



# Westbury Crier

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 7

JULY 2017

## STAY SAFE WESTBURY!

Mark your calendars for the Westbury Civic Club Home, Property & Personal Security Series.

Crime has increased during the summer months in our surrounding areas. It became serious enough in nearby Greater Meyerland Area that both the Mayor and Police Chief came to discuss their crime fighting plans. (see Page 15) Here in Westbury there have been a few home break-ins.

### What can you do to make Westbury safer?

Attend two informative meetings hosted by the Westbury Civic Club.

## PERSONAL & HOME SECURITY

**Tues., July 25, 7-8:30 PM**

Westbury Baptist Church, Room C109

Presentation by **Lt. Mitch Hutter**, Community Relations, Harris County Pct. 5 Constable's Office

## SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER DEFENSE TRAINING

**Wed., August 9, 7-8:30 PM**

Westbury Baptist Church, Room C109

Presentation by **Stephen Daniel**, Senior Community Liaison, Houston Police Department



Check out pages 14 and 15 for more Crime & Security information including more meeting information, crime stats, phone numbers, and info from City officials about recent crime in Meyerland area.

## Shop with Amazon?

Use smile.amazon.com each time you shop and choose the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) as your non-profit to support. Shop and give!

See page 13 for more info.



## 2018 WCC BOARD NOMINATIONS AUGUST 10 DEADLINE

Elections for the 2018 WCC Board of Directors will be conducted in

September at the Annual Meeting. **All nominations must be received before 4PM on the second Thursday of August, which is August 10, 2017, the deadline specified in our bylaws.** Come join a great group of volunteers who strive to keep our neighborhood a great place to call home!



Please express your interest in running for the board of the Westbury Civic Club by letter or by email. If you send email, please use subject line of WCC 2018 Elections. Send email to westburycc@sbcglobal.net. The mailing address is our physical address of 5322 W Bellfort, Suite 100, Houston TX. 77035.



All board members must be a listed Owner of Record for a property with Westbury, Parkwest or Westbury South.



Section Directors must be a listed Owner of Record of home that is in the section they wish to represent.



Candidates must submit interest to serve on the board by the deadline and must include the following statement filled out. "My name is \_\_\_\_ and I declare that I am eligible to be a Director or Officer of the Westbury Civic Club. I am the listed Owner of Record for \_\_\_\_ (street address of home)."



Candidates may submit a statement, not to exceed 100 words in length, when submitting their nomination for office.



The deadline is August 10 by 4PM. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 713-723-5437

## WCC Office Summer Hours

**Tuesday—Thursday:**

**10AM-1PM\***

**Friday: Closed**

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

5322 W. Bellfort # 100  
Houston, TX 77035



## HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE

**July—TREE WASTE ONLY**

➡ Thursday, July 13

**August —JUNK WASTE**

➡ Thursday, August 10

**Sept. —TREE WASTE ONLY**

➡ Thursday, Sept. 14

DO NOT PLACE TRASH ON CURB UNTIL WEEKEND BEFORE HEAVY TRASH DAY

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

## WCC OFFICE \*NEW ADDRESS

5322 W. Bellfort #100, 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

Tuesday - Thursday (Summer).....10AM-1PM

Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Telephone.....713-723-5437

Email.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Deed Restrictions.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Visit our website at [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com)

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## 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 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

## 2017 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If no contact information is provided, contact the WCC Office at [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net) or 713-723-5437

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Becky Edmondson

[wccpresident@westburycrier.com](mailto:wccpresident@westburycrier.com) or 713-443-3951

Vice President.....Marcia Hartman

Secretary.....Dan Vega

Treasurer.....VACANT

## DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Communications.....VACANT

Community Relations.....Cindy Chapman

[wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com](mailto:wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com)

Deed Restrictions.....Jennifer Edmondson

[westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net)

Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Donna Strom

Greenspace Beautification.....Mat Funk

Membership.....Jeff Benavides

Security.....J K O'Brien

Volunteer & Event Coordinator .....Robert Montgomery

[rmontgomery002@comcast.net](mailto:rmontgomery002@comcast.net)

## SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1.....Nancy Stewart

Westbury 2.....VACANT

Westbury 3.....Tony Robert

Westbury 3.....Recy Dunn

Westbury 4.....Judy Overton

Westbury 4.....Eugene Sirls

Westbury 5.....Virginia Livingston

[Westbury5E@westburycrier.com](mailto:Westbury5E@westburycrier.com)

Westbury 5.....VACANT

Westbury South.....Sunny Davis

Parkwest 1.....William Grimsinger

Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss

[Jweiss@txchiro.edu](mailto:Jweiss@txchiro.edu)

Parkwest 3.....Joe Niles

[parkwest3@westburycrier.com](mailto:parkwest3@westburycrier.com)

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Published by.....Westbury Civic Club, Inc.

Editor-In-Chief..... Jennifer Edmondson

Edited by.....WCC Publication Committee

Advertising..... 713-723-5437/ [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net)

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## *A Message from the Westbury Civic Club President*

It is hard to believe that it is already July. Students have been out of school since the end of May. The Westbury Pool is in full gear, rainstorms permitting. The grass is growing so fast, I can almost hear it. As I take my evening stroll, I smell the fragrance of delicious barbecuing in the wind. I think to myself, it's wonderful to live in Westbury in the summer!

There are continued improvements happening at the Willow Waterhole. A special new tree has been planted near the Schwartz Gazebo thanks to Cub Pack 705 (Parker Elementary). Ten years ago this month, the first Willow Waterhole monthly bird surveys began. This was thanks to Westbury resident, Joy Hester, who was then president of the Houston Audubon Society. You can read more about this on page 21.

The Westbury Community Garden is a joy to see. So many plants are producing beautiful and delicious fruits and vegetables. Its gardeners have been working hard and the results are gratifying.

As we put together the July Crier, I always look through back issues of the current month. In 2016, the Westbury Community Garden was just beginning their Master Plan process. Now, a year later, it has been completed and printed and is an incredible compilation of all that the WCG can be. Cindy Chapman, Marcia Hartman and I recently attended an informational meeting about GO Neighborhoods and each of us was asked to tell a neighborhood story. I always tell

the garden's story and how we took seven acres of unused blight and turned into a community growing, special space in Westbury. I was reminded of how powerful and how far the garden reaches when I received a phone call from a former Special Education teacher from Westbury High School. When the garden was too difficult for his students to get to, the gardeners of the WCG built beds at WHS for him. He will now be working with these students who have since graduated, helping them to find work and things for them to do. He thought they would look for work, volunteer or paid, in the field of gardening due to their experience at school. What a wonderful unexpected outcome!

In 2015, we had just gotten the first Mini Mural painted in Houston on the traffic control boxes. And now, they are all over Houston. In 2014, a farm stand opened at the WCG and continues today. In 2013, the renovations of Westbury Park had just begun. And now The Butterfly Garden at the Westbury Park is thriving. So many wonderful things have been happening in Westbury.

Looking forward, a group of us hosted a tour for the Houston Park Board to show them all the great trail locations being advocated for by the Neighborhoods to Trails Southwest group. Maybe next year the Crier will be reporting the opening of our first trail. We have a long wish list of things we'd like to see: Improvements at Hager Park, trails, a linear park on Hillcroft, improvements at the Platou Center, and a new library with an HPD

storefront. On the November ballot will be a bond referendum for these types of items and we hope that at least a few of these things will be in the bond for Westbury. We have already given CM Larry Green our wish list.

April showers bring May flowers; June and July bring crime. The Westbury Security committee has been hard at work and there are two upcoming events you will want to attend. Staying safe is so important to all of us. **See something, Say something.** We have the Pct 5 constable program patrolling our streets everyday just waiting for your call. Get involved. Meet your neighbor; exchange phone numbers. Last month you may have read about the Westbury 1 neighbors who have been getting together twice a year for 17 years. I received a sad note from a Westbury resident who said no one spoke to her or cared about her. Please take the time to at least wave at your neighbor, holler at them across the street, and smile. I always say Westbury's best assets are her neighbors and our neighborliness!

Stay cool, stay safe, and enjoy this summer.

Becky Edmondson



### **Westbury Civic Club Board Notes June 2017**

- ⇒ The JUNE WCC meeting was cancelled due to Tropical Storm Cindy. Judge Ed Emmett has been rescheduled for our Annual Meeting on September 20.
- ⇒ Budget to date will be published in the August 2017 Crier.
- ⇒ The next WCC Board meeting is Wed., July 19 at 7PM
- ⇒ If you are interested in learning more about what the Westbury Civic Club does or you want to get involved, come to the next WCC meeting and meet the board!
- ⇒ The WCC board approved an email vote to SUPPORT changing the MTFP designation for Hillcroft in the regional transportation plans from 6 lane to 4 lane, from Willowbend to S. Main. For more info, see page 8.

### **NEXT WCC Board Meeting Wed., July 19, 7PM Westbury Baptist**



# Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 12PM—8PM; Fri 11AM-7PM  
Supervisor: Jayla Godbolt, 713-726-7107  
Email: Jayla.godbolt@houston.tx.gov

# Meyer Neighborhood Library

5005 W. Bellfort  
Phone: 832-393-1840 /  
www.houstonlibrary.org

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.

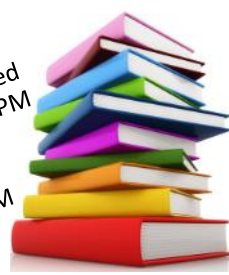
## Summer Enrichment Program

Youths, ages 6 through 13, can register for Summer Enrichment Program at [www.houstonparks.org](http://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 Platou Center at 713-726-7107 for info.

## LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday & Monday - Closed  
Tues. & Weds. 10AM-6PM  
Thursday 12PM-8PM  
Friday - 1PM-5PM  
Saturday - 10AM -5PM



## WEEKLY EVENTS JULY 2017

### Baby Playtime

**Tuesdays, 10:30am – 11:15am**  
Come for creative and collaborative play! For children ages 0-18 months.

### Toddler Storytime

**Wednesdays, 10:30am – 11:15am**  
Stories, songs, activities that will help develop toddler's social, motor, and literacy skills. Intended for ages 18-36 months.

### Preschool Playtime

**Wednesdays, 1:30pm – 2:15pm**  
Creative, collaborative play experience that will help prepare your child for school readiness. Intended for ages 3-5 years.

### Kids Craft Time

**Thursdays, 3:30pm**

## 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

## Westbury Pool

See dates, hours, and class info on page 6



10605 Mullins  
City of Houston Pool

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# What's Happening in Westbury

## Events/Meetings Calendar JULY 2017

|                        |  |                 |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Tues<br/>4</b>      | <b>Happy 4th of July</b>   |                 |
| <b>Sat.<br/>15</b>     | <b>Audubon Society Bird Survey</b><br>Meet at the Gathering Place parking lot<br>5310 S. Willow—see page 21 for more information   | <b>7AM</b>      |
| <b>Mon<br/>16</b>      | <b>Brays Bayou Association Meeting</b><br>The Gathering Place—5310 S Willow  | <b>7:30PM</b>   |
| <b>Wed<br/>19</b>      | <b>No July WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting</b>   |                 |
| <b>Wed.<br/>19</b>     | <b>Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting</b><br>Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft  | <b>7PM</b>      |
| <b>Thurs<br/>20</b>    | <b>Hearing on MTFP (Hillcroft Expansion Issue)</b><br>City Hall Annex, Council Chambers—900 Bagby Street,<br>Houston, Texas 77002  | <b>2:30PM</b>   |
| <b>Tues<br/>25</b>     | <b>Home &amp; Personal Security Meeting</b><br>Westbury Baptist—10425 Hillcroft, RM C109<br>Speaker—Lt. Mitch Hutter, Harris County Pct. 5<br>See page 1 and 14 for more information | <b>7-8:30PM</b> |
| <b>Tues<br/>25</b>     | <b>SW PIP (HPD Positive Interaction Program) Meeting</b><br>Aramco Building—9009 W Loop South  | <b>7PM</b>      |
| <b>August<br/>7-11</b> | <b>WCC Office Closed</b>   |                 |
| <b>August<br/>9</b>    | <b>Surviving an Active Shooter Meeting</b><br>Westbury Baptist—10425 Hillcroft, RM C109<br>Speaker—Stephen Daniel, HPD<br>See page 1 and 14 for more information                     | <b>7-8:30PM</b> |
| <b>August<br/>28</b>   | <b>First Day of School for HISD</b>  |                 |

### SUMMER 2017 WCC OFFICE HOURS

Starting May 30 thru July 15  
 Tuesday – Thursday 10AM – 1PM  
 July 16 Starts Normal Office Hours  
 Monday-Thursday 9AM-1PM  
 Or by appointment. Phone is 713-723-5437 or  
 Email [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net)

## Heavy & Recycling Trash Calendar

### July 2017

|                     |   |                 |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Thurs<br/>6</b>  | Curbside Recycling<br>All of Westbury                   | <i>NO GLASS</i> |
| <b>Thurs<br/>13</b> | <b>Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY<br/>ALL OF WESTBURY</b> |                 |
| <b>Thurs<br/>20</b> | Curbside Recycling<br>All of Westbury                   | <i>NO GLASS</i> |

### August 2017

|                     |  |                 |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Thurs<br/>3</b>  | Curbside Recycling<br>All of Westbury              | <i>NO GLASS</i> |
| <b>Thurs<br/>10</b> | <b>Heavy Trash– JUNK WASTE<br/>ALL OF WESTBURY</b> |                 |
| <b>Thurs<br/>17</b> | Curbside Recycling<br>All of Westbury              | <i>NO GLASS</i> |
| <b>Thurs<br/>31</b> | Curbside Recycling<br>All of Westbury              | <i>NO GLASS</i> |

### Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday. Recycling is every other Thursday. Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- ♻️ GLASS can be recycled at Westbury United Methodist, 5200 Willowbend in the orange bin.
- ♻️ 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](http://www.westburycrier.com) or [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov) for more trash and recycling information



# Westbury Pool is Open for the Summer



## Westbury City Pool Summer 2017 Schedule

**June 5– August 13:** Pool OPEN Normal Summer Hours Tuesday—Sunday 1-8PM; Closed Monday

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

**August 14 - September 4:** Pool open on Saturday and Sunday only, 1-8PM

**September 4 (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.)

---Cut me out---

---Cut me out---

## FREE Water Fitness Classes

Stay in shape this summer and cool off at the same time! The city is once again offering **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.

Registration is online (<https://apm.activecommunities.com/houstonparks/Home>) or you can register with the instructor on class days shortly before each class starts. The first day of class will be Tuesday, June 6, and the last day of class will be Thursday, August 3, 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*

---Cut me out---

## FREE Swim Lessons for Kids

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department offers free learn-to-swim classes for youths through the H2OSafe program. Classes are accessible to all and are offered at various skill levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Each session meets Tuesday through Friday for two weeks (30 minute class).

All classes are free and space is limited on a "first come, first served" basis during specified registration periods. **Online Registration** is required and **begins at 8:00 am on registration date**. To register go to: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/houstonparks/Home>

For more information, contact the Westbury pool directly once it opens. 713-723-2192



## Adult Water Fitness Schedule at the Westbury Pool

### Adult Circuit Water Fitness

Tuesday & Thursday 9AM-10AM

### Adult Hydro Fitness Power Training

Wednesday & Friday 6:30-7:30PM

*\*This is a different schedule and class list than the Crier published in June. The City changed the classes being offered the pool. The Civic Club does not control this. Thank you to those who called and alerted us to the change!*

For more information visit  
[www.houstontx.gov/parks/waterfitness.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/waterfitness.html)

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| Sessions      | Registration Dates | Class Dates       |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Session One   | May 30 – June 7    | June 13 – June 23 |
| Session Two   | June 12 – June 21  | June 27 – July 7  |
| Session Three | June 26 – July 5   | July 11 – July 21 |
| Session Four  | July 10 – July 19  | July 25 – Aug 4   |

| Level 1 / Time | Level 2 / Time    | Level 3 / Time    |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4 pm – 4:30 pm | 4:45 pm – 5:15 pm | 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm |
| 4 pm – 4:30 pm | 4:45 pm – 5:15 pm | 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm |
| 4 pm – 4:30 pm | 4:45 pm – 5:15 pm | 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm |
| 4 pm – 4:30 pm | 4:45 pm – 5:15 pm | 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm |

## Do You Ride METRO?

METRO is embarking upon the development of a new regional transit plan – METRONext – and they need you to be a part of it! The Houston transit system must help people get to where they need to go today, as well as in the future. METRO welcomes your ideas on how to better serve the needs of current customers, as well as your help in developing strategies to attract new customers to the transit system.

**Now is the time to start planning for the future.**

Join METRO at an upcoming community open house to learn more about METRONext and share your vision for future transit in the greater Houston region. Go to [ridemetro.org](http://ridemetro.org) for a list of meetings or to participate online.



## FREE Student METRO Pass

School's out, and METRO wants to give students FREE RIDES to where the fun is – ALL SUMMER LONG! The new METRO Student Summer of Fun Pass offers K-12 students the opportunity to travel anywhere METRO goes...any time...any day...FREE! **Free travel is from June 1 to September 1.**

After September 1, 2017, the Summer of Fun Pass automatically converts to your discounted METRO Student Q<sup>®</sup> Fare card which is **coded with a 50 percent student discount**. When you reload your card with money, you will automatically get **half off the full fare, which means more savings for you!**

For more information, <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/SummerFunPass.aspx> You can apply online, by mail, or in person. You will need either: a current school ID, or a report card, or a class schedule.

**Stay connected with what is happening in Westbury RIGHT NOW!**  
**"Like" our Facebook page, Westbury Houston, to stay updated on neighborhood issues.**

**[WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM](http://WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM)**

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**GLORIA ACKER**  
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[gacker9632@aol.com](mailto:gacker9632@aol.com)

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## Voice Your Support - Keep Hillcroft a 4 Lane Road in Westbury

Many years ago when the Westbury subdivision was being platted, Hillcroft was near the western edge of the city of Houston. Traffic was minimal and many hundreds of homes in Westbury were designed to face Hillcroft and their driveways directly connected onto Hillcroft. In Westbury, Hillcroft is a 4-lane, RESIDENTIAL road.

In order to protect and maintain Hillcroft as a 4-lane road into the future, District K CM Larry Green has proposed an amendment to the regional transit planning authority's Major Thoroughfare & Freeway Plan (MTFP) to change the designation for the residential section of Hillcroft between Willowbend and South Main (US90A) from its current regional designation as P6 (6 lanes) to a new designation as P4 (4 lanes) permanently. The Westbury Civic Club, the nonprofit WAIC, and the Westbury Super Neighborhood SUPPORT this proposed amendment by CM Green. Last year, thousands of residents of Westbury and Southwest Houston signed a petition to keep the city from changing a different stretch of Hillcroft in Meyerland and Maplewood to 6-lanes as part of a street improvement project. CM Larry Green has proposed this amendment in accordance with the desires expressed in the petition to keep residential sections of Hillcroft as 4-lanes.

There is a public hearing to discuss this amendment on July 20. Please see box in top right corner. After all comments are received for the various proposed amendments being considered this year, then the Planning Commission will consider the amendments for action in August. Then the Planning Department will forward a map with the recommended changes to City Council for action.

More information on the MTFP amendment process and all of the amendments being considered this year can be found on the department's 2017 MTFP Amendments webpage at the following link:

[http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/transportation/17\\_MTFPRequests.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/transportation/17_MTFPRequests.html)

### Background

Roads and freeways in the Houston area are considered and planned on a regional basis by an organization called H-GAC (Houston-Galveston Area Council). In 1985, local residents became aware of plans for Hillcroft to become a 6 lane road and battled to keep Hillcroft as 4 lanes. In 2004, the topic was again fought off by residents with the assistance of CM Anne Clutterbuck. Then in 2016, a street improvement project was planned for a residential area of Hillcroft near Beechnut, and the project was designed for 6 lanes. A vigorous petition and letter-writing campaign stopped the project from implementing a 6 lane road in that section of Hillcroft. To avoid these battles in the future and due to the strong citizen input on the topic, CM Larry Green has proposed an amendment to the MTFP to change the designation for the section of Hillcroft in Westbury from P6 (6 lanes) to P4 (4 lanes).

"The amendment applicant - City of Houston Council Member Larry Green (District K) - is requesting the reclassification of Hillcroft Avenue between Willowbend Blvd. and South Main Street from a six-lane principal thoroughfare to a four-lane principal thoroughfare. Hillcroft Avenue was added to the MTFP in 1955 and this section is presently a four-lane roadway with an existing 150 ft. of right-of-way (ROW). The six-lane classification shown in the 2016 MTFP preserves the option to widen the roadway in the future, should widening be deemed necessary by the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department when the roadway eventually goes through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) planning process for reconstruction.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, July 20, 2:30PM

There are TWO ways that you can express your comments and thoughts.

1. You can speak at the public hearing scheduled for Thursday July 20, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., to be held at City Hall Annex, Council Chambers (900 Bagby Street, Houston, Texas 77002). Note: Arrive early to sign up for the speaker's list. Plan on being limited to speak only a brief period of time, either 1 or 3 minutes, depending on the number of speakers who sign up.
2. You can submit comments ONLINE through July 7, 2017 at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4617606>

You must provide your name and phone number. The MTFP case number is Item G. The street name is Hillcroft. **You must select either Support or Against.** You can submit comments to explain your reasons.

This section of Hillcroft Avenue passes through the predominantly residential community of Westbury, a subdivision that consists of 5,000 single-family homes. The existing subdivisions along this section of the roadway were all developed between 1960 and 1965. According to Council Member Green, 90 percent of the parcels along this segment of Hillcroft Avenue are single-family residential properties. Therefore, Council Member Green believes that a four-lane principal thoroughfare classification is more appropriate than the current six-lane principal thoroughfare classification, given the single-family residential context of the surrounding community."





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## Historical Preservation Workshop

Last month, the District K office hosted a Neighborhood 101 workshop that addressed the Houston Historic Preservation ordinance. This Neighborhood 101 workshop was an informational meeting facilitated by the Planning Dept. to highlight development tools and techniques to protect neighborhoods that have unique "mid-century" residential character.

"There are a number of residential communities throughout the District that are 50+ years old that still maintain their unique neighborhood character from the 1950s and 1960s," stated Council Member Green. The workshop targeted those few residential communities that still have an overwhelming concentration of mid-century ranch-style homes. The workshop was to provide best practices for continuing to preserve the mod-architecture "bedroom-suburban" character of these District K communities. "I want to make sure these neighborhoods have the option of using the City of Houston's historic preservation ordinances that may be beneficial to continually preserving their original residential aesthetics." The residential communities within District K do not resemble the older residential communities of the greater Heights, so the workshop focused on using Glenbrook Valley Historic District as a best practice case study ([http://www.glenbrookvalley.org/Glenbrook\\_Valley/Home.html](http://www.glenbrookvalley.org/Glenbrook_Valley/Home.html)).

Residents from Warm Springs, formally a 1959 Parade of Homes street, attended to hear what would be involved if they were to apply for a historic designation.

For more information about the City's historic preservation ordinance and development tools, please <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres>

## Commercial Property Update

**Trader Joe's** is considering Westbury for a new grocery store. If you would like a Trader Joe's in Westbury, then go to their website to REQUEST a LOCATION for a new store. We suggest that you say location is Houston, Texas and use the COMMENT Field to request a store for the "WESTBURY Neighborhood in the Brays Oaks Management District of Houston. Westbury is located in zipcodes 77035 and 77096." The website is <https://www.traderjoes.com/contact-us/location-request>

**Willowbend Crossfit** has opened a fitness center at 10929 Chimney Rock, where the Discount Tire store was formerly located. Welcome to Westbury!

**Westbury Hospital** (HopeBridge Hospital) at 5556 Gasmer has CLOSED due to loss of accreditation.

**Hillcroft near South Main.** The Westbury Civic Club and the WAIC continue to work with the Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD), the Harris County Attorney's Office, and the HPD Westbury Storefront DRT team (Officer Freeze and Officer Smart) to reduce blight in the lower section of Hillcroft. Officer Freeze identified 20 violations at one location and has placed the business tenant and landowner on a remediation plan. Officer Freeze has also ordered trash removed from a nearby location with continuing problems.

**Proposed Cell Tower.** EcoSite has proposed a new cell tower on leased land near Hillcroft, for TMobile and up to 2 more cellular providers. Becky Edmondson and Cindy Chapman, Co-Presidents of the Westbury Super Neighborhood, met twice with EcoSite, along with Barbara Hite and Donald Perkins representing District K CM Larry Green, and Richard Rodriguez of the Brays Oaks Management District. EcoSite seeks to be a good partner and recognizes community concerns about blight on the site where its tower will be built. It is working with the property owner and has offered a donation to the community garden which adjoins the site.



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Susan sells more homes in Westbury than anywhere else in town. With more than 15 years experience as a licensed Broker and Realtor® you might say she's been around the block.

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**Platou Community Center:  
Possibilities, Volunteers,  
and Ideas Needed**

The Platou Community Community Center is a valuable amenity and asset for the Westbury Community. It is well-utilized during the summer by a Children's Summer Enrichment program; however, the Friends of Chimney Rock Park/Platou Center are asking for YOUR ideas and YOUR help so that this amenity is used for maximum benefit for our community. Starting in the fall, afternoon slots will be newly available for use, and these hours might be perfect for youth groups! Other slots are also available on the calendar. Please email thoughts and ideas to the jayla.godbolt@houstontx.gov (supervisor) or Hazel Potvin, hazelnut856@yahoo.com.

**Platou Background**

The City of Houston Platou Community Center is located in the heart of Westbury at 11655 Chimney Rock, near the US Post Office. It is surrounded by Chimney Rock Park and occupies a former Water Department building, which was converted into an activity center in 1978. It has one large meeting room, a small classroom, the supervisor's office, handicapped restrooms, and regular restrooms. An adequate parking area in the park has several handicapped parking spaces. The supervisor is Jayla Godbolt. The center is named after Liev and Betty Platou. Both had been active volunteers in the Westbury community for decades.

**Platou's Benefit to Westbury Area**

The Platou Community Center is a good place for meetings and classes. During the summer, there is a popular Children's Enrichment program. After the summer ends, then the public can use the building for FREE during regular weekday hours (Noon to 8 PM, or by special permission in the mornings). The usual model is for a group with a special interest to form, request a date and time on the schedule with Jayla Godbolt, and then begin to meet. Scheduled classes are publicized in

the monthly Westbury Crier. All classes offered are open to the public and free.

**Programs**

Every summer, Platou Community Center serves our neighborhood with a Summer Enrichment Program. Fifty children ages 6 to 13 are enrolled in the Summer Enrichment Program under the direction of Supervisor Jayla Godbolt. This program runs five days a week from 8 AM to 6 PM until Friday, August 11. In the past, an AfterSchool Program was offered. Unfortunately, starting this fall, the Parks Department plans to drop the After School Enrichment Program at Platou, due to lack of use by families. Only two students have attended this year. Children will probably go to another park such as Godwin, where there is a sizeable After School Program.

On Monday, August 14, the adult programs will resume. Existing adult programs include Senior Stretching, Line Dancing, Quilting, Games, Table Tennis, and TOPS (weight management). All are volunteer-led, except the Line Dancing program is taught by the city. The current programs do not fill the time available to the public at the center. Now that the city will no longer offer afterschool classes at Platou Center, the afternoon hours are newly available for special interest groups. The afternoon hours might be perfect for youth groups such as Scouts who are looking for a place to meet or do activities!

**Possible New Groups or Classes for Platou?**

Here are some possible ideas of activities or groups which might be interested in using the Platou Center. Knitting, drawing, games, crafts, pottery (a working kiln is available), yoga, talks on special topics, classes on computer use, genealogy, chess, Country Western dancing, ballroom dancing, etc. A Girl Scout troop meets at the center during the school year. Other troops could meet. Special classes could be given. Short term classes are fine.

The key is volunteers. Most gatherings or groups at Platou are formed and led by volunteers. If a fee is charged for a class, then the class leader must pay a fee to the city for use of the building and the supervisor/city must approve in advance. There have had many volunteer-led groups, such as Greeting Card Making and Jewelry Making, where a fee was charged for materials, but the class was free. Another group that met regularly was Portable Projects which was a knitting and crocheting group. We have had a pottery classes and a drawing class. We have had a few computer classes through the outreach of the Houston Public Library. The goal is to have many activities and groups using the facility, so that the Westbury community receives the maximum benefit from this city amenity.

**Friends of Chimney Rock Park.**

Friends of Chimney Rock Park are volunteers who work hard to make the Platou Center and the park a wonderful amenity for our community. The eight people in this group are involved in programs at Platou such as quilting, line dancing, stretching, and the games group. The Friends advocate with the Parks Department and the Westbury community for the park and for Platou Community Center. They have been on hand when volunteer groups come to do community service in the park and they often personally take care of many needs that they see need doing. They have planted wildflowers, collected litter, and organized activities to make the park more inviting to the community.

**We urge you to think about what you would like and what would help you at Platou Community Center in the coming year. We are going to keep pushing and asking to increase the use of the center. Please help. Please email thoughts and ideas to the supervisor at jayla.godbolt@houstontx.gov or to Hazel Potvin, hazelnut856@yahoo.com.**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Water Heaters:<br/>Regular &amp; Tankless</b></p> <p><b>Disposals</b></p> <p><b>Water Lines</b></p> <p><b>Gas Lines</b></p> <p><b>Drain Cleaning</b></p> <p><b>Under Slab Repairs</b></p> <p><b>Re-route kitchen &amp; laundry pipes</b></p> | <p><b>ASTRO PLUMBING</b></p> <p><b>Full Service Plumbing and Repair Specialist</b></p> <p><b>713-256-0017</b></p> <p><b>JOHNNY LEWIS</b></p> <p><b>WESTBURY RESIDENT</b></p> | <p><b>New Sewer Lines</b></p> <p><b>Hydrostatic Testing</b></p> <p><b>Remodeling &amp; Repairs</b></p> <p><b>Sinks</b></p> <p><b>Faucets</b></p> <p><b>New Drains under Bathroom</b></p> |
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## Shopping Carts in Westbury

Abandoned shopping carts are a problem in Westbury and in Houston. We thank Westbury resident Hazel Potvin for her efforts in getting these abandoned carts removed. "I did have luck with The 99 Cents Only Store and with Home Depot. Phone 713-721-4998 during the day to report carts from the 99 Cents Only Store. For Home Depot, phone 713-723-1400 and ask to talk to the manager to report the location of their carts."

To remove shopping carts from major thoroughfares or parks or drainage ditches in Westbury, the Brays Oaks Management has a litter abatement team which will collect shopping carts. Go online to their website to report a problem. <http://www.braysoaksmo.org/report-a-problem/>

If reported to the city via 311, then the city will also pick up the abandoned shopping cart. Hazel has discovered that the city takes the shopping carts to the SW Waste Depository on the southwest freeway. Businesses can then pick up their carts there for a fee. Hazel was told that very few businesses bother, Walmart being the exception.

Again, we thank Hazel for her ongoing efforts to make Westbury a greener and cleaner neighborhood. We encourage all of our residents to take a moment to report problems or to clean up problems yourselves.



Abandoned shopping carts that have been collected

## Keep Westbury CLEAN and Recycle Responsibly

Once again we are frustrated by irresponsible and careless people who continue to make a HUGE MESS for our community partner, Westbury United Methodist Church (WUMC). The pastor and volunteers at WUMC have to clean up the mess left behind when people are irresponsible. We are ashamed to show these recent pictures because they show a huge mess and they also show that many people are not following basic recycling rules.



**Paper Bins:** Many locations have stopped allowing those big paper recycle bins, which are so great for cardboard boxes or loads of paper, so let us be thankful that WUMC still allows these bins on their property.

1. The truck driver does NOT pick up any stuff that is placed outside the bins. Never leave items outside of the bins. If you have paper items and the bins are full, then please leave and return another time when there is room in the bins. Also, consider being a good neighbor and remove extra paper goods placed outside the bin and bring them back later.
2. Paper recycle bins are ONLY for Paper or Cardboard. No plastic allowed. No trash allowed. No Styrofoam allowed. Not block foam allowed. Paper or Cardboard ONLY.

**Glass:** When the city sought a location to place a bin for glass recycling, WUMC agreed to allow the glass bin to be placed at the end of its parking lot closest to West Bellfort. These bins are for GLASS ONLY. What did we see wrong when we took this photo inside the bin? Metal lids – not allowed! Plastic bags – not allowed! Paper containers – not allowed!



Please remember to remove lids from your glass containers before placing them in the bin. Take your glass items out of any paper or plastic bags before you put them in the bin, and then take that paper or plastic home with you for later re-use or recycling.

DO NOT PUT  
PLASTIC OR  
PAPER BAGS  
INTO THE  
GLASS  
RECYCLING BIN



Thank you for your recycling efforts and help in Keeping Westbury Beautiful



## Parker Elementary Construction Update

A project team meeting was held on June 14. Concern still exists whether or not the new school building will be available for January occupancy. Roof installation is the critical issue and is scheduled for completion by the end of June, weather permitting.

The plan is for a temporary occupancy permit in November 2017 to allow furniture installation and limited adult occupancy. Movers are scheduled for December 2017, with early staging of music equipment and instruments by parents in late December. The move should be complete by January 6.



## Do You Use City Parking Meters?

The City of Houston and Parkmobile, LLC, have partnered to launch a custom parking app for mobile payments called ParkHouston. The application allows parkers to use their mobile devices to pay for parking at the 9,200 metered, on-street parking spaces throughout the city. Customers using the ParkHouston app can pay for parking with their smartphones using a free mobile application available for iPhone and Android.

Parkmobile is offering a resident discount program for ParkHouston customers. Beginning May 29, 2017, Houstonians have been eligible to use the ParkHouston or Parkmobile app with no convenience fee—a savings of about 35 cents per parking session. To enjoy the app for free, Houstonians will need to submit proof of residency. For more information please visit [www.parkhoustontx.org](http://www.parkhoustontx.org).

By simplifying the public parking experience, drivers no longer need to search their car for loose change or check their watch to see when the meter expires. The app allows customers to effortlessly input payment information, while also sending a 15-minute reminder before the meter expires. To add more time, customers don't even need to walk back to the car - it's as easy as pushing a button. Compliance Officers will be able to see that a motorist has paid with the ParkHouston app using their wireless handheld devices.



Parkmobile has operated in Houston since 2011. Current Parkmobile customers can still pay for parking in Houston using their Parkmobile app or upgrade to the new ParkHouston app. To set up an account, customers download the mobile app from the Apple or Google Play store and sign up using their mobile number, or by calling. Once registered, parkers can immediately begin using the app with their registered mobile device or call the toll-free number to pay for parking. A toll-free number is posted on signage near the meters for those without a smartphone to make on-street payments

## Just Say NO to Panhandlers

While South Post Oak is not in Westbury, it is a gateway to our neighborhood and the Willow Waterhole. Many of us use it daily. The Civic boards of the adjoining neighborhoods (Westbury, Meyerland, Willow Meadows, Willowbend, Post Oak Manor and Precinct 287) all view this corridor as a gateway to our communities. The Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) has the west side of SPO in its district from Willowbend down to South Main. BOMD is actively working to address many of the SPO issues: vagrancy, panhandling, trash, unkempt commercial properties, Metro Bus shelters, and commercial properties that have been long-standing problems.

But there are things that YOU can do. We need to lay claim to SPO. We need to patronize the businesses -- long time area favorites like Annie's and Cue's. There are new Peruvian and Chinese restaurants. **JUST SAY NO to the panhandlers.** As a reminder just because you think nothing is being done, does not make it so! It takes a while, and sometimes a long while to get things done. Panhandlers are on our corners because we pay them to stand there.

MEANINGFUL CHANGE—  
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Don't give money  
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**Just Say NO to Panhandlers!**



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## Westbury Area Improvement Corporation

The nonprofit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation met on Wednesday, June 21. The choir teacher from Westbury High School, Ms. York, thanked the board of the WAIC for purchasing performing outfits for the choir. The choir has never had performing outfits before and is invited to sing at many events across town.

1. Eugene Sirls (primary) and Robin Fortenberry (secondary) have been added as delegates to the board from the Neighborhoods to Trails-Southwest (NTT-SW) nonprofit.
2. The board APPROVED a motion to send a letter to HISD stating support to continue Fine Arts magnet funding at current levels across HISD, now and in future.
3. The board APPROVED a motion to SUPPORT the proposed 2017 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan Amendment request made by City of Houston Council Member Larry Green to change the classification of Hillcroft from Willowbend to S.Main(US90A), from P6 to P4. (This would protect this specific stretch of Hillcroft as a 4-lane road into the future).
4. The board APPROVED a motion to allocate up to \$300 for replacing missing American flags posted on Westbury esplanades on flag days by Westbury High School ROTC students.

The board heard updates about schools, public safety, a proposed cell tower on Hillcroft, commercial updates, METRO, and a vision to update the 1998 Westbury Revitalization Plan.

## Donate to the WAIC through Amazon Smile

When customers shop on Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Now your Amazon purchases can help your neighborhood! The Westbury Area Improvement Corp. is the non-profit organization that has Westbury's best interest at heart. WAIC is also the parent organization of Westbury Community Garden.

### Want to change your existing Smile charity to WAIC? It's easy.

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. Go to "Your Account," then under "Shopping Programs and Rentals", select the option to "Change Your Charity." You can also point your mouse over the small arrow next to the charity you are currently supporting, then click Change.
3. Type Westbury Area Improvement Corp into the search and then click Select.

"This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done."



Westbury High School celebrated the Class of 2017 this past May. Congratulations to the following students!!

**Monica Anahi Garay - Valedictorian**

**Vanessa Cantoran – Salutatorian**

*Congratulations*

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**PARKWEST - \$360K**  
5739 Portal 3/2/2 + Fireplace + Updated Windows



**MAPLEWOOD SOUTH - \$350's**  
5855 Queensloch 3/2/2 + Renovated + Study



**PARKWEST - \$340's**  
5506 Redstart 3/2/2 + Hardwoods + Fresh Paint



**ROBINDELL - \$260's**  
6215 Shadow Crest 3/2/2 + Hardwoods + Updated Windows



**BRAEBURN TERRACE - \$240's**  
5805 Ariel 3/2/2 + Sunroom + Hardwoods + Herod Elem.

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# Crime & Security

## Westbury Constable Calls June 2017

| Type                   | Count      |
|------------------------|------------|
| Accidents              | 2          |
| Alarm local            | 11         |
| Alarm/Rep.             | 10         |
| Animal                 | 5          |
| Arson/fire             | 1          |
| Assault                | 1          |
| Burglary/Habitat       | 2          |
| Burglary/Motor Vehicle | 4          |
| Check Park             | 1          |
| Contract Check         | 271        |
| Criminal Mischief      | 2          |
| Discharge firearm      | 3          |
| Dist/Family            | 1          |
| Disturbance/Loud noise | 5          |
| Dist weapon            | 1          |
| Dist./other            | 4          |
| Evading                | 1          |
| Follow Up              | 1          |
| In Progress            | 2          |
| Incident report        | 2          |
| Information call       | 10         |
| Meet the Citizen       | 22         |
| Meet the officer       | 1          |
| Mental case            | 2          |
| Open Door/Window       | 3          |
| Property found lost    | 1          |
| Robbery/Aggravated     | 1          |
| Special Assignment     | 1          |
| Stranded motor vehicle | 2          |
| Suspicious person      | 15         |
| Theft/Other            | 1          |
| Traffic initiative     | 4          |
| Traffic hazard         | 1          |
| Traffic stop           | 16         |
| Vacation watch         | 59         |
| Vehicle abandoned      | 2          |
| Vehicle speeding       | 2          |
| Vehicle suspicious     | 18         |
| Vehicle Stolen         | 1          |
| Welfare check          | 8          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>508</b> |



## Don't forget Vacation Watch!

For residents who pay the WAP patrol dues, a special Vacation Watch may be requested from Pct 5. The form is available online. Sign up at [www.constablepct5.com/vacation-watch/](http://www.constablepct5.com/vacation-watch/) If you want to request a Vacation Watch, but do not have access to a computer or internet, please call 281-463-6666 for assistance.

## STAY SAFE WESTBURY!

*The Westbury Civic Club is proud to announce a Home, Property & Personal Security Series for Westbury/Parkwest Residents.*

### PERSONAL & HOME SECURITY PRESENTATION

**Tuesday, July 25, 7-8:30 PM**

Westbury Baptist Church, RM C109

Lt. Mitch Hutter, Community Relations, Harris County Pct. 5 Constable's Office, will advise on steps you can take to keep your Home, Property and Family safe when you are there or away, aiding your neighbors, as well as what to do when confronted by a criminal.

### SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER DEFENSE TRAINING

**Wednesday, August 9, 7-8:30 PM**

Westbury Baptist Church, RM C109

Stephen Daniel, Senior Community Liaison, Houston Police Department, will provide empowering training to teach you to know what to expect and what to do to increase your odds of survival, should you find yourself in the face of an Active Shooter. Included topics: Active Shooter Profile, Police Response, "Run, Hide, Fight", Priority of Life Scale and Developing your own Survival Mind Set. Films will be presented. For ages High School & Up.

### R.A.D. - (Rape Aggression Defense Training) for Women

**COMING in January, 2018: details to be announced in future *Criers***

## SW PIP June Meeting

Every month the Southwest Division of the Houston Police Department hosts a Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meeting so that residents can meet officers, learn about safety topics, and hear about crime statistics for the Southwest Division. The June topic was "Don't Be a Victim".

Officer Smart has replaced Officer Vick at the Westbury HPD Storefront and will be the new coordinator for the monthly SW Division PIP meetings. Sgt. Tim Sutton is moving from the Westbury HPD Storefront to the HPD Vice Department. His replacement is Sgt. Michael Ortiz. Marcia Hartman, Vice President of the Westbury Civic Club, thanked Sgt. Sutton for his years of service to the Westbury community with a card and gift from the Westbury Civic Club.



WCC Marcia Hartman and Cindy Chapman with Sgt Sutton and Sgt. Ortiz from the Westbury Storefront

**Westbury Area Patrol 281-463-6666**  
**Westbury HPD Storefront 832-394-7520**  
**HPD Non-Emergency 713-884-3131**

# Meyerland Public Safety Community Meeting

Mayor Turner, HPD Chief Acevedo, and CM Ellen Cohen hosted a public safety community meeting for the Greater Meyerland area on June 26 at the Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston. The meeting was called after two separate shootings involving children happened in the area between Braeswood and Beechnut. On June 14, a fatal shooting of a 10-month old boy happened outside the Nob Hill Apartments near North Braeswood. A separate shooting incident occurred three weeks earlier when an 11-month old boy passenger was wounded while sitting in his carseat by gunshots fired at his parent's moving car near Mullins at Beechnut.

CM Ellen Cohen opened the public safety meeting and noted that "public safety is our #1 concern" in the city. Mayor Turner reiterated that "public safety is our #1 priority" and that "every shooting is too many". He said the goal is not only to catch criminals, but to "stop crime at the very beginning" to prevent crime. During the meeting, HPD Chief Acevedo and senior HPD staff provided an update on the June 14 incident, as well as general crime trends in the Southwest Division.

Patrols have been increased in the area. The case is still under investigation so those with any information are encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers at (713) 222-TIPS. As of printing, all three suspects in the death of the 10-month old boy had been apprehended. The shooter(s) of the 11-month old boy is still at large.

## Houston Police Department

HPD Chief Acevedo said he has been working to reinvent the police department. He noted that the Houston Police Department is extra lean. Houston has about 5,200 police officers to cover 640 square miles. Chicago has a similar population contained within a smaller area and has about 13,000 police officers. Since taking on the job in Houston, about six months ago, Chief Acevedo has launched a 13 officer unit to investigate Aggravated Assaults right away. The US Department of Justice is sending additional federal resources aimed at violent offenders in Houston and some other major cities.

Chief Dobbins leads all the HPD investigative units. He said that in the past, HPD reacted to events, but now seeks to be more proactive. They want to send investigators to crime scenes as fast as possible. If HPD can "make an arrest right away, then they can prevent a crime the next night".



*WCC Board members Cindy Chapman and Becky Edmondson with Mayor Turner and CM Cohen*

## More HPD Officers Needed

Mayor Turner said that crime had fallen in 2016 compared to 2015, but crime is higher in 2017. The city "needs more police officers. This course is not sustainable." He said the city needs at least 600 more police officers, which would cost about \$85 million for salaries and benefits. The mayor stated it would be even better to hire 1,500 officers since about 1,500 HPD officers are already eligible to retire at any time. Mayor Turner said that Houston is the only city and the only political entity in Texas that has a revenue cap. The city hit the revenue cap in 2014 and has had to reduce the city tax rate every year since 2014, unlike other local taxing agencies in the city and county. He said that this year, the city returned more than \$28 million in revenue that could have been used to hire about 250 police officers. Mayor Turner said that Houston voters will be asked to make a decision about the revenue cap in November.



*HPD Chief Acevedo spoke to large crowd at the JCC*



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# Westbury Area News

## Emergency Registry (2-1-1 Registry)

The State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) is a FREE registry that provides local emergency planners and emergency responders with additional information on the needs of residents in their community. Registering yourself in the STEAR Registry at 2-1-1 DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a specific service during an emergency; however, you are more likely to receive services if you're registered. It also provides responders with info so that they can reach out to you after events.

⇒ **Who Should Register?** People with Disabilities. People with access and functional needs such as: People who have limited mobility, People who have communication barriers, People who require transportation assistance, People who require personal care assistance.

⇒ **How do you register?** Call 2-1-1 and let them know that you want to register for STEAR. Registration is VOLUNTARY. Required information is: Name, address, phone number, and primary language. Additional questions include: Emergency contact information, caregiver information, pets, transportation assistance for home evacuation, communication barriers, Disability or Functional or Medical Needs.

⇒ **How long will my information be kept?** Your information will be kept for 1 year. You should re-register after that time period.

⇒ **What if I move or do not need assistance?** Contact 2-1-1

⇒ **Will I be evacuated during an emergency such as a hurricane?** No. Each local government uses the information in different ways.

**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 [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com). If you have any questions, contact the WCC Office at 713-723-5437 or [westburyc@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:westburyc@sbcbglobal.net).

## Links for Lost & Found Pets

☑ Nextdoor Westbury -

[www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)

☑ Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook

☑ Westbury CARE- Contact at [westburycare@gmail.com](mailto:westburycare@gmail.com) or at [www.westburycare.com](http://www.westburycare.com), Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts is located in Westbury.



## 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.

**July Meet & Eat: Thurs., July 6, 6PM**

**August Meet & Eat: Thurs., August 3, 6PM**

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“ WOW!”

to  
“ WOW!”

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# 2017 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 2017 Mandatory Assessments is \$233.50. The 2017 Assessments are due by February 1, 2017.**

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 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.

## 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

Please send this form in with your payment

## 2017 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.

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:  
 paypal.com—Send Money to  
 westburycc@sbcglobal.net  
 Make sure to include your  
 address or account number**

### 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        | \$ |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                  | <b>\$335</b> | \$ |
| <b>Additional Contributions:</b> |              |    |
| Westbury Civic Club              |              | \$ |
| Westbury Area Patrol (WAP)       |              | \$ |
| <b>Total</b>                     |              | \$ |

\*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.



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# WCC Mailbag

**Q: I live in a house located on a corner. What is a “visibility triangle” and how does it affect my yard landscaping?**

It is common for homes located on corner lots to have special landscaping requirements so that good visibility is available for vehicles approaching the intersection. This affects landscaping in the area called the “visibility triangle”. The city of Houston has an ordinance specifying the requirements. Also, Westbury homes have deed restriction requirements about the “visibility triangle”. According to city ordinance, if you have bushes or plants located in the visibility triangle, then they must be SHORTER than 30 inches (2.5 feet). If you have trees located in the visibility triangle, then the trees must be trimmed up at least 7 feet above the ground.



## Safe Sidewalk Project

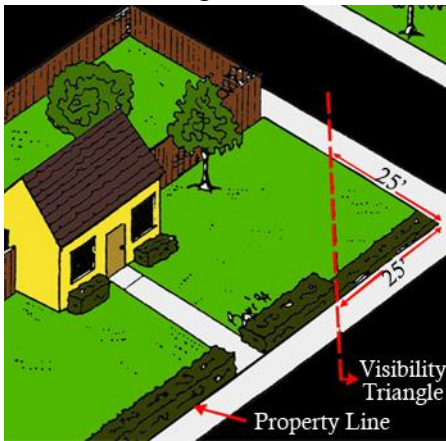
You may have noticed that sidewalks are in the process of being replaced along the loop of Benning to Renwick to Spellman to Mullins and back to Benning. This is a Safe Sidewalk Project sponsored by the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities so that a Westbury resident Anita Bonanno can safely walk with her guide dog, Magee, to get exercise and enjoy the great mental and physical benefits from walking outside in the neighborhood.

Much thanks to COH Dept for Disabilities, Rebuild Houston, and Tikon Group, Inc., for providing more safe sidewalks.



The WCC is aware that some of the sidewalks might not meet code as they are 38” around a tree. We have inquired with the District K office as to what happened and if it can be fixed.

Figure A



Houston City Ordinance – Chapter 33-101 Definitions “Visibility Triangle”

The triangle is established by measuring a distance of ... 25 feet from the extended edge of the curb or pavement of local streets. A straight line connecting the ends of each measured distance which forms the hypotenuse shall establish the visibility triangle (see figure A). The visibility triangle shall not contain any visual or physical impediments or obstructions to the vertical view between 30 inches and seven feet in height.

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# St. Thomas More Parish School Early Childhood Programs

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## Workdays at the Willow Waterhole

A crew from Sphera Solutions selected the Willow Waterhole for their corporate day of community service on June 14. Their efforts are greatly appreciated! This hard working group, led by Neal Rosen, accomplished a huge amount in hot and humid conditions. They mulched and pruned trees. They also weeded the new Native Plant Garden along South Willow at Triangle Lake.



*Sphera Solutions Volunteers*

On May 23, Cub Scout Pack 705, from Parker Elementary, planted a tree near the Schwartz Gazebo at Westbury Lake. The Shumard Oak was donated by Virginia Livingston, President of Westbury Community Garden. The tree will provide shade for a park bench and be highly visible to all those entering the area.



*Cub Scout Pack 705*

## Houston Parks Board Visits

The Houston Parks Board came for a tour of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace. The Neighborhood to Trails group took them on a tour of proposed trails from Keegans bayou to Willow Waterhole Bayou, Hillcroft, and our drainage easements.



## Brays Bayou Association Meeting Notice

Monday, July 16, 7:30PM

The Gathering Place  
5310 South Willow

The Brays Bayou Association's purpose is to help reduce flooding in the Brays Bayou watershed. Westbury is located within the Brays watershed. The BBA was formed after rains flooded over 1,800 homes in 1983. The rain in 1983 was NOT a hurricane. The BBA holds monthly meetings with a range of speakers to keep the neighborhood informed of drainage/flooding concerns in our area.

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# #1 Birding Site in Metro Houston

Over the last ten years, 204 species of birds have been recorded at the Willow Waterhole. The Willow Waterhole Bird Survey was started in June 2007 and is held on the third Saturday of each month (except December). During the monthly 2-hour count, the number of species identified can range from around 30 in summer to over 50 in the winter.

The survey begins in the parking lot of the Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow Drive at 7 a.m. (April through September and 8 a.m. the others). Splitting up into three or four groups, the participants cover the park thoroughly. To see the full list and monthly data visit ebirds. <http://ebird.org/ebird/tx/hotspot/L390915>

The major part of the Willow Waterhole reserve is on the west side of South Post Oak Road, and that is where five of the lakes are located. Good places to park for birding these lakes are on Ricecrest Street and on the Clematis Lane cul-de-sac off of Gasmer. Also, adjacent to the parking lot at the Gathering Place on South Willow is a short, woodland path to the un-concreted Willow Waterhole Bayou (which marks the northern boundary of the park). Another parking area is on the gravel road at the eastern end of Dryad Drive behind Westbury High School.

There is one lake on the Willow Waterhole property east of South Post Oak Road. This is also where the endangered Texas Prairie Dawn flower (*Hymenoxys texana*) is located and where several species of sparrows have been seen each winter. Because the flower is an endangered species, the Harris County Flood Control District is required by law to return much of the surrounding acreage back to coastal prairie, including removal of non-native vegetation. Access to this property is at the south end of Windwood Drive or along Gasmer.

**Enjoy birding on your own, or join the bird surveyors on the third Saturday!** See box to right for information on next Bird Survey.

## June 17th Bird Survey Report

On June 17th, 22 birders found a total of 40 species. Some highlights were sightings of one Black-Crowned Night-Heron, a couple of Swainson's Hawks, and a couple of juvenile Black-Necked Stilts (photo above) along with two adults.



## Audubon Society Bird Survey

### Saturday July 15 , 7AM, Meet at the Gathering Place

The Willow Waterhole Bird Survey was started in June 2007 and is held on the third Saturday of each month (no survey in December). During the 2-hour count, the number of species identified can range from around 30 in summer to over 50 in the winter.

The survey begins in the parking lot of the Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow Drive.

As of mid-2017, over 200 species had been reported to eBird.



Willow Waterhole  
Greenspace Conservancy

**WWW.WILLOWWATERHOLE.ORG**

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# Westbury Yard of the Month

If you would like to nominate a home for Yard of the Month, please email the address to Robert Montgomery at [rmontgomery002@comcast.net](mailto:rmontgomery002@comcast.net). If you are interested in becoming a Yard of the Month judge, please contact Robert Montgomery or the WCC Office.



Westbury 2 Yard of the Month –June

## June Yard of the Month

### Westbury 1

5135 Torchlight—Cindy & Wayne Patterson

### Westbury 2

5502 Creekbend—Paige Wermuth & Dan Berry

### Westbury 3

5214 Benning—Nicki & Todd Canada

### Parkwest 1

10810 Sagamore —Bruce Sprague

### Parkwest 2

5514 Briarbend—Dean & June Thomas

### Parkwest 3

11602 Hillcroft—N L Vannaman

## Volunteers Needed for Native Plant Garden at Willow Waterhole

**Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity?** Are you interesting in learning more about native plants or about gardening? **Please call Hazel Potvin at 713-715-9610 for more info about this volunteer opportunity.**

Native plants are the most beneficial plants for the native bees, butterflies, and birds of our region. In March 2017, a new native plant garden was planted in the Westbury area along S. Willow Drive at the Willow Waterhole greenspace. The City of Houston helped prepare the soil and donated hundreds of native plants. The eight individual garden beds at the site are bordered by concrete walkways, so people can easily see the plants native to Houston and the Gulf Coast prairie. Right now there are clumps of Texas grasses such as muhly, little bluestem, silk grass, and Indian grass. Blooming plants include Texas cone flowers, Indian plantain, and also many smaller bloomers like salvia azurea, phlox, pale coneflowers, and evening primrose.

Volunteers planted the native garden along S. Willow. They invite interested gardeners to join in the upkeep of these native plants. They would be glad to give guidance about the plants growing there. The garden beds are accessible from the concrete walkways and are not too big. As these gardens develop and fill with native plants, they will need less care. Please call, we will be happy to work with you.

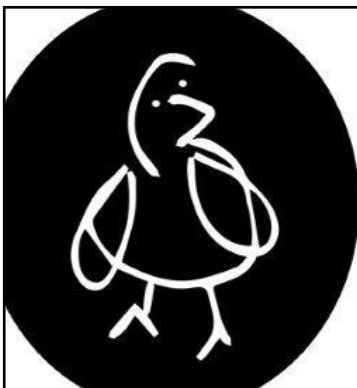
## Summer Yard Care

*Summer is upon us and our grass is really growing. Let's talk mowing.*

**Sweep or Blow?** We receive regular complaints about lawn services blowing yard clippings into the street. Where do they end up? In our storm sewers. If you employ a lawn service, please tell them **DO NOT BLOW YOUR CLIPPINGS** into the street.

**How tall should your grass be?** Grass over 9 inches is in violation of city ordinance and should be reported to 311. Remember to increase the height setting on your lawn mower as the summer days get hotter lawns should not be cut too short.

**Can I park on my grass?** It is a violation of city ordinance to park any vehicle on the front or side yard of a residential property in Westbury.



Are you looking for a reliable dog walker or pet sitter for while you are at work or on vacation??

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Or contact us today: [booncare@gmail.com](mailto:booncare@gmail.com) or 713.936.2623

## Westbury Community Garden News

### Plant It Forward Farm Stand – July 8

Farm Stand will NOT be at the WCG in August. It will return in September. See future Criers.

### Community Service Day – July 22, 8AM-12PM

Come out to the garden for a great volunteer opportunity!



## 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.

**JOIN the garden TODAY at**  
[www.westburycommunitygarden.org](http://www.westburycommunitygarden.org)



## Are you Prepared for the Summer Gardening Season?

Here is some Westbury Community Garden advice from Wayne Slaikeu:

### Preparing for the Hot Summer Season



**Remove all plants that are not producing**, including diseased and sick or dead plants.



**Plant vegetables that like heat** such as okra, eggplant, peppers, sweet potatoes, and heat loving beans, roselle, edamame (Midori Giant), southern peas (zipper cream), & maybe sweet potatoes. Preferred varieties are in parenthesis. Beans and peas make nitrogen and so they need little fertilizer, and they "prepare" the soil for the next crop



After planting a summer crop, be sure to **mulch properly**. Use alfalfa hay, pine needles or leaves and evenly cover with 2 inches of material.



**Watering:** Keep newly planted seeds and plants moist, which might mean watering daily or more often. For established plants, test soil and only water when soil is dry one inch below the surface and then water evenly and thoroughly.

**Join the WCG gardeners for a community service day on Sat., July 22, 8AM-noon.**

**In-home repairs**  
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# 3D ZIKA DEFENSE

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ZIKA WITH THE 3 Ds.

**DRAIN**

- > Once a week, empty items that hold water such as flower pots, toys, trash or old tires.
- > Keep your yard trimmed and tidy.
- > Help your neighbors drain standing water.

**DRESS**

- > As weather permits, dress in long pants and long sleeve shirts.
- > Make sure doors and window screens are in good repair.
- > Use air conditioning when available.

**DEET**

- > Spray insect repellent with DEET on exposed skin.
- > Follow label instructions; reapply as needed.
- > Use a mosquito net to protect babies in a stroller or car seat.

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For more information, visit us at [www.houstonhealth.org](http://www.houstonhealth.org), call 311 or Harris County Mosquito Control District 713.440.4800.

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