.

The Harris County Flood Control District advises that EVERY HOME in Harris County should have flood insurance, whether or not you live in a mapped flood plain. The current flood plain maps do not fully warn where flooding might occur. Homeowner's policies do not include flood coverage, and, because no insurance company wanted to write an unprofitable line of business, the federal government stepped in. In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners.

As you shop for a flood policy, you may be confused, as many are, about whether the policy is through FEMA or an insurance company. In 1983, the Write Your Own (WYO) Program began and is a cooperative undertaking between the private insurance industry and FEMA. The WYO Program allows participating property and casualty insurance companies to write and service the Standard Flood Insurance Policy in their own names. The companies receive an expense allowance (approx. 30% of premium) for policies written and claims processed, while the federal government retains responsibility for underwriting losses. The WYO Program operates as part of the NFIP and is subject to its rules and regulations.

If you don't have flood insurance, ask your insurance agent for a quote. Make sure that you check the coverages and understand EXACTLY what you are purchasing. If you don't have an insurance agent, then look for one online at the FEMA site. Put in your address and it will give you a local agent. <https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance-provider>

PLEASE NOTE— You cannot purchase flood insurance when a named storm is in the Gulf of Mexico. Once purchased, there is a 30 day waiting period before coverage takes effect.



Flood plains in Westbury. Blue is 100 Year Flood Plain and light green is 500 Year Flood Plain

Sign Up for Alerts from The City



Sometimes it is easy to become complacent with weather alerts, but emails, texts, and phone calls sent from the City Alert System can be extremely helpful. If you haven't signed up to receive City alerts, you may do so with AlertHouston. Timely information during emergencies is important. AlertHouston delivers critical information to Houston residents regarding current conditions, expected impacts, and protective actions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

These alerts are issued by City of Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Messages are issued for citywide and neighborhood level emergencies. They are sent through email and social media (Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor). You must opt-in to receive these alerts.

More information is available at www.houstonemergency.org/alerts/

Register for emergency alerts through email, text message, voice call, or mobile app push notification. You may download the Everbridge app free of charge from the Apple or Android app store. Most alerts are geo-targeted; subscribers with loved ones around the city may register up to five physical addresses per contact record.

When it Rains in Houston

If you would like to understand Houston's flooding problem, there is a 15 minute film produced back in 1979 that is as timely today as it was 41 years ago. The film is part of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image.



This film, narrated by actor Carle Bensen, presents Houstonians with a comprehensive look at their city's flood control infrastructure, put in place to deal with the heavy rains typical to the area. Due to natural factors such as a flat, low-lying topography and high clay content in the soil, as well as rapid urbanization, Houston has a history of flooding, and flood control projects, dating back as far as 1908. The film educates viewers about flood control systems in place, discussing strengths and weaknesses of the flood drain, storm sewer, bayou, channel, and pond system. It also recounts the physical and economic damage caused by flooding in the 1970s, the consequence of failure to continue to implement flood control improvements. In the end, the film is a plea to get back to the plan, urging the public to take action by voting on bond and tax allocations for drainage projects, and contacting their public officials to support the issues. Part of the TAMI library via the Patrick S. Coakley, Jr. Collection.

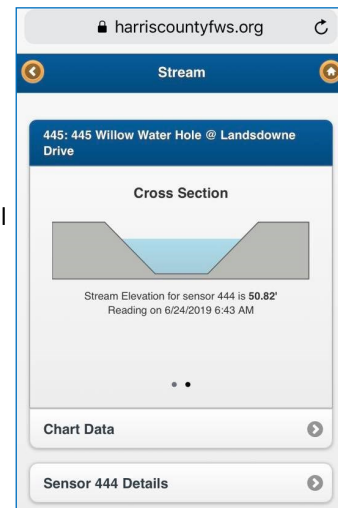
The film is available at http://www.texasarchive.org/library/index.php?title=When_it_Rains&p=video1&b=0.

Sign up for Flood Gage Warning Alerts

The regional Flood Warning System measures rainfall and monitors water levels in bayous, creeks, and rivers on a real-time basis to inform area residents of potential flooding conditions. This system relies on a network of 250 gage stations that have been strategically placed throughout a Harris and surrounding counties. Westbury has one of these gages located on the Willow Waterhole Bayou (#445). This information is available at www.harriscountyfws.org.

You can now sign up for alerts on a specific gages near your home or work. You can receive default rainfall and water level alerts or create custom water alerts.

The Willow Waterhole Bayou at Landsdowne rises quickly and it's imperative for surrounding homeowners to know what is happening. It is important to remember that this gage will likely stay at a certain level (approximately 51-52ft) when flood waters are going over the weirs downstream at the Willow Waterhole detention basins.



Alert received on June 24

Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) Gages

#445 – WWB at Landsdowne (Westbury)
#435 – WWB at Willowbend

Brays Bayou (BB) Gages

#440 – BB at Rice Ave.
#460 – BB at S. Gessner
#465 – BB at Beltway 8



Westbury Flood Gage Explained

Westbury has a flood gage located on the Willow Waterhole Bayou at Landsdowne (gage 445). The gage can be accessed here, <https://www.harriscountyfws.org/GageDetail/Index/445>.

Once the Willow Waterhole Bayou reaches a certain level, the water will overflow the weirs into the basins at the Willow Waterhole complex. The Westbury flood gage (which is upstream of the basins) will read steady at this point, typically around 51.2-51.5ft. It is also at this same level, that the flood control system will show that flooding is possible in Westbury and the news will start reporting it as such. While this is technically true and flooding can happen anywhere, it is important to remember that we have the basins downstream. Watch the gage levels to really know. If the gage holds steady, it is likely water is flowing into the basins not homes. If the gage were to start rising again, flooding would be very likely in Westbury homes. The unknown factor is how full the basins are or will get once it starts raining. There is no gage or camera at the basins.

The gage in Westbury is set to only update when there is a change in water level. If we are in the middle of a rain event and the gage stops updating, while at a level of 51.2-51.5ft, it is likely the water is overflowing the weirs downstream.

Hurricane Preparation Tips

No one likes to hear that there is a possible direct hit of a major hurricane coming, but it is the reality of living so close to the coast. Knowing what to do and having a plan is extremely helpful. There is a chance every year that our storm will come, we just hope not. If a major hurricane is predicted to hit Houston, you need to prepare for the wind and rain during the storm itself and for the aftermath of no power for 2-3 weeks.

Should I stay or should I go now? The first decision ultimately is when to stay and at what point, if ever, do you leave. A longtime hurricane saying is "run from the surge, hide from the wind". If you are medically dependent on electricity and do not have a generator, you need to have a plan for a place to stay during and after the storm. Most residents can stay in their Westbury homes during a major hurricane. You hunker down and prepare for the wind (discussed to the right). Houston residents do not need to be on the roadways as those will be needed for coastal evacuations. The question is: do you stay in your home with no power after the storm, or do you leave town at that point? This decision will help with how you plan for buying food, water, gas, charcoal, etc. Some needs are for the storm itself and others are for the aftermath of no electricity for weeks.

The two lists on this page were created by Westbury residents and are meant to be a helpful guide. There are official hurricane prep lists available on all the major news channels websites, which are also helpful tools to help plan. Be prepared and be safe.



Immediate Hurricane Preparation Tips

(This would ideally be done over several days leading up to landfall).

- Fill all vehicles with gas.
- Buy gas for your generator if you have one. Fill up any extra tanks.
- Get extra cash.
- Make sure to have at least 2 weeks worth of all medicines. Get prescriptions filled if needed.
- Secure all items outside that can blow in the wind. Move patio furniture inside garage. Move potted plants to secure location. Secure or place your grills inside.
- Don't forget the kids items. Take off swings from swing set. Flip, disassemble, secure trampolines as they can fly. Lay basketball goals down on sides. Move all toys and bikes inside.
- Move your trash cans to your garage or secure them very well to a tree or post. Duct tape the lids shut.
- For major storms, put plywood over your windows. It is not recommended to tape your windows, as this can cause more dangerous shards of glass than if it were to break naturally.
- Freeze bottles of water to make ice that will extend life of your freezer or refrigerator. Make as many as possible as they can be used in an ice chest as well.
- Have flashlights and batteries. Buy extra batteries if needed. Having a battery operated lantern for main room or head flashlights for each person are handy. Kids might enjoy glow sticks.
- Have candles or oil lamps ready
- Get matches or lighters for candles, grill, or your gas stove.
- Have a battery operated radio so you can listen to alerts. Some new models have charging ports and special NOAA channel.
- Buy at least one week's worth of non-perishable foods. Suggested items include peanut butter crackers, bread, muffins, fruit with longer shelf life such as apples and oranges, snack bars, granola, beef jerky, trail mixes, applesauce, fruit cups and canned goods.
- Ensure you have enough pet food and supplies such as kitty litter for at least 2 weeks.
- Buy charcoal or propane for your grill so you can cook outside if power goes out.
- Get extra water. (And wine!)
- Charge all devices and keep fully charged until power goes out. You can sit in your car later for some AC and charge your phone.
- Do all laundry. Wash sheets. Start with clean slate to minimize problems with heat and sweat.
- Wash all dishes.
- Fill bathtub or large buckets with water. If there is no City water available, you can use the stored water in your toilet to flush.
- Have a secure place in your house already planned and ready with a blanket and pillow and radio/phone. Ideally away from any windows. In many Westbury homes, that is likely your hallway, even if it has no doors, you can shut the individual bedroom doors that have windows so hallway is more secure.
- If you have kids, have them help with preparations and explain why you are preparing. It helps with anxiety to have a plan and be a part of it. Have them grab a book and a lovey if they have one.
- Clean storm drains and gutters in front of your home.



Long-term Hurricane Preparation Tips

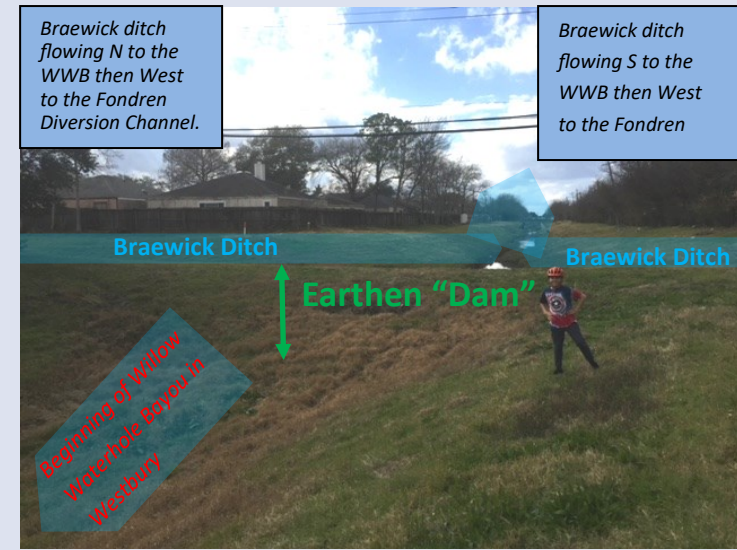
- ➔ Keep your trees trimmed. Wind is the biggest threat to Westbury in a major hurricane. Keeping your branches off your home, garage, fences, and power line is important.
- ➔ Buy a portable gas generator. It is easy to get a generator when there isn't a storm aimed straight at us. They quickly become hot items. Plan ahead.
- ➔ Measure your windows and have plywood stored in the garage to place over your windows when needed. Some new windows are hurricane strength but the original Westbury home windows are not.
- ➔ Make a hurricane prep box containing flashlights, batteries, battery operated radio, candle, lighters, matches, etc., so it's already on hand.
- ➔ Save a stash of empty water bottles to fill up for your freezer to make ice or cold water.
- ➔ Copy important documents, place in sealable plastic bag, ready to take with you quickly.

Where is the “Dam” in Westbury?

The “dam” in the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) is often mentioned in Crier articles when we discuss flooding. It cannot be seen from the road and is often envisioned incorrectly. The dam is an earthen structure that looks more like a big hill of grass. After the floods in 1975, the WCC Flood Action Committee had several proposals for an upcoming bond. One of them was to “install a barrier to the flow in the Willow Waterhole Bayou Channel immediately east of the Fondren Ditch to prevent floods in Westbury from rainstorms in Fort Bend County and Western Harris County”. (Westbury Crier, August 1975, President John C. Severance).

Sometime in the early 1980s, the Willow Waterhole Bayou was dammed to separate Westbury from the Fondren water. This dam was funded through a County bond election in 1982. The earthen dam is located on the edge of Westbury behind Beaudry/Braewick and Lattimer/Braewick homes. It is the “beginning” of the WWB. While the earthen structure holds water back during an average rain storm, during heavy rains such as Memorial Day and Harvey, the dam is overtopped with water flowing from the Braewick ditches and the other side of the WWB coming from the Fondren area and the Fondren Diversion Channel, which sit at a higher elevation than Westbury. The developers of the Fondren area tinkered mightily with the natural flow of WWB, which once meandered lazily through Western Harris County and in Ft. Bend County. Now there are narrow channels with 90 degree turns upstream of Westbury and this small “dam” at the entrance of the WWB into Westbury.

The Westbury Civic Club strongly believes that the “dam” is outdated and in need of repairs. HCFCD recently announced that they are studying mitigation needed for moving the dam further west. Stay tuned to future *Westbury Criers* for more information.



HCFCD Updates

Gary Zika with Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) spoke at the May Westbury Civic Club Board meeting. He provided updates on several different projects in Westbury and surrounding areas.

Westbury Area Work—

- ◆ Westbury Dam— HCFCD is currently evaluating the earthen dam at the western boundary of Westbury along Willow Waterhole Bayou: Can it be moved farther west? If so, what mitigation needs to be implemented to offset the change? Read more about the dam in the box to the left.
- ◆ Fondren Diversion Channel (the big ditch that is between Sandpiper and Fondren) - HCFCD is starting this bond project. Scope of work is being developed and the Project Manager has been named.
- ◆ HCFCD Home Buyouts in Westbury— HCFCD has bought 6 properties in Westbury along the Willow Waterhole bayou. These homes were purchased to allow future city street drainage projects to be constructed. In the future, these lots will be transferred to the City when the City is ready to do street replacement and drainage projects. In the meantime, the houses on those lots have been demolished and small swales have been dug to hold or move water. The city is responsible to move water from city storm drains to the bayou. When Westbury homes were developed, those underground drains to the bayou were placed between house lots or sometimes underneath a garage. The existing placement of those drain lines has made it hard to make repairs or improvements.

Brays Bayou Bridge Modifications—

The current north and south bound bridges for both Chimney Rock and S. Rice at Brays Bayou are being rebuilt. The double bridges at each of those locations will be replaced with a single bridge that will be higher, longer, and wider. This will increase the channel's stormwater carrying capacity, allowing for more flood waters to flow at the bridge locations.

The new bridge is being built in between the existing north and south bridges. The existing bridges will remain open to traffic during the construction period, but with limited lanes. North and South Braeswood are also reduced to one lane in each direction. Estimated time of completion for both bridges is the first Quarter of 2022.



Drawing of new Chimney Rock bridge





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WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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Westbury Area Patrol
281-463-6666
SW HPD Station
832-394-0400
HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131



Vacation Watch

Going on a trip? Visiting family? If you pay your Westbury Area Patrol dues, make sure you request a vacation watch by the Constables. This is a great service that is included in our contract. A deputy will check out your property at least once a day to make sure it is secured and nothing suspicious going on.

You can register for a vacation watch online at <https://constablepct5.com> or by calling 281-463-6666 and requesting a deputy come by your house.

Mail Thefts

It has come to our attention from multiple sources that there is now a new check fraud threat: check washing.

Recently, a Westbury resident dropped several bill payments into the outside mail box at the Post Office on Chimney Rock. The envelopes were intercepted by thieves who took the checks, changed the payee name, and remotely deposited the checks. During this same time period, we were made aware of another victim in an entirely different area of the city. The thieves changed not only the payee, but the amount of the check. Depositing these checks into accounts by using just a picture of the check allows them to be processed without close inspection.

Please be careful how you post your mail as well as where you post your mail. The USPS recommends: Deposit mail before the last pickup, so it is not left in the box overnight. Retrieve mail frequently. Never leave your mail in your mailbox overnight. Hold mail at the Post Office. If you are going on vacation, have your mail held or have it picked up by a friend. Also, consider taking your outgoing mail (bill payments) INTO the post office rather than using the mailboxes outside.

Tips to Help Stop Catalytic Converter Thefts

Investigators in the Houston Police Department Auto Theft Division are warning motorists to be aware of a rising national crime that has also hit Houston: catalytic converter thefts. Thefts of the converters in the city so far in 2021 have increased by 300% compared to the same time period last year. The converters contain precious metals and can be stolen from a vehicle in less than two minutes.

While any vehicle with a catalytic converter is susceptible, there are six models of vehicles most often targeted:

Toyota Tundra, Toyota Prius, Toyota Tacoma, Ford F-250, Honda Element and Honda CRV

Auto Theft Division Sergeant Tracy Hicks says there is no favored time for the thieves to target the vehicles. "Thefts are happening day and night, but most seem to happen during the day in crowded parking lots with lots of noise to cover up the noise of removal of the converters," said Sergeant Hicks.

Victims are shocked when told the cost of replacing a stolen converter. Repairs can cost anywhere from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for some vehicles, some of which have as many as four catalytic converters. Due to the rise in converter thefts across the country, back order on these parts can be more than three months.

Residents are urged to follow some prevention tips to help lessen chances of becoming the next in a long line of property crime victims.

- *Park in well lighted areas.
- *Use your garage
- *Etch your VIN or license plate into your converters
- *Bright high temp paint (lets police know converter has been marked)
- *Install a skid plate or large cover to the bottom of your vehicle
- *Upgrade car alarms to activate when the vehicle is jacked up on one side
- *Aftermarket products like straps or wire cages that make it much more difficult for your converter to be cut off

Sergeant Hicks says vehicle owners can follow three steps to protect themselves:

Etch it – Paint it – Cover it.

Watch Sergeant Hicks discuss and demonstrate some of these tips on the HPD YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTaS4lOpWw>

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Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood

April 26, 2021—May 21, 2021

Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W
5200	Briarbend	Drugs, Narcotics	5/8	6PM	Westbury 1
5700	Capello	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	5/5	5PM	Westbury 3
10900	Cedarhurst	Burglary, Breaking and Entering	5/10	7AM	Westbury 2
12100	Chimney Rock	Theft from Motor Vehicle	5/2	3PM	Westbury 4
5800	Ettrick	DUI	5/14	10PM	Westbury 4
5700	Farwell	Simple Assault	5/12	5AM	Westbury South
5600	Greencraig	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	5/1	8PM	Westbury South
11000	Hillcroft	Theft—other	5/12	11AM	Westbury 5
12200	Hillcroft	Simple Assault	5/6	2PM	Westbury 4
5200	Kingfisher	Simple Assault	5/19	11PM	Westbury 1
5600	Ludington	Burglary, Breaking and Entering	5/2	4AM	Westbury 4
11400	Mullins	Simple Assault	4/28	4PM	Westbury 3
12300	Nesmith	Simple Assault	5/3	10PM	Westbury South
5700	Sanford	Simple Assault	5/15	5PM	Parkwest 2
5200	Spellman	Simple Assault	5/5	5AM	Westbury 3
5500	Warm Springs	Burglary, Breaking and Entering	5/18	3PM	Westbury 3
5800	W. Belfort	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	4/28	4PM	Westbury 3
5700	Willowbend	Burglary, Breaking and Entering	5/7	7PM	Parkwest 2

KEY

- Theft from Motor Vehicle
- Auto Theft
- Property Crime
- Burglary
- Assault, Simple or aggravated
- Robbery

The crimes listed took place between April 26, 2021 and May 21, 2021.

They are in alphabetical order by street.

The crimes are highlighted by type. Please see key above.

Crime Type	Homes	Apts./TH	Comm./Business	Park/Public
Aggravated Assault	0	6	0	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1	3	3	2
Burglary, Breaking & Entering	4	3	3	0
Robbery	0	1	3	0
Simple Assault	7	16	2	1
Shoplifting	0	0	11	0
Drugs, Narcotics	1	0	0	1
Vandalism, Damage	1	5	3	0
Auto Theft	0	3	0	0
Theft from a Building	0	0	0	0
Theft of Vehicle Parts	2	1	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	1	1	1
Theft—Other	1	1	0	0
DUI	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	18	40	26	7

**Pct. 5 Constable Dispatch
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281-463-6666**

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713-884-3131**



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Prevent Sewer Lines from Clogging Up

As a reminder, the City Public Works Department advises that only 3 items should be flushed down your toilets: Pee, Poo, or Toilet paper. Nothing else. Do NOT flush wipes, even if they say flushable.

Tips for your drains—

- * Use a sink strainer to prevent food scraps, hair, and other items from going down the drain.
- * Use a paper towel to wipe grease from pots, pans, plates, and utensils before washing. Throw the paper towel in the trash.
- * Pour grease into a disposable container, cool it, then toss it into the household trash (black bin)

Local Neighborhood News

Recognize Your Neighbor in the Crier

The Westbury Civic Club recently received a suggestion from a long-time Westbury resident to create a column for neighbors to submit “kudos” to or about their neighbors. Thank you, Vera, for this great idea! New to the Crier is a new monthly column, My Good Neighbor! Send us your stories about your awesome neighbors.

My Good Neighbor

Kudos to Martha Severance

“My neighbor, Martha, loves gardening. She exhibits a quality fine people have— to show concern for the outside of your house that reflects the same concern for cleanliness and quality of the inside. Martha is also a true Texan. She is friendly to all neighbors— a quality much lacking in these horrible times where we hear gunshots as much as we hear a ‘Howdy, How are you?’ greeting. I nominate my neighbor Martha Severance – By Vera Balog

Kudos to YOUR NEIGHBOR’S NAME HERE

Submit a short statement to the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net about your awesome neighbors. We will share up to 3 a month in the Westbury Crier.

Meyerland Middle School Wins 1st Place in Statewide Competition

Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts (MPVA) Middle School’s advanced theater group was awarded first place at the District UIL One Act Play competition over the weekend for their company performance of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night.”

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) One Act Play contest is the single largest theatrical event in the world. Each year, more than 1200 plays compete in the high school tournament and hundreds more compete on the middle school level throughout the State of Texas. Each school has 7 minutes to assemble their set and props onstage, 40 minutes to perform their play, and 7 minutes to strike everything from the stage.

Individual members of the MPVA company also took home awards:

Best Performer-Eliran Masti (Christopher)
All Star Cast- Aryana Green (Judy)
All Star Cast Honorable Mention- Alice Wilson (Siobhan)

Awards to other HISD middle schools include: 2nd Place and Best Overall Crew Recipient, Pin Oak Middle School (Wiley and the Hairyman), and 3rd Place Pershing Middle School (The Crucible).

Class of 1971 Bellaire HS Reunion

The Bellaire High School Class of '71 announces its 50 Year Reunion, October 15-17, 2021! Festivities will include a Friday night Meet and Greet at the Cadillac Bar and Grill, a tour of the new Bellaire High School on Saturday morning, and then, a wonderful time Saturday night at the Westin Oaks! On Sunday, a Survivors Brunch will be held at Jax Bar and Grill, Shepherd location. For information, ticket registration and purchase, please visit our site at bellaire71.com

Looking Back: Westbury History Tiger in Westbury

Houston recently made the national news with the story of India, a tiger that was walking around loose in a residential neighborhood. Did you know that Westbury has made the news for a tiger and even a lion in a home?



In 2002, Westbury made the news with a tiger in the backyard of a home in Westbury South. The article is still available on the Houston Chronicle website and is definitely worth the read. A child playing in a backyard heard a tiger roar and peeked through the fence to see a tiger staring back at her. At that time, Houston had just revised its ordinance against owning such animals, and the Westbury tiger was the first time that ordinance was used to impound the tiger and fine the owner. The Westbury tiger was relocated.

The Company OnStage is Back Summer Camp and Shows

This summer, the Company OnStage is excited to bring back their popular summer camp and summer performances.

Summer camp is offered the weeks of July 19 and July 26. Campers will work together to create an original 10-15 minute play to perform at the end of the week. Camp is designed for elementary age children. For more information, visit www.companyonstage.org.



2021 Summer Performances

Evening— Fridays and Saturdays, 8PM
Children's Performances— Saturday - 11AM & 1:30
Sunday - 2PM
The Secret Garden—May 22 - June 19, 2021
Love Letters—July 9-31, 2021
Love, Loss and, What I Wore—July 10-30, 2021

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May Yard of the Month



Westbury 1

5251 Kingfisher
Parker and Katherine
Osterhaus



5251 Kingfisher—Westbury 1 Winner

Westbury 2

11118 Cedarhurst
Sherrie and Steven Gilbert

Westbury 3

5827 McKnight
Jerome and Patricia Kramer

Westbury 4

5602 Effingham
Eva Ortega

Westbury 5

10723 Braewick
Brent and Jill Flegel



5903 Belrose — Parkwest 3 Winner

Parkwest 1

5522 Bankside
Derek Myers

Parkwest 3

5903 Belrose
Wells and Courtney Brown



10723 Braewick — Westbury 5 Winner

*Nominate your home
or a neighbor's home
for Yard of the Month,
email*

westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

Confirmed LOCAL Cases of COVID-19

(data from publichealthharriscountytx.gov)

	77035	77096	Houston
4/23/20	54	59	2,975
5/21/20	108	85	6,188
6/24/20	334	183	16,253
7/27/20	748	492	45,145
8/26/20	1,102	700	62,097
9/26/20	1,255	817	72,684
10/26/20	1,360	894	82,999
11/23/20	1,504	1,026	93,988
12/20/20	1,779	1,240	110,445
1/26/21	2,238	1,659	150,091
2/23/21	2,613	1,943	170,667
3/29/21	2,752	2,069	182,440
4/25/21	2,837	2,126	189,585
5/19/21	2,863	2,152	192,238

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Local Girl Scouts Add Wildflower Garden to Westbury Trail near Oasis

Troop 147151 created a wildflower garden for their Bronze Award project. The garden is located along the bayou trail near Oasis Dr. and contains mostly native wildflowers. Thank you!



Left to Right: Co-Leader Chrissy Pichot, Brooklyn Fontenot, Zahnari Woods, Sierra Pichot, Sabrina Sen-Roy, Lily Cowart, Sara Wilson, Co-Leader Lindsey Sen-Roy, and Tallulah Oneal

City Nature Challenge 2021 Results Houston is a WINNER

The City Nature Challenge is an annual 4-day competition between cities in Texas, the USA, and internationally to record information about wildlife in your own community. The goal is to engage the public to collect data about as many different species of plants, animals, and other organisms as possible in that 4-day period. Cities compete in 3 categories: Most Observations, Most Species, and Most People Involved. The competition started between Los Angeles and San Francisco in 2016 and it has now expanded globally to more than 400 cities.

We are very pleased to announce that the Houston-Galveston area did GREAT! We posted information about the competition on the Westbury Civic Club Facebook page and encouraged Westbury residents to participate by recording nature observations (photos) using the free iNaturalist app or website. Here are the final results for the Houston-Galveston area, among 419 cities across the world:

- #Observers in Texas – #1 with 1,190 Observers
- #Species Observed in Texas – #1 with 3,707 Species
- #Species Observed in the USA – #1 with 3,707 Species
- #Species Observed around the world – #3 with 3,707 Species

Westbury Naturalist Corner Yellow Crowned Night Herons

Yellow crowned night herons are once again nesting in Westbury trees this spring. With our shallow neighborhood ditches and the Willow Waterhole Bayou nearby, our large mature tree canopy makes a perfect nesting place as they prefer to nest 30 to 40 feet above the ground. The nest, a platform of sticks with a slight hollow in the center, can measure more than 4 feet across. The male and female build it together as part of their pair bonding. Initially, the male carries sticks to the female, who begins the nest. Later, both gather and place materials on the nest. The building process averages about 10 days.



Juvenile yellow crowned night heron

They will lay 3-5 eggs that incubate in 24-25 days. Once the juveniles have fledged, in about their sixth to eighth week, you may see them in your yard or around your swimming pool. They look slightly prehistoric with red eyes and streaky brown feathers.

The herons slowly stalk prey in or near shallow water, usually alone, with a hunched, forward-leaning posture at all hours of the day or night. After a good rain you might find them in your yard. The majority of their prey is crustaceans, especially crawfish.

If you are lucky enough to live near one of the nesting pairs, enjoy this spectacle of nature right here in the Wilds of Westbury!

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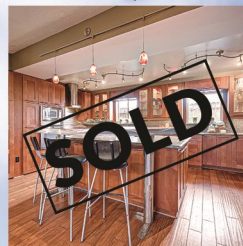
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Tribute Grove in Westbury

Trees for Houston chose the Willow Waterhole Greenway for the planting of tribute groves; these are trees planted to honor a loved one. On April 17th, they added another grove of 55 trees at Westbury Lake near Gasmer. This is the tenth tribute grove planted by Trees for Houston. One of the families who honored their daughter with a tree came to the Greenway for a ceremony and the planting. If you are interested in honoring a loved one with a tribute tree, here is the link to TFH's website.



<https://www.treesforhouston.org/tree-dedications>

Working on Westbury @ Willow Waterhole

WOW Workday — Litter Pick-up

Come join us at the Willow Waterhole for another workday at Westbury Lake on Saturday, June 12, 9-11AM. The WAIC, along with the WCC, is hosting monthly regular workdays in Westbury greenspaces. This workday will again focus on litter pick-up at Westbury Lake. The WAIC will provide trash bags and grabbers. You must wear gloves and a mask.

What: Working on Westbury (WOW) Workday

When: Saturday, June 12, 9-11AM

Where: Westbury Lake—meet at the gazebo, 5300 Dryad



Volunteers picked up litter at the Willow Waterhole in January 2021



OCTOBER 30 | SATURDAY 11AM - 7PM | FREE

willowwaterhole.org/musicfest

Audubon Bird Survey is BACK!

Saturday, June 19, 7AM

Meet at the Gathering Place, 5310 S. Willow, to help survey the many types of birds located in the Willow Waterhole Greenway. The 2-hour bird count usually ranges from 30 species in the summer to over 50 in the winter.

The Audubon Bird Survey did not meet for 13 months due to COVID. April 2021 was their first month back in person.

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Community Garden News

The Westbury Pocket Prairie at the garden is full of native spring and summer blooms. In mid-May there were lots of milkweeds and prairie parsley in bloom. A Scout from St. Thomas More Troop 99 is planning to build an Observation Bench for the prairie area.



Sunflower maze

The Sunflower Maze is in progress. The maze is being funded through a grant from Orowheat Company. The field has been prepared and the design grid was laid out by volunteers. The maze will be planted with sunflowers and other flowers. Look in future Crier's in the Fall for fun ways to use this space.



Apiary Team

The Apiary Team is active and has helped remove and re-locate bee swarms from unwelcome locations in the neighborhood.

Are you interested in assisting the garden? The garden continues to seek grants to implement projects or to defray costs, for example, to remediate the orchard damaged by Winter Storm Uri, to put a mural on a shed that replaced an old shed, or to implement projects from the Garden Master Plan. If you are looking for a site for a Scout project or a group or individual volunteer project, then the garden might be your place!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.
~~Margaret Mead

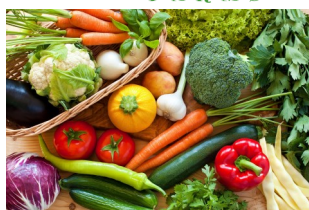
New Farm Stand at Westbury Community Garden

Plant it Forward Farms will be operating a new weekly Farm Stand in Westbury! Take the opportunity to purchase fresh produce from your local neighborhood farmer, Farmer Sarment.

Sundays— 11AM-3PM

Farmer Sarment offers freshly harvested produce as well as harvested-to-order service!

<https://plantitforward.farm/purchaseourproduce/#farmstand>



WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

12581 Dunlap (77035) is off Hillcroft between W. Airport and South Main. Heading south on Hillcroft, turn right onto Greencraig, follow it around the bend where it turns into Dunlap. The large blue roof on the WCG Pavilion is readily visible. Street parking.



Like "Westbury Community Garden Houston" on Facebook

Visitors are welcome to drop by the Westbury Community Garde, BUT please remember to only LOOK. Do not pick fruits, vegetables, herbs or flowers that are being grown at the garden.

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2021 Dues Fundraiser

Tues., June 15, 5-6PM

Pay your 2021 WCC and WAP in full and receive this Westbury sticker!

Come by and say hi to the WCC Board!
Ask Questions!



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