



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 7

JULY 2015

Flooding Questions Answered for Many at WCC Meeting

On May 26 over 400 homes in Westbury flooded. Many homeowners are still perplexed, confused, angry, etc at the city and the process that they must now go through to repair their homes. After fielding many calls and emails, the WCC board decided to forgo its normal meeting and invited informed speakers to discuss the process and aid available. It was a full house at the June WCC board meeting as many residents, impacted by the Memorial Day floods, were in attendance to hear the speakers and ask questions.

Our thanks go to District K and the Mayor's Office for arranging speakers who could really answer questions. It was an impressive showing of guests from our council office, the Dept. of Neighborhoods, Solid Waste, Public Works, FEMA, SBA Loan Admin., and the National Flood Insurance Program.

For more about this meeting and important information regarding flood repairs, see pages 8 and 9.



SPECIAL FLOOD SECTION : PAGES 8 & 9
INCLUDES IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CITY'S FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE AND SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE, WHAT TO DO NEXT, DEADLINES, HOW TO DEAL WITH CITY, AND MORE.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Platou Ctr / Meyer Library	4
Event/Trash Calendars	5
WCC News	6
Westbury Pool	7
Special Section: Flood Resources and FAQ	8-9
Resources for Seniors	10
2015 Budget to Date	11
Donate to the WAIC	12
Commercial Properties	13
Crime / Security	14
Dues Form	15
New WHS Principal	18
Westbury Area News	19
Mini Murals	20
METRO & Trails	21
Yard of the Month	22


Mini Art Murals Come to Westbury!

Thanks to District K Councilman, Larry Green, for bringing this exciting new project to District K and Westbury!

The traffic control signal box at Willowbend and W. Belfort was the first of 31 painted throughout District K. For more information about this project and more photos, see page 20.

See if you can find new mini murals in District K. Send photos to westburycc@sbcglobal.net or Westbury Houston on Facebook! We look forward to sharing more photos next month.



H	HEAVY TRASH for	T
	JULY is	
E	TREE WASTE ONLY.	R
	Pick-up for ALL of	
A	Westbury is	A
	Thursday, JULY 9	
V	<i>More info, see page 5</i>	S
Y		H

2016 WCC Board Nominations
Deadline August 13
For more information, see page 6

Westbury Pool NOW OPEN

The Westbury Pool is now open for the summer season. For the full summer pool schedule, see page 7.

The pool is located at 10605 Mullins @ Willowbend (near Parker Elementary).

Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman	wccvp@westburycrier.com
Secretary	Daniel Vega	
Treasurer	David Cummins	westburytreasurer@gmail.com

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Community Relations	Cindy Chapman	wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com
Deed Restrictions	Jennifer Edmondson	wccoffice@westburycrier.com
Flood Control & Infrastructure	Jeff Benavides	
Greenspace Beautification	VACANT	
Membership	Kate Wilson	
Security	Leslee Cross	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Stephanie Lester	westburystephanie@gmail.com

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Westbury 3	Charlsey Porcarello	charlsey@swbell.net
Westbury 4	Eugene Sirls	
Westbury 4	Amanda Bess	
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	VACANT	
Westbury South	Robert Capps	
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	
Parkwest 2	Jeffrey Weiss	jhweiss@yahoo.com
Parkwest 3	Joe Niles	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

Westbury Civic Club Office

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30AM-1:30PM*, Closed Fridays

Address: 5322 W Bellfort Ste. 107 Houston, TX 77035

Phone: 713-723-5437 **Office Manager:** Jennifer Edmondson

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

*The office is closed on all major holidays, weekends (follows HISD calendar)

NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appointment

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666

HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)
713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront
713-726-7126

Platou Community Center
713-726-7107

Poison Control
1-800-764-7661

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

District K Councilmember Larry Green
832-393-3016

District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen
832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee
713-755-6111

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

Report Graffiti—Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) www.braysoaksmd.org
Use "Report A Problem"

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

Forestry Department, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Heavy Trash Violations and Questions, Neighborhood Nuisances, Parking Management, Solid Waste - Trash and Recycling, School Crossing Light Repairs, Water Main Break, and Sewer Repair, etc.

Stay connected!

Are you one of the 1,408 likes on our Facebook page, Westbury Houston?

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Published by: Westbury Civic Club, Inc

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Advertising: Call 713-723-5437 or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

President's Message

Do you remember Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood? Westbury resident, Jerri DeLeon, reminded me of what Fred Rogers said: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news or happening around me, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping'."

Mr. Rogers would have been very proud of all the Westbury helpers who could be found everywhere helping our flooded neighbors regroup after the storm. Literally hundreds and hundreds of people came together to help one another. The process for your flooded neighbors is ongoing and will be a long ordeal. Many will be displaced from their homes for months and months. Others still need help packing or unpacking. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

It's not just neighbors helping neighbors, our federal and local government are helping, too. Harris County was declared a Federal Disaster Area and, in just 3 weeks, 9,000 people had already received \$14,000,000 in assistance. That's an amazing number. If you were flooded or impacted by the floods, you only have until July 28 to register with FEMA. There is money available to help you even if you have insurance. There is money for living expenses, money for your flooded vehicle, and even mental health help if this flood has left you feeling overwhelmed.

Speaking of insurance, I urge all of you to consider flood insurance. Whether or not you live in a flood plain, you should have flood insurance. If you are in a flood plain and feel that you are high and dry, get an elevation certificate that proves you are a foot above the base flood elevation. Then file this with FEMA to be taken out of the flood plain (LOMA); then if you should flood, you do not have to go through the Flood Plain Management Office. It will also reduce the cost of your flood insurance premiums.

You will read about our June Civic Club meeting on page 8-9. I asked our City Council office if we could have some knowledgeable people come to answer questions for people who had flooded. It was an overwhelming show of support for Westbury residents as over 20 people from our District K council office, the Dept. of Neighborhoods, Solid Waste, Public Works, FEMA, SBA Loan, and the National Flood Insurance Program were on hand to speak and answer questions. We are so blessed to live in a city that has a responsive city government. My thanks go out to CM Green and his hard working staff, Donald Perkins and Barbara Hite, who have been fielding calls and helping all of us navigate through the process as our residents get on the road to recovery.

For the 4,600 homes in Westbury that sit high and dry, I want to thank each of you who have donated and worked to

help the 400 or so affected Westbury residences. I have been asked to sit in on a panel discussion by the Center for Houston's Future on "Building Strong Neighborhoods, Building Healthy Neighborhoods". As I was reading through its information on Strong Communities, it could have been describing Westbury today. "Strong Communities become more tolerant, less cynical, and more empathetic to the misfortunes of others. They have mutual trust and respect as individuals and work together to resolve collective problems and are more likely to promote civic action, charitable giving and philanthropy."

We have had many "Social Capital" building opportunities these past 10 years. This was true when we worked together to build the community garden, when we worked together to save the community garden, when we worked together to stop a cell tower, when we work together to improve our parks and esplanades, and when we come together to help one another during a crisis.

So, in this month that we celebrate our National Independence Day, I give thanks for living in the greatest country, in its greatest state, in its greatest city and in its best neighborhood!

Happy 4th of July!

Becky Edmondson

Board Notes : June 2015

- Super Neighborhood motion APPROVED: Westbury Super Neighborhood to be a sponsor of the local SW Houston "Candidate's Forum and Mayoral Debate".
- The board APPROVED Daniel Vega for the vacant board position of Secretary.
- Speakers were: representatives from City of Houston Solid Waste Department, FEMA, SBA, and City of Houston Public Works Department (see pages 8 and 9 for details)
- IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE WCC BOARD, PLEASE COME VISIT ANY REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO MEET CURRENT MEMBERS AND SEE WHAT WE DO.
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

**WCC Board
Meeting
Wednesday,
July 15
7PM-9PM
Westbury Baptist**

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock / Hours: Mon-Thurs 12PM—8PM; Fri 11AM-7PM
Supervisor: Dan Reilly, Daniel.reilly@houstontx.gov or 713-726-7107

Summer Enrichment Program

Youths, ages 6 through 13, can register for Summer Enrichment Program at the Platou Center NOW. This is a full day program full of activities including swimming, tennis, nature walks, etc.
Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 for info.

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

ALL REGULAR SCHEDULED PROGRAMS AT THE PLATOU CENTER ARE SUSPENDED FOR THE SUMMER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ABOVE. ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME IN LATE AUGUST WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO IN FUTURE *CRIERS*.

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

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

Meyer Neighborhood Library

5005 W. Bellfort

Phone: 832-393-1840 / www.houstonlibrary.org

New & Improved Story Times!

Baby Story-time: Every Tuesday, 10:30-11:15am

Toddler Story-time: Every Wed. & Saturday at 10:30 AM

Adult Mystery Book Club

Call the Meyer Library for more information.

Youth Arts & Crafts

Thursdays, 4:30 –5:30PM

Come by after school and enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts. Explore making collages, stencil art, painting, origami, making jewelry and much more. All ages welcome.

HOURS

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

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M-F 8-5 Thurs. 8-7 Sat. 10-4
6 Months No Interest Financing

What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar July 2015

	SCHOOL IS OUT FOR THE SUMMER. 
Fri 3	WCC Office Closed
Sat 4	Happy 4th of July!
Wed 15	NO WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting in July
Wed 15	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft
Sat 18	Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Mon 20	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Westbury Community Garden Pavilion - 12500 Dunlap
Mon 20	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Tues 28	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building by Hobby Lobby
July 27-31	WCC Office Closed Email westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Planning Calendar

August 13—Deadline for WCC Board Nominations
August 24—HISD Starts School
September 7—Labor Day

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS

HURRICANE SEASON STARTED JUNE 1.
KEEP STORM DRAINS CLEAR OF DEBRIS.
HAVE YOUR TREES TRIMMED NOW AND
LOOK INTO FLOOD INSURANCE!
(30 DAY WAIT)

Happy 4th
of July!



RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH CALENDAR



July 2015	
Thurs 9	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash- TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 23	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

August 2015	
Thurs 6	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 6	Heavy Trash- JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 20	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

Important Trash and Recycling Info

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

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

July	Tree Waste	October	Junk Waste
August	Junk Waste	November	Tree Waste
September	Tree Waste	December	Junk Waste

WCC News

WCC Board Nominations: August 13 Deadline

The election for the Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors will be conducted in September at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact the Westbury Civic Club office before 4 PM on the second Thursday in August (August 13), the deadline specified in our bylaws.

WCC Vice President Marcia Hartman is chair of the Election Committee. Candidates may submit a statement, not exceeding 100 words in length, when submitting their nomination for office. Please express your interest in running for the board of the Westbury Civic Club in writing, either by letter or by email.

By Letter: The mailing and physical address is 5322 W. Belfort, Suite 107, Houston, TX 77035. Address the letter to the Elections Committee – Marcia Hartman

By Email: Use subject line: WCC 2015 Elections. Please send your email to Marcia (the Election Committee Chair) at wccvp@westburycrier.com, AND also send a copy of the email to the WCC office at westburyc@sbglobal.net.

If you have any questions, call the WCC office at 713-723-5437.

Welcome Dan Vega!

Dan Vega is the new WCC Secretary. Dan moved to Westbury in 2014 with his wife, Molly, and their two children. Currently, he is a Director of Financial Planning and Analysis in the oilfield services industry. He holds a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M and an MBA from the University of Houston. Originally from Baton Rouge, he has lived in the Houston area for over 20 years. Dan moved his family to Westbury because of its central location and access to some of the best public elementary and middle schools in the city.

He hopes to lend a hand in the continued revitalization of the area through participation on the WCC Board and continued active involvement in the community. He enjoys traveling, reading, music and exercise. You might often see him running the streets of Westbury 1, 2 and 3 in the late evening. He loves the passion and vision the WCC board shows for the community and hopes he can contribute to the neighborhood's continued growth and improvement.



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

Other nearby neighborhoods also have Facebook pages that alert their residents of crimes; it's a good idea to follow them as well. Nearby neighborhoods on Facebook include Marilyn Estates, Meyerland, & Sharpstown.

"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."

-Anonymous

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Westbury Pool

Westbury Pool Water Fitness Class

Enthusiastic people showed up at Westbury Pool for the start of the Water Fitness classes. Longtime instructor Louis Moore really motivates you to get active! It's not too late to start. These **FREE** classes are held in the mornings and evenings. Water fitness is a great exercise for any age, any fitness level and any body type. See below for class descriptions and times. Come to the pool at class time to sign up. ****Westbury Pool will be closed for general swimming during fitness classes**



Adult Water Fitness Class Schedule & Descriptions

Adult Hydro-Fit Power Training:

Tuesday 6:30PM - 7:45PM

Louis Moore teaches his highly popular *Hydro Fit Power Training* class again for the 9th year at Westbury Pool. This class is an athletic approach to water fitness training with sports-specific drills, intense cardiovascular work, intervals, balance/core training, martial arts, and plyometrics. This is a great way to improve your cardiovascular conditioning and muscular strength and endurance with minimal stress on your joints. Loud, rocking music is a part of the workout. Intensity: moderate to hard.

NEW Adult Aqua Zumba:

Tuesday and Thursday 9-10AM

Thursday 6:30PM - 7:30PM

The city will be offering *Aqua Zumba* to help meet the needs of Westbury residents who prefer morning classes. This class combines high energy and Latin music with movement in the water, a combination that helps participants dance away their worries while staying in shape.



**Westbury Pool
OPEN
July 4th
1-5PM**

Westbury City Pool Summer 2015 Schedule

June 9– August 16: Pool OPEN

Normal Summer Hours

Tuesday—Sunday

1-8PM; Closed Monday

July 4: Pool OPEN, 1-5PM

August 22 - September 6: Pool open on Saturday and Sunday only, 1-8PM

September 7 (Labor Day): Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

Questions? Call pool at 713-723-2192

Address: 10605 Mullins (near Parker Elem.)



FREE Swim Lessons

The City of Houston will be offering a Learn To Swim program called *H2OSAFE* for youth ages 6 – 13 at the Westbury Pool. This class will consist of 3 instructional levels. More information is available at the city aquatic department's website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/aquatics>

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Westbury Flood Resources

The City of Houston has recently sent out "Substantial Damage" letters to Westbury homes that flooded in May of 2015. There is misinformation and confusing rules regarding rebuilding your home in the floodplain. We want to help clear up some confusions and rumors.

By now, you have hopefully reported your flood claim to your insurance adjuster and called FEMA. If you do not have insurance, call FEMA. Even if you have insurance, call FEMA, they can help with living expenses and maybe some other uncovered items.

Repairing Your Westbury Home from the 2015 Flood

Here are some important tips and clarifications you need to know to help you in this process.

What is the value of your home?

This is referring to the value of the **IMPROVEMENT** on the land. The Flood Plain Management Office (FMO) only uses the 2015 HCAD value as the default if you do not provide an acceptable form of documentation of your value.

*You can use the value given by your insurance company or FEMA on your Final Loss statement.

*You may use a current/recent appraisal of your home done within the past 5 years

*You may hire an appraiser to come appraise your home pre-flood. It is our understanding that you must have photos of the home showing the prior condition.

What is the cost to repair your home to pre-flood condition?

This cost includes work to remove drywall from home and then all construction to the main structure, including any new improvements to your home, as well such as new plumbing or electrical that might not have been damaged in the flood. Since Westbury homes were built in the

1950s and 1960s, many of our homes are in need of updates. It might seem like a great time to update your home because the walls are already open. Please know that this cost is to be included in your flood damage total. Some may be able to update, while some homes might not be able to. This is determined by how much the cost of your repairs are in relation to the value of your improvement. This is why you need the highest value possible to be able to do the most repairs possible. To get the cost of repairs, a homeowner can use,

*FEMA/Insurance final loss statement

*Notarized sworn statement from contractor with bid attached for work that needs to be completed (if you choose this path, the City will send an inspector to look at home)

*Independent licensed adjuster (best to use AFTER you receive your FEMA or insurance documents)

Does the cost to repair your home exceed 50% of the IMPROVEMENT value?

If your repairs are going to cost more than 50% of your IMPROVEMENT value, then the city will NOT issue you a flood plain permit. This means you cannot legally build or repair your home. This shouldn't happen to many homes. After doing all the options for appraisals and repair value, the city may want you to raise your home above the flood plain or you can start over and rebuild on your lot. Another option would be a buy-out, but there are tight restrictions on who qualifies, and it is doubtful that Westbury homes would qualify.

How long do I have to register with FEMA? July 28 is the last day to register with FEMA and SBA .

What do I do if my repairs are under \$10,000? Nothing! Just repair your home! If your repairs are under

\$10,000 you do not need a flood plain permit. The only exception to this rule is for homes that received a "Substantial Damage" letter. If you received a letter of substantial damage, you must appeal this designation. The appeal form is available at houstonpermittingcenter.org

What do I need to do now that I have received a "Substantial Damage" letter? The 50% rule applies to the flood plain all the time regardless of the flood. The only thing you have to do now is fill out the "Appeal Substantial Damage" form when you apply for your floodplain permit. You will have to prove your repairs are under 50%, no matter the designation or not.

Do I need a building (structural) permit to do my flood repair work?

Every home's repair needs are different. Most Westbury homeowners will not need a structural building permit as all they are doing is flooring, cabinets, and drywall. If you are doing any additions, wall removal/additions, plumbing, electrical, etc., then you will need to pull the appropriate permits. Regardless of your need for a structural permit, you have to get a flood plain permit. This will allow you to do your repair work on your home located in the 100 year flood plain.

I have an elevation certificate. Is my home removed from the flood plain? No. Elevation certificates must have been filed with FEMA. If accepted by FEMA, you will receive a LOMA for your home or lot. A LOMA must be acknowledged by the city. Without a LOMA, an elevation certificate is good to lower your insurance premiums but it doesn't remove your home from the flood plain. Only FEMA can do that!

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WCC Meeting: Guest Speakers on Flood Repairs

The Westbury Civic Club June meeting had a full house as residents who were in attendance to hear special guest speakers.

Our thanks go to District K and the Mayor's Office for arranging speakers who could really answer questions. It was an impressive showing of guests from our council office, the Dept. of Neighborhoods, Solid Waste, Public Works, FEMA, SBA Loan Admin, and the National Flood Insurance Program. Here is what each had to report.

City of Houston Solid Waste: Mr. Zilton, Mr. Bowie and Mr. Benning

- *Trash pickup to continue on regular schedule
- *Currently working with private 3rd party contractors to ensure continuous service
- *Urged residents to continue to call 311 for specific home pickup services
- *Solid Waste will make three passes through the City picking up storm debris; they are still on the first pass 23 days after the storm, which tells the tale of how much debris there is in the city.

City of Houston Public Works: Mark Loethen, Deputy Director, and Julie Gilbert, Communications

- *Chapter 19 – Flood Plain Ordinance
- *Flood Plain Office – **832-394-8854**
- *Explained the steps to apply for Floodplain permit, and applicable cases

*See separate article on page 8 for specifics

FEMA: Patricia Mancha, Deputy Director of External Affairs, Frank Ferreira, Michael Piper, Pedro Perez, and Erin May.

SBA: Mark Randle, Public Information Officer

- *9,000 people have registered for assistance due to the recent flooding and \$14,000,000 has already been distributed
- *If you were flooded, you should apply to FEMA for assistance, even if you had insurance
- *Various methods to apply/register for assistance:

800-621-3362

www.disasterassistance.gov

Mobile app — m.fema.gov

***July 28th (60 days after the declaration of disaster) is the deadline to register**

- *Must apply for FEMA assistance in order to apply for SBA loan
- *SBA Loan has low interest loans available to homeowners up to \$200,000
- *Renters and those whose vehicles were damaged by the flood

can apply for assistance as well as those needing mental health referrals

- *Up to 18 months of rental assistance
- *7-10 day turnaround for physical check.
- 12-24 hour turnaround for bank ACH.
- *Businesses also qualify for assistance for some cases
- *Maximum grant money to people who flooded is \$32,900

In addition to all of the above several candidates for local office, Bill King and Ben Hall for Mayor, and Tom McCasland At Large Council 1 were in attendance and we thanked them for taking the time to hear the concerns of our community.



Westbury Civic Club, Inc.



5154 W Bellfort Westbury
4/3.5/2 + Study \$510,000
5154WBellFort.ZehLewis.Com



5603 Stillbrooke Parkwest
3/3.5/2 + Game Room \$484,750
5603StillBrooke.ZehLewis.Com



5527 Ettrick Westbury
3/2/2 \$299,900
5527Ettrick.ZehLewis.Com

SOLD!

5902 Birdwood

5731 Portal

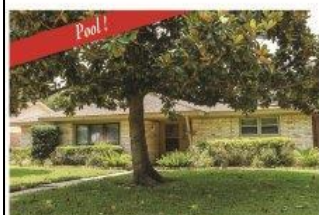
5511 Cheltenham

10926 Ashcroft

5519 Briarbend

12415 Atwell

FOR SALE



5626 Lymbar Barkley Square
4/2/2 + Pool \$459,000
5626Lymbar.ZehLewis.Com



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Help for Seniors and Elderly

Following the Memorial Day flood, it became frighteningly evident, not only the number of elderly neighbors we have, but just how vulnerable they are. Several area agencies, which service Senior Citizens and the Elderly, held a training seminar with specifics on not just how to help the elderly with this disaster, but also on working with them in general -- what services are available and how to connect them to the appropriate agencies. Stephanie Lester, Director of Volunteers, attended this meeting.

Representatives from Sheltering Arms, The Harris County Area Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels, the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, Catholic Charities and the United Way met at the ERJCC on Thursday, June 11th, to provide specific information on how to help elderly neighbors during and immediately after a disaster. They provided information on the services available, which range from disaster recovery to transportation to assistance in navigating the complex forms and processes required to get help from other government entities. For long term needs, case management is available.

There is an abundance of services available from the various agencies which attended. If you feel a neighbor may be in immediate danger, we encourage you to contact the Westbury Area Patrol so that they can perform a welfare check.

Often, our neighbors only need help with small tasks, such as changing a light bulb, trimming bushes or other light chores. If you are interested in helping our elderly neighbors with these quick & easy tasks, please email WestburyStephanie@gmail.com to join the Westbury Volunteer Corp.

For more information on the services offered by the agencies, please visit their websites. www.shelteringarms.org, <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Aging/>, www.erjcc.org, www.catholiccharities.org, <https://www.unitedwayhouston.org/>

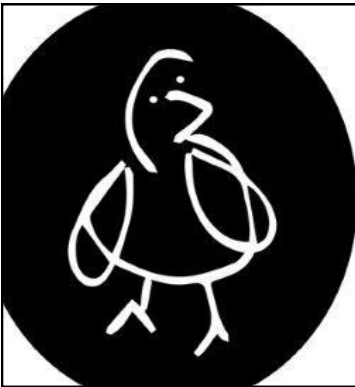
Neighbors 4 Neighbors Network

In 2013, Houston's Jewish Family Service began to seek a way to help the growing population of seniors who age in place in their own homes, if that is what they want. The aim was to create a one-stop, one-phone-number center for linking people to volunteer help for everything from transportation, to professionals, services, etc. In other words, to replicate the old-fashioned notion of neighbors looking out for neighbors. To learn more about services or volunteer opportunities, go to www.n4nn.org or call **832-998-6466**.

And, so, the concept of **Neighbors 4 Neighbors Network** was born!

Membership is open to residents who are:

- Age 50 and over
 - Live in zip code 77096
 - Responsible for and capable of making key decisions about their own lives
 - Living in a residence that presents no known threats to health or safety
 - Self-sufficient in meeting personal care needs, either through self-care or arrangements with a personal care-giver
 - Want to remain in their homes as they grow older
 - Are looking to lend or receive a neighborly hand
 - Are eager to increase the security and safety of their homes and neighborhoods
 - Would enjoy social, cultural and educational interaction with their neighbors
- Volunteer Opportunities** : Volunteers are the backbone of our organization, and we could not serve our members without them! Go to www.n4nn.org for more information or to obtain a Volunteer Form.



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

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Budget

WCC GENERAL OPERATION/PROGRAMS 2015

General Income	Budget	Actual
Mandatory Membership	16,000	13,870
Non-Mandatory Membership	43,000	34,816
Donations - Civic Club	1,500	1,087
Community Garage Sale	2,000	0
Crier Advertising Fees	50,000	24,216
Refinancing Fees	2,000	1,150
Transfer Fees	30,000	10,300
Interest Income	300	1,125
Total General Income	144,800	86,564

Program Expenses

Crier Printing & Expenses	40,000	14,256
Community Garage Sale	2,000	747
Programs & Hospitality	2,000	1,710
Membership Expenses	3,500	1,130
Deed Restriction Revisions	5,000	-
Deed Restriction Enforcement	2,500	-
Yard of the Month Program	500	-
Total Program Expenses	55,500	17,843

General Expenses

Postage, Mailing Service	1000	71
Printing & Copying	-	896
Supplies	3,180	560
Training & Education	2,000	-
Contributions to Ext Orgs	3,500	500
Bank & Pay Pal Fees	3,800	2,349
Computer Expense	6,500	843
Insurance	6,600	(50)
Payroll Expenses	46,000	14,930
Contract Services	4,850	2,046
Office Expenses	11,870	5,331
Conference & Meetings	-	723
Total General Expenses	89,300	28,199

Total Program & General Expenses

144,800 46,042

WCC RESTRICTED FUNDS 2015

Westbury Area Patrol Income	Budget	Actual
Mandatory Assessments	64,000	55,803
Non Mandatory dues	242,925	166,587
Additional WAP donations	10,000	4,292
Westbury Garden Townhomes	0	0
Westbury Area Patrol Income	316,925	226,683

Westbury Area Patrol Expenses

Harris County Constable Fees	316,925	130,791
------------------------------	---------	---------

Greenspace Beautification

Income

Garden/Holiday Tours	1,000	-
Mandatory Assessments	11,000	8,557
Non Mandatory donations	25,000	18,090
Additional donations	1,600	695
Grants & other	5,000	0
Total Greenspace Income	43,600	27,342

Greenspace Expenses

Monthly Maintenance Contract	25,000	8,013
Water Expenses	5,000	200
Supplies & Plants	3,500	1,262
Other Services & Equipment	100	-
Special Projects	10,000	11,770
Total Greenspace Expenses	43,600	21,245

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Approximately 10-15 hours a week.

Applicants must be:

- *proficient in Microsoft applications and social media
- *have good written and spoken communication skills (bi-lingual a plus)
- *Willing to work special events as needed
- *Clear background check

Interested applicants should send their resume to the Westbury Civic Club at westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

For more information or questions, call Jennifer at 713-723-5437

713.960.6222



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Westbury Area Improvement Corporation

Tax-Deductible Way to Improve Westbury?

Some of you may be wondering how to contribute funds to improve our Westbury community in a way that is tax-deductible. The answer is simple - Donate to the WAIC!

The mission of the non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, WAIC, is "to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, learn, or play in the Westbury community. By promoting the civic, cultural, educational, and general welfare of residents, workers, students, and visitors to the Westbury Super Neighborhood in Houston, Texas." The WAIC, founded in 1991, is a non-profit, 501c3 organization (EIN 76-0354758) as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The WAIC receives grants, matching grants, and volunteer grants for the benefit of our community. Did you know that every year volunteers at the Westbury HPD Storefront generate donations from their corporation that benefits our HPD storefront? Did you know that the donations for the shade structure for the new playground at Westbury Park (next to Parker Elementary) were handled by the WAIC? The WAIC also handles the funds for the Westbury Community Garden.

Some of the programs or projects approved for funding by the WAIC this year include:

Westbury High School – rewards for students attending extra study sessions. PTO membership.

Keep Westbury Beautiful – Plants for Westbury Park. Signage for future workday events.

Willow Waterhole Park – MusicFest sponsor. Contesting a pending environmental permit application nearby.

Neighborhoods USA Conference – Westbury tour expenses. Sponsor attendee from WAIC.



June WAIC Meeting at Salem Lutheran

WAIC Donation Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone #: _____
 Email: _____

I would like to make a donation to the WAIC in the following area:

- Westbury Community Garden
- Westbury HPD Storefront
- Parks and Greenspaces
- Education & Outreach
- Greatest Need

Donation Amount, made payable to the WAIC: _____

Mail checks to 5322 W. Bellfort #107 Houston, TX 77035

Yes, I would like to receive email updates from the WAIC



Jon Lohman
 5322 W. Bellfort, Ste. 111
 (W. Bellfort @ Chimney Rock)

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Commercial Property Updates

WWGC Declares a Victory for our Community

In June a 2-day hearing was held in Austin regarding an environmental permit application made by Southern Crushed Concrete (SCC) to construct and operate a concrete batch plant at 5001 Gasmer. A final decision is anticipated in November. The facility is directly adjacent to the Willow Waterhole Park, and has long been a matter of concern for local residents, members of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy (WWGC), and users of the Park. The hearing resulted from the protest made by the WWGC against the issuance of the permit. Rep. Borris Miles, Councilman Larry Green, the Westbury Area Improvement Corp., the Westbury Civic Club, and others assisted the efforts of the WWGC to protect the Park and its users.

The conservancy presented testimony from four witnesses: Ralph Rieger, WWGC President; Christopher Zider, Board member of the WWGC; Provincial Supervisor, Sister Maria Goretti Oanh Mai Vu, O.P. from the Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province Convent; and Jerry Demo, an air permit expert. The WWGC's position is that the proposed concrete batch plant adds to the already unacceptable particulate and dust emissions that come from the stockpiles and trucks at the unpaved property.

The site once had a concrete crushing facility, which was removed in 2009. According to Texas regulations, a concrete crushing facility cannot be operated within 440 yards from any building which is in use as a single or multi-family residence, school, or place of worship. The facts from the hearing established that there is no place on the property that meets the siting standard for a crushing facility.

Furthermore, "The day after our testimony was presented, Southern Crushed began removing the huge rubble pile and trucking it to other company locations," said Mr. Rieger. "We have always believed that this pile, which sat there for six years, was violating the law." According to TCEQ regulations, such piles must be recycled within a strict time period, otherwise it is simply an illegal open dump. "It has been said that you must fight for your rights, which includes your right to a clean environment. I see this as a victory for our community," said Mr. Rieger.

The conservancy meets at 7 PM on the last Thursday of each month at 11415 Chimney Rock, Houston 77035. For more information, call 713-729-1122 or visit www.willowwaterhole.com

Westbury Square Update

Becky Edmondson had lunch in June with the owner of Westbury Square (Alfred J. Antonini) and his new partners early in June. He and his partners would like to come to a WCC meeting in a few months when their plan is further along. The new development is envisioned as a gated and deed restricted community. As envisioned by the partners, it will be platted as individual lots and several builders will come in and buy up lots and then build on them. Prices are expected to be in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range and will be two and three stories. Over 100 lots will be available. The Deed Restrictions and HOA created will ensure a cohesive look.

A sign was posted during the June Coffee with the Constable program announcing this development by Camelot. It is in the early stages but, if it comes to fruition, work should begin in the next few months. If it does become a reality, we will work with the developers to ensure that as many of the Chapter 42 nightmares are mitigated beforehand. Issues like property setbacks, trash cans, mailboxes, parking etc. and of course infrastructure and traffic management are important to tackle ahead of time.

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Crime/Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days June 20, 2015

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	7	1	0	0	8
Theft	16	15	8	2	41
Auto Theft	2	2	1	0	5
Robbery	1	1	1	1	4
Assault	1	5	0	1	7
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	24	10	4	65

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

Don't become a victim of crime!

Summer is here and there is always an increase in Criminal Mischief, e.g., cars windows being broken, cars being broken into, houses being broken into, etc. Teenagers have a lot of free time on their hands in the summer and frequently not much supervision. Historically property crimes increase when school is out. This is not a new phenomenon; looking back through the Criers from the 1960s, "juvenile delinquents" were a common problem.

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 add website. 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.

Operation ID

Engraving your identification on home items. If an item is stolen, it is easier to identify and return to the original owner as well as prosecute the violator if it has been engraved. A Precinct 5 Officer will bring an engraver to your residence for you to use. You can engrave your items with an identifier of your choice (driver's license number, initials, a logo or a keyword). To request the use of the engraver, email Precinct 5 at pct5webadmin@cn5.hctx.net. Please include a contact phone number. If you have no internet access, please call 281-463-6666 for assistance.

Precinct 5's Westbury's Area Patrol adds a reassuring layer of security to Westbury. It is worth the expense. If

you have not yet paid your WAP fee, please do so today. See the form on the right.

House Numbers

Take a look at your house numbers today. Do you have house numbers on your house and are the numbers readily visible from the street? Did you know that the city requires EVERY home to have a visible house number, so that emergency vehicles can respond quickly to the correct address. A house number painted on the curb is helpful, but it can be obscured by a parked car. The ordinance says a house number should be placed either on the primary door or within 18 inches from that door. If your house was built before 1979, then the numbers have to be at least 2" tall. If your house was built between 1979 and 2010, then the numbers have to be at least 3" tall. If your house was built after January 2010, then the numbers should be at least 4" tall.

WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

Block #	Street	Crime
5700	Alvarado	Theft
5800	Alvarado	Theft
6000	Arboles	Burglary
12200	Ashcroft	Burglary
12400	Ashcroft	Robbery
10600	Atwell	Theft
11700	Braewick	Burglary
5600	Cartagena	Theft
5700	Cartagena	Theft
11900	Chimney Rock	Theft
5900	Claridge	Burglary
5900	Dryad	Burglary
5800	Effingham	Theft
11300	Endicott	Theft
10600	Hillcroft	Burglary
11700	Hillcroft	Theft
11900	Hillcroft	Theft
5600	Hummingbird	Theft
6000	Hummingbird	Theft
6000	Lattimer	Theft
11000	Oasis	Burglary
5100	Redstart	Auto Theft
5400	Redstart	Assault
5800	Southminster	Theft
5900	Warm Springs	Theft
5900	W. Airport	Theft
5000	W. Bellfort	Auto Theft

Single Family Residential Crime

Locations by block number, not exact address.

Stats for 30 days preceding June 20, 2015

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACTS

Westbury Area Patrol / Constables
281-463-6666

Westbury HPD Storefront
713-726-7126

HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

Brays Oak Management District (BOMD)
www.braysoakmd.org
(report graffiti)

Do you hear sirens? Go to
[http://](http://cohweb.houstontx.gov/ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx)
[cohweb.houstontx.gov/](http://cohweb.houstontx.gov/ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx)
[ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx](http://cohweb.houstontx.gov/ActiveIncidents/Search.aspx)



2015 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 2015 Mandatory Assessments is \$230. The 2015 Assessments were due by February 1.

If you have any questions or did not get your invoice, please contact the WCC office at 713-723-5437 or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

Late statements will be sent in July.

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

2015 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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

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:
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 westburycc@sbcglobal.net
**Make sure to include your
 address or account number**

Sending multiple payments?
 Circle your payment choice

2 payment of \$147.50
 3 payments of 98.34

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

Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$40	\$	
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$	
Westbury Area Patrol	\$230	\$	
Subtotal	\$295	\$	
Additional Contributions:			
Westbury Civic Club		\$	
Greenspace Beautification		\$	
Westbury Area Patrol		\$	
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$	
Total		\$	



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Westbury Area News

Document Shredding and Recycle Day: July 11

Bring your documents for secure shredding while you wait. Also, bring your electronics for recycling - computers, phones, printers. Minimum donation is \$10 to benefit the non-profit ECHOS (Episcopal Community Health Outreach Services). For more information, call Kathy at (713) 270-0369.

When: Saturday, July 11, 2015, from 9 AM - Noon

Where: 9600 South Gessner - in the parking lot behind the church (Episcopal Church of the Epiphany)

Westbury Volunteer Corps

Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? Do you need to fulfill volunteer hours for your school or Scout group? The WCC's Volunteer Corps needs you! Please email Stephanie Lester at westburystephanie@gmail.com to join this team of neighborhood volunteers.

HEB on S. Braeswood Update

The HEB on S. Braeswood is currently closed due to the flood in May. The WCC was told in early June that plans had not been finalized for that store. HEB will either close that location or remodel it with reopening occurring in October. You can email HEB customer service to find out their plans or request that they remodel and reopen the HEB.

Yard of the Month Help Needed

Judges needed for Yard of the Month. Contact Robert Montgomery at rmontgomery002@comcast.net

Links for Lost & Found Pets in Westbury

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

WWW.WESTBURYCARE.COM



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Susan Monaghan—New Principal for WHS

HISD Announces New WHS Principal – Susan Monaghan

Westbury High School (WHS) will have its third principal in three years. On June 5, HISD announced that Susan Monaghan will be the new principal at WHS.



According to the announcement made by Harrison Peters, HISD Chief High Schools Officer, "Mrs. Monaghan is a veteran educator and administrator with more than two decades of education experience. A strong leader with extensive instruction experience and a history of building teacher and team capacity, Mrs. Monaghan is the principal we need to move Westbury forward and ensure our students continue to produce strong academic results.

Most recently, she served as principal for Pin Oak Middle School, where she has worked for the past five years. During the past year, she also served as lead principal and mentor for her counterparts at Johnston and Ortiz middle schools. Mrs. Monaghan began her career as a third-grade teacher at HISD's Lockhart Elementary School. After almost a decade, she transferred to the Alief Independent School District, where she worked for five years before returning to HISD.

Since returning to HISD in 1995, she has served as a middle school counselor and later assistant principal at The Rice School, and assistant principal at West University Elementary School. She also served as principal of Lovett Elementary School, which advanced from acceptable to exemplary under her tenure. While there, she also was named the 2008-2009 West Region Principal of the Year. Mrs. Monaghan received a bachelor's degree in education from Western Michigan University, as well as a master's in school counseling from University of Houston-Clear Lake and a master's in school administration from University of St. Thomas in Houston.

In addition to her tenure and experience, Mrs. Monaghan brings with her a passion and energy for education that will ensure learning remains the primary focus at Westbury High School."

WHS Bond PAT

Due to the weather related concerns associated with Tropical Storm Bill across the city, the Westbury High School PAT meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be in July. At the July meeting, the architects expect to have some new building design floor plan image options for the PAT review and input.

According to the HISD Project manager, the miscellaneous engineering consultants for the Westbury project are continuing to coordinate with HISD and the architectural team conducting additional site and building investigations. The project team has met with new Principal Susan Monaghan and provided her with information as an introduction and project status update. And the architectural team will continue to work with their cost estimators, campus administration and HISD project team to further develop the design solution ideas. These ideas are what they hope to share with the PAT members during July's meeting.

We will keep you informed of the progress.



New WHS Principal Monaghan greeting parents and students

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Westbury Area News

New WHS Principal Meets Parents and Community

Susan Monaghan, new principal at Westbury High School, was introduced at a Meet and Greet reception held at WHS on Monday, June 22. Ms. Monaghan is excited to be at WHS and she was pleased to see parents in the audience whom she knew when she was principal at Lovett Elementary and Pin Oak Middle School. She plans to be highly visible on campus and at school events. Changes are coming to WHS, and she invited everyone to visit WHS and to volunteer. The school website has been updated and more information will be distributed over the coming days. She plans to send weekly emails and phone blasts to communicate to parents. She expects students to arrive ready to learn and that cell phones will be off.

Uniforms? Before she arrived on campus, the school SDMC (Shared Decision Making Committee) had already approved uniforms for next year. Pants will be khaki or jeans, and shirts will be gray or royal blue (white for Freshmen). On Fridays, students may opt to wear school spirit T-shirts.

Teachers? She has already hired 10 teachers and has 5 openings remaining, mainly in Math.

School Hours? School hours will be different next year. Classes will start at 7:45 AM and end at 3:20 PM daily, except on Thursdays, when students will arrive at 10 AM. It is believed that students will get into less mischief with a delayed start rather than an early dismissal.

TEA (Texas Education Agency) Status? Ms. Monaghan knew when she interviewed that WHS is an "Improvement Required" campus. There is a lot of work to do, but she knows the data and she knows what needs to be done. She has a plan, but it will take everyone working together.

Coffee with the Constables

The WCC outreach program, "Coffee with the Constables" was created to allow residents an opportunity to meet the constables who provide supplemental security in Westbury, and to meet each other. The most recent Coffee was held on the morning of June 13 at Westbury Square. Gathered at the PUCS coffee truck, dozens of residents had a chance to talk to the deputies and to one another. Thank you to Leslee and Jim Cross, owners of PUCS, for donating the coffee and pastry tray. There were also giveaways for the kids from the Constables. This was a productive and positive event on many levels.



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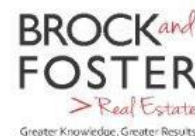


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Market Snapshot is brought to you by Brock & Foster. Susan Brock is a specialist in Westbury and the surrounding areas. With more than 12 years experience she offers an individualized experience that has earned her a five-star client experience rating.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



FREE MARKET SNAPSHOT www.brockandfoster.com



susan@brockandfoster.com office: 713-272-2000 cell/text: 713-922-0877

Mini Murals to District K

Morning Glory!

On Saturday, June 6, Council Member Larry Green unveiled the first mini-mural traffic signal electrical box within District K at a well-attended press conference. The location is at the corner of West Bellfort Ave. at Willowbend Blvd. This is a pilot project sponsored by District K and the City of Houston Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs, the Public Works & Engineering Dept. and the Houston Arts Alliance.

“I’m very excited that our council office is bringing civic art to District K. Moreover I’m thrilled to work with UP Art Studio, which is the conduit for this mini-mural project,” said Council Member Larry Green. “Unfortunately, council districts outside Loop 610 don’t have the same opportunity to acquire civic art as those areas inside the Loop. This civic arts project will expose these electrical boxes’ mini-murals as a legacy initiative toward fostering civic art, not only within District K neighborhoods, but to the entire city.”

This pilot project converts blight into art by re-imagining electrical control boxes

(also known as signal cabinets or utility boxes) as blank canvasses brimming with creative opportunity. Once painted by a local artist, the boxes, which are located at every intersection with a traffic signal, are intended to help instill civic pride, while beautifying neighborhoods and streetscapes across Houston. The mini-mural pilot phase will kick-off with 15 urban artists commissioned by UP Art Studio to transform 31 electrical boxes within District K into colorful works of art. This first signal box was painted by world-class muralist and street artist, Anat Ronen.

Council Member Green is the first to make a substantial commitment to this civic arts project with 31 electrical boxes. This pilot phase is being made possible through the support of Houston Council Member Larry Green’s Council Service Fund. The electrical box mini-mural civic arts project is a fiscally sponsored project of Fresh Arts, a nonprofit arts service organization. For information about the project, visit www.minimurals.org or <https://www.facebook.com/minimurals>



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Neighborhood Transportation News

Brays Bayou Neighborhood Trails – Multi-Community Effort

Advocates for neighborhood trails in the southwest area of Houston in the Brays Bayou watershed have been meeting on a regular basis. Goals include mutually supporting a network of interconnected neighborhood trails in our communities and finding funding sources for these trails. The thinking is that the more voices speaking up for trails in our area, the better it is. The Parks By You city/private trails development effort does not include any funding for trails in our area of Houston.

At the meeting held on June 11, Richard Rodriguez from the Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) said that BOMD has received a \$150,000 grant from the Fondren Foundation to be used for trails along the Fondren Diversion Channel. BOMD is working with the Houston Parks Board to see if or how this funding can be leveraged for additional matching funding. The Glenshire member of the team reviewed a trail proposed along Keegan's Bayou. The Brays Bayou Association and Meyerland are jointly hosting a mayoral event on August 17 at Lovett Elementary and the topic of trails should be brought up then.

The group was not formed in time to be able to apply for 2015 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) grants via the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) for smaller trail projects. There was much discussion about TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants, which are federal grants larger than \$10 million.

Tom McClasland, former member of the Houston Parks Board, helped prepare a successful 2012 TIGER grant for the city which is being used for six different city trails. He noted that his initial grant application in 2011 was not funded and provided tips on the lessons learned to improve grant applications for trails (better visuals, better cost/benefit analysis, and gaining political support). He also noted that it is vital to find a government partner to carry the insurance for trails, especially for trails built on easements such as Centerpoint. He also encouraged the team of advocates to figure out how to connect to various important destinations (for example, how to link to trails connected to the TMC, to schools, etc.) and to work with and provide comments to the city Master Bike Plan efforts.



METRO 261 West Loop Park & Ride

The METRO Board of Directors will discuss the fate of the 261 West Loop Park and Ride bus service at their monthly June board meeting on June 25. As you may recall, METRO had proposed ELIMINATING this direct bus service to downtown earlier this year, by suggesting that an equivalent service was available by taking a local bus to the TMC transit center and then taking light rail the remainder of the distance to downtown. However, commuters who use the service protested at an April informational hearing that the proposed alternate route took much longer than the existing Park and Ride service.

In May, the boards of the Westbury Civic Club and the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (and thus an official resolution from the Westbury Super Neighborhood) approved resolutions stating, "We support the 261 West Loop Park and Ride as an important non-stop transit service to downtown Houston."

At print time it is not known what the METRO board will decide. METRO staff has re-examined the topic of eliminating the 261 West Loop Park and Ride service and now proposes the following changes: "to retain the 261 West Loop, which includes changing the frequency from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes, changing the equipment from 55-seat 45' buses to 37-seat 40' buses, and increasing the FY2016 budget to cover the operating cost of the route."

If approved, the proposed changes would become effective in August with the rest of the New Bus Network. METRO will notify people who have expressed interest in this route or who attended the April meeting on the topic.



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Green News in Westbury



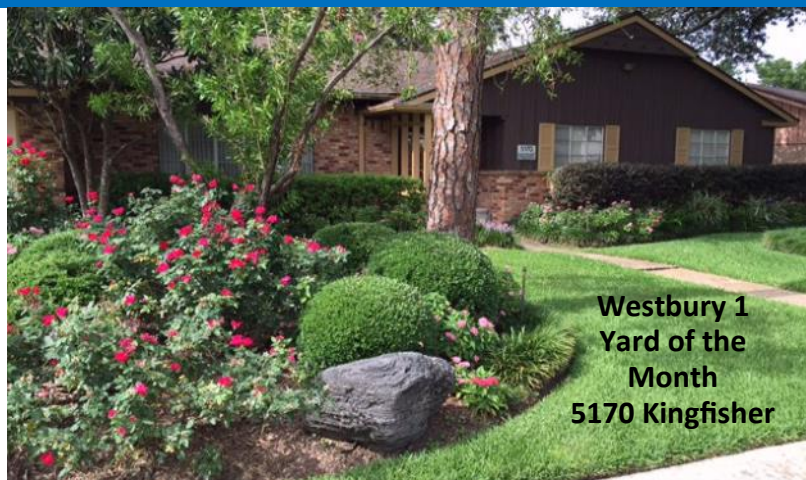
Mosquito Control



It's that time of year again. The mosquitoes are out full force! Mosquitoes are not only annoying but they can carry dangerous illnesses. The best way to keep down the number of mosquitoes is to not let them breed.

Mosquitoes can breed anywhere that water is left to stand or collect. If you look in the standing water, you may see little wiggling things. Those are baby mosquitoes (larvae). Some examples of where water may be left standing include: pet water bowls, bird baths, low puddle areas, saggy gutters, and plant container saucers. What can each of us do to reduce the numbers of mosquitoes?

- ◆ Tip over all the water collectors in your yard and leave them turned over to discourage mosquitoes
- ◆ Don't allow standing water in saucers under a pot.
- ◆ Rinse and refresh bird baths and pet water bowls daily.
- ◆ If you collect rainwater to water your plants, be sure the container has a good screen cover to keep mosquitoes out of the water.
- ◆ If you have a decorative pond in your backyard, check it for mosquito larvae. Small fish called Gambusia (Mosquito Fish) can be added to eat the mosquito larvae.
- ◆ Keep gutters in good repair.
- ◆ Get rid of old tires.



**Westbury 1
Yard of the
Month
5170 Kingfisher**

April Yard of the Month Winners

Westbury 1
RJ & Jennifer Bruce
5242 Kingfisher

Westbury 3
Ron & Corrie Brown
5634 Warm Spring

Parkwest 3
Dean Schindler
& Kevin Clark
11615 Dunlap

Parkwest 1 & 2
5511 Briarbend

May Yard of the Month Winners

Westbury 1
Richard & Judy Nunn
5111 Briarbend

Westbury 3
Ivan Dixon
5630 Cartagena St.

Parkwest 3
Frank & Juanita Green
11603 Dunlap

Parkwest 1 & 2
David Balmert
5815 Benning

June Yard of the Month Winners

Westbury 1
Allen & Lenore Brooks
5170 Kingfisher

Westbury 3
Lauren & Cole Ballard
11426 Ashcroft

Westbury 5
John Reid
11114 Atwell

Parkwest 1 & 2
Linda Rabinowitz
5814 Benning

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Westbury Community Garden

Second Annual Tomato Tasting

The Westbury Community Garden held its second annual Tomato Tasting event in early June. Attendees, who ranged in age from 3 to 89, had a chance to taste 27 different varieties of tomatoes. Tasters judged them on taste, appearance, texture, sweetness, meatiness, tartness and acidity. There were slicers, saladettes and cherry varieties as well as heirloom and hybrid. Thanks to the incredible WCG gardeners for sharing their bounty and for sharing their knowledge. There really is nothing like home grown tomatoes.



Photo credit: S & R Johnson



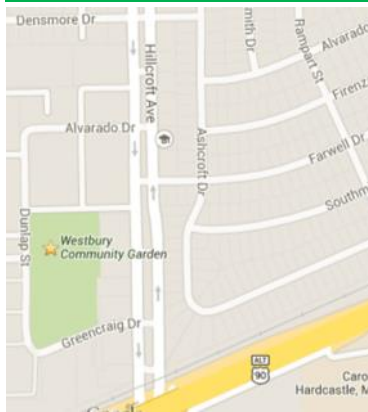
Farm Stand at the Westbury Community Garden



A farm share program is also available with pick up at the Garden. Visit www.plant-it-forward.org for info.

A farm stand run by Plant It Forward Farms is open at the garden

Saturday, 9AM-5PM
Sundays, 10AM—6PM.



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.

Farm Share Program

Plant It Forward Farms has started registration for the next Farm Share Season, starting in July 2015. The WCG Pavilion is a pick up location.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST*?

25-week season, July 2015- Jan 2016: \$625
50-week season, July 2015- June 2016: \$1200

- *3% discount for paying in full
- *additional fee applies if paying by credit card
- *additional delivery fee applies at some locations

Learn more about about PIF Farm Shares at the Plant-It-Forward.org website.

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