



Westbury Crier

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Westbury Pool & Platou Center are open! For events & schedules, see page 12
- WCC Board meeting: August 17, 6:30PM Platou Community Center
- August heavy trash is JUNK WASTE

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VOLUME 57, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

Are you a member of the Civic Club?

My eyes have blurred from reading the number of articles written over the past 50 plus years about membership. Over the years, a variety of appeals have been attempted to encourage residents to join, ranging from: begging for members, cajoling for members; shaming non-members by printing a map of homes paying dues, extolling the benefits of membership, and listing all the wonderful things the civic club dues have supported. One enterprising president allowed members to "earn" a \$5 credit towards their next year's dues for each "full" membership they collected.

The Westbury Area Patrol has helped keep crime down in Westbury for the last 30 years. The same factors that drove us to contract with Harris County Precinct Five in the 80's are with us today. We are in the process of speaking to Harris County to get a 4th deputy added to our rotation. We need 154 more members to pay our current contract for the year and another 325 members to support the new deputy. So that is my challenge to you -- **we need 500 new members**. If you have already paid, ask your neighbor to join. If you haven't paid, won't you consider doing so. Economically, times are tough, if you can't pay the full amount, please send a donation. Every dollar helps!

This year rather than mailing an invoice to each home, we asked everyone to use the form provided in the Crier. It is delivered to your doorstep each month. Everyone knows that strong neighborhoods need strong neighborhood involvement. Everyone knows what their civic dues, constable dues and beautification dues do for Westbury. Some choose to pay. Some choose not to pay. No amount of begging, cajoling, extolling or shaming will reach those who do not want to pay. For those of you who need a reminder, here it is. Please cut out the membership form below and mail it in!

Won't you join me in making Westbury the cleanest, safest, greenest neighborhood in Houston. -Becky Edmondson

2011 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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

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- 3 payments of 98.34

Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$36	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$234	\$
Subtotal	\$295	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
Total		\$

Published by:
 Westbury Civic Club, Inc
 Editor: WCC Publication
 Committee
 Printing: Hutson Enterprises

Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors 2011

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
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Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT	wccvolunteers@westburycrier.com

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Parkwest 2	Peter Zografos	Parkwest2@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 3	Dorothy Rhoades	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

Westbury Civic Club Office

SUMMER Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 9:30AM— 1:30PM, Closed Friday*

Address: 5322 W Bellfort Ste 107 Houston, TX 77035

Phone: 713-723-5437

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

*The office is closed on all major holidays, Fridays, and weekends

FREE NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch

281-463-6666

HPD Non-Emergency

713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)

713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront

713-726-7126

Platou Community Center

713-726-7107

Poison Control

1-800-764-7661

Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)

713-207-2222

Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck

832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee

713-755-6111

City of Houston 311 Hotline

(for all Non-Emergency Issues)

Forestry Department

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Heavy Trash

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Parking Management

Recycling

School Crossing Light Repairs

Water and Sewer Repair

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www.westburycrier.com

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(Westbury Houston)**

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Twitter@westburyhouston**

SUMMER WCC OFFICE HOURS: MON-THURS 9:30-1:30, CLOSED FRIDAYS

President's Message

As we put the Crier together each month, one of my favorite things is looking through the Criers of the past. I hope you are enjoying the "This Month in Westbury History" column. I am reminded time and time again of how much work has taken place in order to keep Westbury a viable neighborhood.

The articles on Public Safety, Crime prevention, and the Constable patrol remind me that these are not the "worst of times"; having had the Constable program in place now for almost 30 years has reduced crime from the high crime days of the 1980s. The Deed Restriction article written in 1984 is as timely today as it was then. Recently someone told me that Westbury's strong Deed Restrictions were the main reason Westbury was still a great place to live. Articles on what it means to be a good neighbor appeared regularly in every decade. There were bounties paid for bandit signs taken from the esplanades.

Amazingly, the list of past board members finds people still serving today. Wally Davenport, president in 1978, serves as treasurer of the Friends of Chimney Rock Park in 2011. Russell Schexnayder, vice president in 1979, is our representative on the Brays Bayou Association and immediate past Director of Flood Control & Infrastructure. Our upcoming speaker for the 2011 September general meeting, METRO president George Greanais, was our speaker at our annual covered dish suppers in 1982, 1983 and 1984.

In 1966, there was an article on the number of complaints about loose dogs. In this issue 45 years later, the same subject. The list of programs from 1979 at the Platou center mirror those offered in 2010. There are the White Elephant Sale articles; the Candidate nights; the illustrious speakers at our annual meetings from Mayors to City Council Members to Congressmen.

A big thanks goes to all of those who have served on the Beautification Team over the years and to those who worked on our esplanades. Can you imagine if nothing had ever been planted? I had always wondered when the trees and oleanders were planted. Check out the history column on page 11 for the rest of the story.

It has taken thousands of people tens of thousands of hours working together to make and keep Westbury a livable and desirable community. It has taken each of us as homeowners maintaining our property and being good neighbors to make Westbury the desirable neighborhood that it is. I salute you all!

Working for Westbury,
Becky Edmondson

Board Notes

- Treasurer Pam Schertz that the audit process has begun with Cynthia Cox.
- Twenty-five residents learned about all the wonderful things happening at Memorial Hermann Southwest from its CEO, George Gaston.
- Sallie Alcorn from CM Costello's office was in attendance and was thanked for their role in helping keep the Platou Center open.
- Sean Gay, the new Supervisor for the Platou Center, spoke briefly. The Platou center was almost closed by the city in June, and he emphasized that the key factor considered by the city is attendance by youth from 6 to 13 years old. This disadvantages the Platou Center since it is not adjacent to a school and has catered programs towards adults
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

**Join us for the WCC
board meeting on
Wednesday, August 17
@ 6:30PM at the Platou
Community Center**

WESTBURY ANNUAL MEETING

September 21

Come meet the WCC Board.

Meet tons of great Westbury residents.

Door prizes!!!!

Stay connected all month long:

Are you one of the 176 people who "like" Westbury Houston on Facebook? There were 10,000 page views last month! Keep informed all month long...Go to Facebook and "like" Westbury Houston.

Are you one of the 539 visitors to the Westbury website? Visit us at www.westburycrier.com.

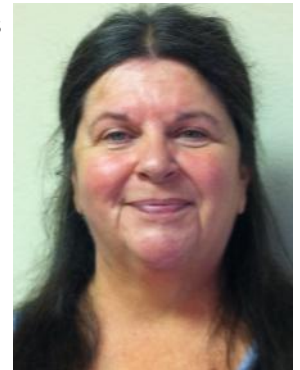
Have you read the **Working on Westbury** blog? Communications Director Melissa Denney thought a blog would be "fun" for the President. Read Becky's first post about the day she hugged Sheila Jackson Lee!
<http://workingonwestbury.blogspot.com/>

The Faces of the Westbury Civic Club



Hazel Potvin is currently WCC Director of Maintenance and Beautification and was previously Director of Volunteers. She is a Master Gardener who founded the Westbury Garden Club group and is also active with the Westbury Community Garden. She is also on the board of the Friends of Chimney Rock Park/Platou Community Center and is on the editorial board for the WCC monthly newsletter. When she was WCC Director of Volunteers, the civic club received several awards for volunteer cleanup activities. As Director of Maintenance and Beautification, Hazel wrote a successful application for a city grant which paid for half the cost of upgrading the landscaping around our community marker signs this spring. In her spare time Hazel enjoys her grandchildren and gardening.

Barbara Haverkamp Every publication needs someone willing to untangle convoluted sentences and clarify the complexities of grammar. Barbara is one of our Crier editors. Barbara and her husband, both originally from the upper Midwest, moved to Westbury in 1983. Inspired by George Bush's 1,000 points of light speech, Barbara began volunteering at Parker Elementary while her children were there. They moved on to middle school, but Barbara remained as editor of the school newsletter as a thank you to Parker and also as a way to give back to her community. She has edited Parker's School newsletter for 21 years. She has been a volunteer at Johnston MS, Lanier MS, and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She has been recognized as Volunteer of the Year at Parker, received the Charles Harding Sr. Volunteer Award for the SW District of HISD in 2005, and the Texas Association of Partners in Education Sr. Volunteer Award in 2006. Barbara says, "I feel blessed to live in Westbury. There are good neighbors and a certain stability."



Ken Downey is a native of Connecticut and moved to Westbury with his wife in 2007. He was drawn to the Westbury area due to its location and the quality of the houses that exist in the neighborhood. Before becoming the Flood Control and Infrastructure Director, he served as Section Director for Parkwest 1. Ken is active in the Westbury Community Garden and can occasionally be found doing karaoke (poorly) at the Cozy Corner. As WCC Director of Flood Control and Infrastructure, Ken prepares the formal requests submitted to the city early each year for capital and non-capital improvement ideas for the Westbury area. Ken has been very active in the METRO US90A rail corridor issue and has devoted much time studying the issues and attending meetings.

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What's Happening in Westbury

August 2011 Events & Meetings Calendar

Wed 3	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30-7:30PM Community Garden under the pavilion—12500 Dunlap Open to the public
Mon 15	Westbury Pool CLOSED weekdays Open weekends only from Aug. 20-Sept. 4
Mon 15	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Wed 17	WCC Board Meeting 6:30-8PM Platou Community Center—11655 Chimney Rock
Sat 20	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow
Tues 23	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South
28-31	Yard of the Month Judging—Winners awarded August 1 Make sure your yard is ready!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
WESTBURY ANNUAL MEETING
IS SEPTEMBER 21. COME MEET
YOUR NEIGHBORS AND WIN
GREAT DOOR PRIZES!**

August 2011 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

Thurs 11	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Tues 16	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE (South of W. Bellfort)
Wed 17	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE (North of W. Bellfort)
Thurs 25	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Sept.	Heavy Trash—TREE WASTE ONLY

Important Trash & Recycling Information

- ♻️ Trash cans need to be out on curb by 7AM Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- ♻️ No heavy trash out before 6PM the Friday before pick-up date
- ♻️ YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste and will not be collected with heavy trash. It is collected on Westbury's regular Thursday trash day as long as it is in the correct recyclable bags
- ♻️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ♻️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
SW Trash Depository/Recycling Center 10785 Southwest Frwy
 Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste and Recyclables.
Environmental Service Center 11500 South Post Oak
 Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9AM-3PM; 2nd Saturday 9AM-1PM
 Accepts Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste
 ♻️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com for more trash and recycling information

***PLEASE NOTE:
DO NOT PUT OUT HEAVY TRASH
UNTIL FRIDAY, AUGUST 12TH AT
6PM**



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Memorial Hermann Southwest



George Gaston, President and CEO for Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital gave an informative and interesting presentation at the July 2011 Westbury Civic Club meeting. This hospital has been our neighbor since the 60's and in its present location since 1977. Two years ago the hospital was almost sold to the Harris County Hospital District. There was such an outcry from the community that Memorial Hermann kept the hospital, listened to the community and to its staff and created a brand new hospital experience. There is a special over-55 years old ER. According to the presentation, tonight the average wait time from checking-in to getting an assessment by a physician is only 25 minutes!

Ralph Rieger, CPA

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~Westbury resident for 20 years~

Did you know:

- Memorial Hermann embraces a patient-centered culture, always pushing to improve healthcare outcomes. This commitment to deliver the best care possible under the safest methods has many organizations taking note.
- For the second year in a row, Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital and three other Memorial Hermann hospitals have collectively earned the elite status of being listed among America's 50 Best Hospitals by HealthGrades®, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization. They are the only Texas-based institutions to achieve this distinction. This means Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital ranks among the top 1 percent in the nation.
- Memorial Hermann Southwest, along with five other Memorial Hermann hospitals, is among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® as rated by Thomson Reuters, a leading independent provider of information and with solutions to improve the cost and quality of Healthcare. Memorial Hermann's hospitals were the only ones in the Houston area to earn the recognition.
- To learn more about the top-rated care delivered at Memorial Hermann Southwest, please visit memorialhermann.org/southwest or call 713.222.CARE (2273) for a physician referral. Find us at [facebook.com/MemorialHermannSouthwest](https://www.facebook.com/MemorialHermannSouthwest) to find out about free, upcoming community screenings and seminars, keep up with the latest campus news and receive tips on healthy living.

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Security / Crime

A message from your Security Director *by Morgan Gaskin*

There has been an increasing number of auto theft incidents this summer. There are two times of the day where your car is most vulnerable if parked in a driveway or on the street: 10PM – 4AM and 12:30PM – 4PM. These times correspond to normal hours when people are sleeping, or in the middle of the normal work week. HPD has put out a crime prevention notification informing Houston residents how to protect vehicles from being stolen or burglarized. The tips include parking in a locked garage, installing motion sensors on the side of the home where the driveway is located, always removing computer items or other valuables from the car (including the trunk), and installing a kill switch or alarm into the car. Unfortunately, crime happens. Fortunately, there are things that you can do to stay protected. Ensure that you and your family take steps to minimize the risk of losing your vehicle or incurring substantial damage due to vandals, burglars, and thieves in the area.

**Constable
Dispatch
281-463-6666**

**HPD Non-
Emergency
713-884-3131**

**HPD Westbury
Storefront
713-726-7126**

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37 * 30 days preceding July 18, 2011

	Single-Family Residential	Apartment/ Condominium	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	11	6	8	1	26
Theft	13	5	2	0	20
Auto Theft	2	1	1	0	4
Robbery	0	1	0	0	1
Assault	1	3	0	0	4
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	16	11	1	55

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

True Crime *by Becky Edmondson, WCC President*

Early on the morning of July 1st, I received a phone call from my neighbor telling me that I needed to go outside and check my car. I walked out front to find my car up on landscape blocks with all four tires and wheels stolen. My husband's truck had the lug nuts removed from all his tires, but the truck slipped off the jack and they left his tires behind. What a way to start the 4th of July weekend! I called the Precinct 5 number and an officer arrived within minutes. While I waited for a wrecker, I noticed some good fingerprints, so I called HPD Non-Emergency and they sent an officer to take fingerprints. (I've since discovered the deputies could have done this too.) Hopefully they will be able to track down the thieves.

A neighbor several blocks away had the same thing happen earlier this year. Both the police and the tow truck driver said this was happening all over Houston. We have implemented some security measures they recommended.

What did this incident cost me? Two separate deductibles on the two vehicles; six days without the use of my car because of the holiday weekend; a missed day of work and several sleepless nights as I now get up and look around watching for the thieves to return.

My experience with the Deputy Constables and HPD was outstanding. I liked having that quick response time from our contract program. Last month in PW3 there was someone continually shooting a gun in the air and both HPD and the Westbury Area Patrol were called. Only the WAP officer showed up. Please support the WAP patrol.

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



Parkwest 1 Yard of the Month Winner for July

Yard of the Month July Winners

- Parkwest 1:** 5511 Briarbend—Kriss & Mike Budno
- Parkwest 2:** 5706 Benning—Heather Reta
- Parkwest 3:** 5930 Lattimer—Harvey Johnson
- Westbury 1:** 5011 Kinglet—Mrs. Tassi Zavitsanos
- Westbury 2:** 10810 Moonlight—The Weavers
- Westbury 3:** 5515 McKnight—Ken Shrum & Kelly Harlan
- Westbury 4:** 6011 Effingham—Robert J. Exner
- Westbury 5:** 10626 Carlota—Larry Smith & Family
- Westbury South:** 12326 Renwick—Charles & Coty Bell

Urban Harvest @ the Westbury Community Garden

We are excited to announce that Urban Harvest will be teaching classes in the Westbury Community Garden this October and November. The fee is \$23 for members; \$35 for non-members. You can register online at urbanharvest.org.

HANDS ON: ECOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL by Bob Randall and Mike Serant
Saturday, October 1, 9-11:30 AM

HANDS ON: PLANTING THE WINTER VEGETABLE GARDEN by Gary Edmondson, Diana Liga, Bob Randall, Jeanie Dunnihoo
Saturday, October 1, 3:30-6 PM

SEED SAVING by Angela Chandler
Saturday, October 8, 3-5:30 PM

FALL HERBS AND EDIBLE FLOWERS FOR HOUSTON by Jeannie Dunnihoo
Saturday, October 15, 9-11:30 AM

HANDS ON: CONSTRUCTING THE HOME FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDEN by Gary Edmondson
Saturday, October 22, 9-11:30 AM

HANDS ON: BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY SOIL by Jeannie Dunnihoo
Saturday, November 12, 3-5:30 PM

Audubon Bird Survey

Willow Waterhole Monthly bird survey will be Saturday, August 20, at 7AM. Meet at The Gathering Place— 5310 South Willow

frequent rains, or at least less intense sun that drains the soil of moisture.

So put on your thinking and creativity caps, curl up with gardening books, dream and plan for the fall planting.

It's Time to Think About Fall Planting *by Ray Sher*

During the heat of July and August, you may not feel like very much gardening, especially between 9 in the morning and 6 at night. We all think that Spring gardening is the great gardening season, for that is what books and magazines tell us, but those publications were written for northern gardeners who have mild summer temperatures. For us, the summer is the time to plan what we will grow in the fall and winter.

Here in Houston, fall and winter are the very best times to garden, and produce

the best vegetables. Temperatures are cool and we can be outside almost all the time. Think carrots, beets, turnips, rutabaga, and radishes. Think kale, collards, mustards, arugula, lettuces, bok choy, sugar peas and snow peas. Think Swiss chard, fennel, kohlrabi, broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower. Think sorrel, endives, escaroles, dill, cilantro, dandelion and all the Asian greens. Think fall tomatoes. You get the idea. We can grow all the best vegetables from fall through early spring, in weather that we enjoy, and usually with help from

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Drainage Easement Greenspaces

Greenspaces Along Westbury Drainage Easements

A century ago the bayous in Houston were considered to be potential parkland, but drainage problems in a rapidly expanding city overshadowed the park concept. Houston is now a big city and our drainage bayous are becoming valued as greenspaces which can connect people to places, while also reducing flooding. Long-time Houstonians may call them “ditches”, but the flood drainage easements in Westbury are used for exercise, dog-walking, bicycling, and even gardening. Westbury residents Noreen Heard and Betsy Cross have created a beautiful coastal prairie garden in Westbury 2 planted with wildflowers and native grasses for a 200 foot strip along the drainage easement near their homes. To see the garden, park on Burdine next to the drainage easement (in the 11000 block of Burdine, midway between Sanford and Hummingbird).

Now that Westbury is part of the Brays Oaks Management District, it is anticipated that the BOMD Parks Master Plan will be updated with plans for Westbury parks and greenspaces.

Some goals related to our drainage and utility easements could include:

1. Develop linear parks, gardens and jogging/walking trails.
2. Provide habitat for our wildlife with the rehabilitation of these areas into “Habitat Highways™” while improving our quality of life through the creation of a “Green Network”.



Photos: Coastal Prairie Project along drainage easement in Westbury 2



Want to get off the beaten path in Westbury?

Try these great trails in Westbury.

The North /South Trails are the Hillcroft Esplanades, Chimney Rock Esplanades, and the Burdine drainage easement.

The East/West Trails are the drainage easement north of Ludington, the drainage easement north of Bankside, and the utility easement that begins at Chimney Rock and W. Bellfort.

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FAQs of the WCC Office

Why do I get the answering machine when I call the WCC office during office hours?

The majority of the time it's because the Office Manager is already on the phone helping another resident. Westbury has many residents so the call volume can be quite large. Please be patient and leave a message. On occasion, the Office Manager may need to go to the Post Office, Bank, and/or drive by homes that have been reported for violations. We might not always be able to immediately answer your call, but your call is very important to us, so please make sure you leave a detailed message.

This Month in Westbury History

The first *Westbury Crier* was published in July 1956. We have 55 years of monthly history at our fingertips. Here are some headlines and stories from the past.

August 1961

◆ Rev. Greer is appointed Pastor of Westbury Baptist, which has purchased a 5 1/2 acre building site between Hillcroft and Rampart in Maplewood South.

August 1962

◆ The drought has greatly increased our costs on the esplanade beautification. If you haven't sent in your annual beautification dues of **50 cents**, do it today!

August 1978

◆ Westbury receives Municipal Arts Award. The 346 live oaks and 145 oleanders planted by the Club on the esplanades of Hillcroft, Chimney Rock, and West Bellfort during the last year and a half won the 12th annual Environmental Improvement Award presented by the Houston Municipal Arts Commission and the AIA, Houston. The award noted the efforts for long-range planning for natural beauty through a far-sighted planting program. We are indebted to John Garrett and his beautification project which enabled our area to take on a new look, to win an award and to look to the future when the small trees and bushes will grow to resemble the area near Rice University.










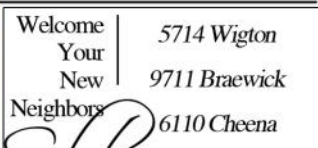
Responsible Pet Ownership Begins With the "4 L's"

LICENSE, LEASH, LATCH, LOVE. This is what BARC calls the 4 L's, we believe it, we practice it, and we promote it. The "4 L's" are the basis of responsible pet ownership and the key to creating safe, secure environments for your pets. License your pet. Leash your pet. Latch your gate. Last, but certainly not least, give your pet lots of love and attention.

BARC promotes safe animal human encounters. Here are some general tips about animal safety: Do not pet unfamiliar animals. Always ask the owner before petting an animal that is not yours; also teach children this rule. Never tease animals. Do not surprise any animal. Do not touch a sleeping animal. Do not turn your back on a dog. Do not bother a dog while it is eating. Do not leave small children alone with a dog. Do not stare into a dog's eyes.

Learn and watch for signs of aggressive and fearful animal behavior: Ears are erect or back. Body is stiff. Tail is stiff or moving rapidly. Body is crouched with head down. Tail hangs down or is tucked between legs. Growling. Staring straight ahead. Hair standing on end.

And last but not least, for all of you dog walkers out there, PLEASE PICK UP THE POOP. Your neighbors are thanking you in advance for this polite consideration.

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Westbury Pool, Platou Community Center, & Community Garden

Westbury Pool Summer 2011 Schedule

Pool is open daily 1-8PM from June 4 to August 14, Closed on Mondays. On Wednesday and Friday the pool closes at 6PM for the Hydro Fit water class.

August 20 - September 4— Pool open on Saturday and Sundays only, 1-8PM

September 5 (Labor Day) - Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

Questions? Call pool at 713-723-2192

Platou Community Center August 2011 Schedule

The Community Center is open Monday thru Friday from 8AM to 6PM.

*The City of Houston runs a free lunch program for kids 0 to 18 during the summer

Weekly Class & Meeting Schedule

Stretching Exercise Class—Monday, Wednesday, Fridays, 9-9:45AM

Westbury Quilting Bee—Tuesdays, 9:30AM

Games—Wednesdays, 10AM

Portable Projects— Thursdays, 9:30AM

Possible new classes & meetings:

Bridge—Do you play bridge? A bridge group is forming. Call Dita at 713-726-1868

Westbury Moms of Toddlers and Preschoolers - Call Jennifer at 713-446-6113

Kid's Craft Class—Call Jennifer at 713-446-6113

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE (WWW.WESTBURYCRUER.COM) FOR THE CURRENT PLATOU SCHEDULE AS NEW EVENTS ARE STILL BEING ADDED

Successful Water Aerobics Class at the Westbury Pool

The adult water aerobics class offered by the city at the Westbury Pool has, once again, been a huge success. Due to the overwhelming interest in the class, the city added a second class at our pool. Over 140 people have been attending the twice weekly classes led by Louis Moore. If you haven't tried it yet, there is still a couple weeks left. Classes end August 12. Contact the Westbury Pool at 713-729-2192 for more information.



Westbury Community Garden Update

Our garden is growing! Literally! The Student Conservation Association will be in the garden the first week of August and will be building ten or eleven new raised beds. Now is the time to get your name on the waiting list if you have an interest in gardening. Be sure to check out page 8 for the Urban Harvest classes that will be taught at the Westbury Community Garden. This is the fourth year the Student Conservation Association has worked in Westbury and we are thrilled they are back this year.

This year they have 20 high school students (recruited from a number of local high schools) in their program, separated into two crews, for a six week paid summer job. They've worked at Little Cypress Creek Preserve, Sheldon Lake State Park, the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, Memorial Park and they are ending the program at the Westbury Community Garden. As well as doing conservation service work (such as trail building/maintenance, invasive species removal, habitat restoration and community gardening) the program includes environmental education, introduction to green jobs and a recreation camping trip at the end of the program. They also have a school year program for high school students, which involves conservation service projects, camping, environmental education and outdoor recreation.



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Platou Community Center

“Little Classes” for Children

Yes, our community center was allowed to stay open this summer due to the hard work by many people in the Westbury community. However, it is still at risk both because of ongoing city budget issues and because of the way the Parks department judges whether a center is serving the community well or not.

Their base line is: How many youth ages 6 to 13 use the Platou Community Center on a daily basis? This does not count the adults that use our center, preschoolers, or students from Johnston or Westbury High School.

Can we do something to bring in more children ages 6 to 13? Answer is YES. First, the Platou Center now has a new supervisor, Sean Gray, who graduated from Madison High and knows the Westbury area well. He will be visiting area schools and apartments to urge families to bring their children to the center for After School Enrichment on the weekdays, 3-6PM, during the school year.

The community can help out by providing enrichment experiences to children in the form of “Little Classes”. If you have art training, could you host an art class for 6 weeks from 3:30 to 4:30? If you knit or crochet or do hand sewing, could you teach children how to do one of these skills for 6 weeks? If you like to do woodworking, could you be able to guide children to make something out of wood using hand saws, hammers, etc? If you like to play chess, could you form a chess group to introduce children to this very important game? Children love to learn how to make things to eat, could you give a class on making healthy good snacks? (There is a stove) If you can coach children in drama, could you come and lead them to learn performance skills? The possibilities are endless.

Special offerings could really make the difference as to whether elementary students want to come to the Platou Center or not. You would have the support of the supervisor and the Friends of Chimney Rock Park. There are funds can help out with buying supplies. We would like to see at least three “Little Classes” offered each week with a possible repeat of those classes at a later date.

Please contact, Hazel Potvin at 713-729-4568, for more information.



Children of Westbury Celebration

On Thursday, July 21, eighteen children and twelve adults gathered to celebrate the continued use of the Platou Center. The children enjoyed a fun afternoon with treats, crafts, and games. The promised "mystery vehicle" was revealed to be a fire truck from the Westbury fire station. The kids enjoyed climbing inside the fire truck and blowing the horn. One firefighter wore full bunker gear, including breathing like Darth Vader with an air pack, so kids will recognize help instead becoming afraid and running away or hiding from a Firefighter during a fire.



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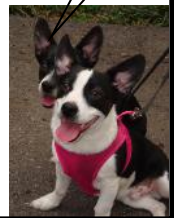
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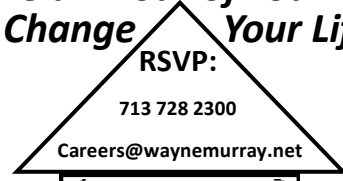
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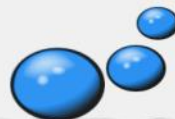
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Neighborhood and City News

Willow Waterhole Clean-up

Two volunteer cleanup events were held at Willow Waterhole Greenspace during June. Sixteen huge bags of trash and three truck tires were hauled out of the lake and meadows near Gasmer and Clematis. Our thanks to the volunteers.

School starts soon!
Remember school zones & hands free cell phone zones will be operational.
Drive safely.

Westbury Christian

Westbury Christian School has purchased the Westland YMCA property on Fondren for a new athletic complex. They will continue to hold their academic programs at their school on Hillcroft. The YMCA will be closing its doors at the end of August 2011, although they hope to continue some of their programming in the area. Most of the programming is being moved to the West Orem YMCA.

“My Houston is Here”

Houston will soon be turning 175 years old. Photographic memories are being collected depicting Houston residents holding a sign saying “My Houston is Here” at a favorite spot in Houston. Do you have a favorite spot in Westbury or somewhere else in Houston? Go to www.houston175.org to print out a copy of the sign, and then send a picture of yourself with the sign back to them.

Changes to 311

The 311 city service call center will no longer be staffed 24/7. New hours of operation are 6AM to 8PM Monday through Saturday. Some phones are unable to call 311 directly, so if you have this problem, then call the entire phone number at 713-837-0311. The city also has a website to submit 311 service requests. The city has recently revamped the 311 website to make it easier to use, although not all requests can be made online. To use the website, go to the main city page at <http://www.houstontx.gov/> and then go to Online Services and choose 311 helpline or click on the 311 helpline link near bottom of the webpage.

Anderson Elementary “Spiffed” Up

Anderson Elementary, located in Westbury 4, is closed this summer for renovations. Summer staff have relocated temporarily and summer school classes were held at Tinsley Elementary. Renovations will continue after school starts.

METRO Update

Phyllis Frye, Ken Downey and Becky Edmondson recently had a meeting with METRO officials at METRO headquarters. METRO has branded itself as the “New METRO” with an interest in hearing community input. They have hosted several meetings in our area and have also attended many meetings of local community organizations to discuss future plans. METRO is currently in the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) scoping stage for a US90A (South Main) rail line. Some of the potential routes would directly impact the Westbury area, although no money has been set aside for this line.

The purpose of the meeting was to reiterate key points to METRO:

- 1.) Westbury's neighborhood integrity must be maintained.
- 2.) Surveys indicate residents want a Westbury station. A station in the Chimney Rock / West Airport area is the most favored option.
- 3.) The impact of a future extension of West Airport in that general area was also discussed, including the possibility for a pedestrian crossover bridge.
- 4.) Concerns over fair market value, the size of easements and the sound wall were discussed on the north of the current rail alignment option.



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