

# Westbury Crier

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- TAKE THE METRO US90A RAIL SURVEY. INFO ON PAGE 15
- New Community Garden Expansion, see page 8
- Help Westbury Park, see page 9
- WCC Board Meeting: August 15, 7PM @ Westbury Baptist Church, RM C109
- August's heavy trash is JUNK WASTE

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Mailbag

Published by: Westbury Civic Club, Inc Editor-in-chief: Jennifer Edmondson Edited by: WCC Publication Committee VOLUME 58, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2012

# Do You Know Your Deed Restrictions?

# Part 1: Corner Lots and Rounded/Curved Lots

While each home in Westbury and Parkwest has their own set of deed restrictions, many have common restrictions with just slightly different wording. This month we are featuring the deed restriction that limits "sight line obstructions" since we have been receiving calls concerned about dangerous curves, corners and private driveways. In addition to being a deed restriction violation, this problem is also covered by a similar city ordinance which is enforced by the city Department of Neighborhoods.

Basically, the rule is, if you live on a corner or rounded curve, you cannot have plantings from 2 to 6 feet tall which obstruct the safe view for vehicular traffic. Please check your property to make sure you are not in violation of this restriction. If you are, please cut back your vegetation to UNDER 2 feet. The specific deed restrictions for your home are on line at <a href="https://www.westburycrier.com">www.westburycrier.com</a> Below is sample wording from one of the sets.

o) No fence, wall, hedge or shrub plantings which obstructs sight lines at elevations between 2 and 6 feet above the roadways shall be placed or permitted to remain on any corner lot within the triangular area formed by the street property lines and a line connecting them at points 25 feet from the intersection of the street lines, or in the case of a rounded property corner from the intersection of the street property lines extended. The same sight-line limitations shall apply on any lot within 10 feet from the intersection of a street property line with the edge of a driveway or alley pavement. No tree shall be permitted to remain within such distances of such intersections unless the foliage line is maintained at sufficient height to prevent obstruction of such sight lines.

TIP - Even if you do not live on a corner or curved lot, please consider whether your plantings obstruct safe view for vehicular traffic backing out of driveways.

A Special Thank You to the Falk Family!

Our long time distributor of the Crier fell ill during the distribution of the July Crier. He was so ill that he neglected to call the office and let us know that he had stopped delivering. The WCC office was faced with this sudden unexpected crisis and thankfully a Westbury resident, Paul Falk, stepped forward to volunteer to complete the distribution. HIs efforts were hampered by our daily deluges, but

not only did Paul get right to work delivering, he enlisted his entire family – mother Jane, sisters Laura and Monica, and cousin Emily and her husband, Sean. Thank you very much!

### National Night Out: October 2

Start planning your parties now! National Night Out is a great event designed to celebrate neighbors. We encourage you to organize block parties or other events and get to know your neighbors.

Register with the WCC by September 20th to be entered in a drawing to win a WCC Pizza Party during your event. The first 10 parties to register will receive a party "kit" with giveaways and signage. We will also arrange for HPD, WAP Constables, or the WCC Board to visit your party.



Westbury Annual Meeting September 19, 7PM

Westbury Baptist Church RM C109

Speaker: City CM Larry Green Door Prizes!

### **Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors**

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman	wccvp@westburycrier.com
Secretary	Phyllis Frye	wccsecretary@westburycrier.com
Treasurer	Pamela Schertz	wcctreasurer@westburycrier.com

### **Directors at Large**

Communications	Melissa Denney	wcccommunications@westburycrier.com
Community Relations	Cindy Chapman	wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com
Deed Restrictions	VACANT	wccdeed restrictions @westburycrier.com
Flood Control & Infrastructure	Ken Downey	wccflood@westburycrier.com
Greenspace Beautification	Carlos Mata	wccmaintenance@westburycrier.com
Membership	Janie Schexnayder	wccmembership@westburycrier.com
Security	Kevin Douglass	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT	wccvolunteers@westburycrier.com

### **Section Directors**

Westbury 1	Sylvia Rendon	Westbury1@westburycrier.com
Westbury 2	Austin Chen	Westbury2@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	VACANT	Westbury3E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	Ron Brown	Westbury3W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	VACANT	Westbury4E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	Vicki Eldridge	Wesbury4W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	VACANT	Westbury5W@westburycrier.com
Westbury South	Robert Capps	Westburysouth@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	Parkwest1@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 2	Peter Zografos	Parkwest2@westburycrier.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)

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

District K Councilmember Larry Green

832-393-3016

District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen

832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee

713-755-6111

### **City of Houston 311 Hotline**

### (for all Non-Emergency Issues)

Forestry Department

Graffiti

Hazardous Waste Disposal

**Heavy Trash** 

Neighborhood Protection

Parking Management

Recycling

School Crossing Light Repairs

Water and Sewer Repair

### Stay connected!

Are one of the 411 likes of our Facebook page, Westbury Houston?

### WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

# President's Message

It has been a busy summer. Summer is normally a time when our civic commitments Westbury Community Garden and its upslack off, but not this summer. I had my very first meeting in a construction trailer ever! The City's Public Works and the contractors working on the new water line south of us had a meeting to advise the neighborhoods of the ongoing work. Barbara Hite of District K attended with me. It won't directly affect us, but it was nice to be included and to know that some projects are so well run as to include keeping the public informed. I can't say enough good things about our new Council District K and CM Green. He facilitated an incredible meeting for the Willow Waterhole with the Parks Department and the Harris County Flood District and it looks like electricity could soon be coming to the south gazebo. A grant is also in the works to bring much needed parking and other amenities to the Willow Waterhole.

In November, there will be several referendums/bonds on the ballot that will directly affect Westbury's future. Watch for more information in upcoming Criers. I attended the METRO GMP (General Mobility Plan) public meeting at the Power Center last month. George Grenias, President and CEO of METRO, gave an informative presentation about some of the issues will be on the ballot in November.

You'll read in this Crier on page 8 about the coming expansion. If you've want to learn more about this project, now is the time to get involved.

Our survey on current issues is still open and I invite and encourage you to make your opinions known. See the article on page 15.

Cindy Chapman and I met with the owner of Westbury Square to discuss its condition and plans for the future. Nothing concrete is happening. Litigation is still pending and, until it is concluded, the property is pretty much in limbo. Still, dialog is good.

I'll make one more plea here – if you have the third Wednesday of the month free, won't you consider joining the Civic Club board? It's not hard work or even a huge time commitment; just a little donation of time to your neighborhood and its future. We need you. Our annual meeting will be Wednesday, September 19, at Westbury Baptist and I hope many of you will attend.

I hope everyone is having a safe and happy summer and enjoying our rain showers and cooler temperatures for as long as they last!

**Becky Edmondson** 

### **Board Mtg. Notes**

- WCC Board approved a motion to pay for certain supplemental WAP Constable Patrols
- Discussed amenities at all our city parks. Information to be supplied to District K CM Larry Green
- Deed restriction issues discussed.
- Joe Niles, Chair of Elections Committee, reviewed which positions are vacant for the upcoming Sept. board election
- WCC database upgrade makes it easier to send membership letters.
- Discussed preliminary METRO survey results
- Thanks to Joe Niles for setting up the new Westbury Baptist meeting location

**WCC Board Meeting** Wednesday, August 15 **7PM-9PM Westbury Baptist** Church, RMC109

2012 Westbury Civic Club Dues  Name(s)			*Please send this form in with your	
Address			paym	ent
Home Phone	Work	Cell		
E-mail				
Make checks payable to: Westbury Civic Club, Inc.	Westbury Civic Club Membership		\$40	\$
Mail to:	Greenspace Beautification		\$25	\$
P.O. Box 975182 Dallas, TX 75397-5182	Westbury Area Patrol		\$230	\$
Online payment: paypal.com—Send Money to westburycc@sbcglobal.net		Subtota	l \$295	\$
westburycc@sbcglobal.net Make sure to include your	Additional Contributions:			
address or account number	Westbury Civic Club			\$
Sending multiple payments?	Greenspace Beautification			\$
Circle your payment choice 2 payment of \$147.50	Westbury Area Patrol			\$
3 payments of 98.34	Westbury HPD Storefront			\$
**Call the office for more payment options or questions			Total	\$

**PW1 & PW2** past due assessments are being printed

# Thank You Westbury!

We greatly appreciate the residents who used the past *CRIER issues* to submit their 2012 dues.

We have reached our 2012 WAP goal! Can vou continue to help raise money to get an extra deputy?

### **Platou Community Center**

11655 Chimney Rock

Monday-Friday 8AM—7PM (Wednesdays open till 8PM)
Supervisor: Dan Reilly, Daniel.reilly@houston.tx.gov or 713-726-7107

### **Stretching Exercise Class**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9-9:45AM Improve your flexibility by joining this non-strenuous exercise class.

### **Aerobics**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-7:30PM To register, call 713-726-7107

### **Line Dancing Class**

Mondays, 1-2 PM For more information, call 713-726-7107



# TOPS:Take Off Pounds Sensibly Weight loss support group

Tuesdays, 5:45 to 7PM Drop in to preview the program or call Dorothy 713-723-4441 or Naomi 713-988-2233 RESUME ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 14

# After School Enrichment Sign-Up

HISD resumes classes on Monday, August 27. The 2012-2013 After School Enrichment program will begin at the Platou Center on the same day. This is a **free** childcare program for children ages, 6 to 13, from 3PM to 6PM. After homework is completed, the kids play games, do crafts, and play outside. Sign up soon to hold a place for your child. Call Dan at 713-726-7107 for details or to register.

### **Quilting Workshop**

Tuesday, 10AM - 3PM Contact Janie at 713-721-5526

#### Games

Wednesday, 10 AM Contact Wally at 713-729-9310

### **Portable Projects**

Thursday, 9:30- 11:30 AM Any kind of handiwork: knitting, crochet, needlepoint, card-making Contact Hazel at 713-729-4568

### **Ballroom Dance Class**

Wednesday Advanced Class 6-7PM Beginner Class 7-8PM Call Marilyn 713-729-9425

Interested in joining a Mom's
Group in Westbury? Do you have
free time available to help
organize? Call the WCC Office at
713-723-5437 to discuss ideas
about starting our very own
Westbury Mom's Group. We need
active members!



### RECYCLE AT CHIMNEY ROCK PARK

Put your cardboard boxes, newspapers, magazines, office and school materials into the bins and help raise money





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Area Residents & Neighborhood Specialists

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5214 Starkridge 3 bed/2 bath \$279,500



10806 Moonlight 3 bed/2 bath SOLD IN 24 DAYS!



3 bed/2 bath



5047 Redstart 4 bed/2 bath \$299.990



5131 Torchlight 3 bed/2 bath \$199,900

Call for Information on Featured Listings ◆ www.waynemurray.net

# What's Happening in Westbury

### August 2012 Events & Meetings Calendar

Wed 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30-10AM Salem Lutheran—4930 W. Bellfort (WAIC—Westbury Area Improvement Corp)
Wed 15	WCC Board Meeting 7PM-9PM ***NEW LOCATION*** Westbury Baptist Church—RM C109
Sat 18	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow
Mon 20	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Tues 21	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM 12501 Dunlap under the pavilion
Tues 28	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South
End of	Yard of the Month Judging Get those yards beautiful! If interested in becoming a Yard of the Month judge, please call the WCC office at 713-723-5437. It's a great volunteer opportunity to do with a friend!
Oct 2	National Night Out Start planning your party now! Register your party at the WCC office at 713-723-5437 or westburycc@sbcglobal.net

**October 2 - National Night Out** August 2012 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar Thurs Curbside Recycling All of Westbury 9 Wed Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE (North of W. Bellfort) 15 **Tues** Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE (South of W. Bellfort) 21 Curbside Recycling Thurs All of Westbury 23

**Planning Calendar:** 

**NNO Registry** 

September 19 - Annual Meeting September 20 - Deadline for

# Attention: Junk Waste pick-up falls in two different weeks this month.

Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY

**SEPT** 

# Important Trash & Recycling Information

- Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM Thursday
- Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- Trash cans must be removed by 10PM Thursday
- Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- ¶Yard waste MUST be in the correct biodegradable bags
- No heavy trash out before 6PM the Friday before pick-up date
- MYARD 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. Cur rent utility bill needed.

#### Environmental Service Center 11500 South Post Oak

Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9AM-3PM; 2nd Saturday 9AM-1PM

Accepts Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste

Refer to <a href="www.westburycrier.com">www.westburycrier.com</a> for more trash and recycling information





# Jury Duty Information

### Have you been summoned? Have you served?

Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel was the guest speaker at the June WCC meeting. Daniel emphasized that increasing turnout for jury service saves taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, makes jury pools more diverse, and greatly decreases how often people are asked to report to jury service.



When he entered office in 2011, only 20 percent of people were showing up for jury service. He and his staff have increased turnout to 28 percent, but are hoping to increase it even more through public awareness efforts about the importance of jury service. "For every five percent increase in turnout, Harris County taxpayers save \$100,000 in postage, paper and labor," Daniel said. To improve turnout, Harris County now allows persons called to jury service to reschedule on-line to a more convenient time. Also, a new Jury Plaza, completed in 2011, offers free wi-fi, recharging stations, a snack bar, and more comfortable seating to improve juror amenities while waiting.

Although Daniel spoke primarily about the importance of jury service, he also discussed data that can be gleaned on the District Clerk office's web site and the functions of the District Clerk's Office. For example, at the District Clerk's web site, <a href="www.hcdistrictclerk.com">www.hcdistrictclerk.com</a>, visitors can search court records and conduct FREE criminal background checks by reviewing Harris County criminal records dating to 1967.



Controversial trials sometimes spark discussion about the makeup of juries, Daniel acknowledged. Under his leadership, the Harris County District Clerk's Office recently completed a study of the racial, ethnic, educational and age characteristics of people who have appeared for jury service through the first five months of 2012. Of the 63,207 who appeared, 17 percent identified themselves as African-American, 16 percent as Hispanic and 59 percent as white.

The average citizen, Daniel said, can help shape his community through jury service by deciding who keeps or loses their liberty, which parent should raise a child, or whether a company has harmed the environment. "Jurors are, in fact, the quiet, unheralded stars of our justice system."



\$\$\$\$ Free Copy of Tax Return on CD \$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$ Free Review of Prior Year Return \$\$\$\$\$

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# Crime/Security

### Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37\*

	Single- Family Home	Apt/ Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	8	7	0	0	15
Theft	5	4	0	2	11
Auto Theft	1	2	0	0	3
Robbery	0	3	1	0	4
Assault	1	3	2	0	6
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	15	19	3	2	39

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

# Single Family Residential Crime

Location	ns (30 days prece	ding 7/23/12
5800	Alvarado	Burglary
5200	Arboles	Auto Theft
11600	Braewick	Burglary
5600	Cartagena	Burg/Theft
10900	Cedarhurst	Theft
10600	Dunlap	Burglary
5200	Hummingbird	Theft
5600	Ludington	Theft
10900	Oasis	Burg/Theft
12300	Renwick	Assault
5700	Southminster	Burglary
5200	Willowbend	Burglary
5500	Willowbend	Burglary

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### **Bonded & Insured**

**Great References Great Rates** 

Westbury Resident



### **Westbury Area Patrol Constable Update**

The Westbury Civic Club is working with the Precinct Five Harris County Constable's office to modify shift and vacation coverage for our Westbury Area Patrol (WAP) constables in Westbury. In addition, the WCC Board of Directors in July 2012 voted to authorize paying for certain supplemental patrols with the intent to provide faster response times when our regular deputies are unavailable. In addition to the supplemental patrols, our WAP constable contract has a mutual aid provision so that other Precinct Five deputy constables in the area, such as Meyerland or Maplewood, will respond if our own deputies are unavailable while responding to calls for service or are on vacation.

## **WAP Constable Dispatch** 281-463-6666

### FREE Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), in partnership with the South Texas College of Law (STCL), is offering FREE monthly legal services for persons with disabilities. STCL provides legal services in areas of community education, estate planning, family law and probate every third Thursday of the month at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019. The STCL clinics take place from 1 PM - 3 PM. The next clinic is Thursday, August 16. Persons interested in receiving legal services are asked to call in advance. Participants can also make any arrangements for accommodations when calling. The MOPD contact is Kaitlyn Tracy, 281-936-0770 or Kaitlyn.tracy@houstontx.gov.

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# Westbury Community Garden

### **Westbury Community Garden Expansion**

The Westbury Community Garden (WCG) knows how to dream big and they continue to come up with new ways to improve the garden as a community resource. In early October, the garden will expand again thanks to a generous corporate partner.

The expansion will include thirty-five new raised beds, 200 fruit trees, and the planting of a children's garden area. If you would like to join the fun, please email westburycommunitygarden@gmail.com.

The growth and development of the WCG in the last two years has been tremendous. These efforts have flourished as a result of generous support from community volunteers, corporate sponsors and local organizations. Each of our 60 allotment garden beds are being cultivated. There is a waiting list of eager potential new members who will join after the garden expansion. There is currently room on the waiting list for the upcoming new expansion beds. Sign up today. E-mail your name and contact information to westburycommunitygarden@gmail.com

The WCG encourages visitors to stop by and stroll through the garden to see what is growing and how much things have changed in the last two years. Even if you don't garden yourself, we're fairly certain that you will appreciate how much it has changed the view from the street. Check out the pictures to the right for a glance at the drastic change. As the garden continues to grow, the WCG welcomes donations of garden equipment (used is okay!), volunteer time, and/or monetary donations. Check out the WCG website at www.westburycommunitygarden.org for more information.

### Features added to the WCG in the last 2 years include:

- 1200-gallon cistern to collect rainwater from the pavilion roof
- Roofed kiosk with bulletin boards, built by Girl Scout Larissa Little as part of her Gold Award Project
- Vegetable and fruit wash station, built by Boy Scout Karl Steuwer as his Eagle Scout Project
- Butterfly Garden
- Fully functional compost bin operation that supplies rich organic material to WCG gardeners
- Shaded pavilion for meeting friends or holding a meeting
- Small orchard of fruit trees including figs and pears
- Productive blackberry orchard
- Community of dedicated gardeners who have made the Westbury Community Garden their 2nd "home"

### **BEFORE the Community Garden....**



### AFTER the Community Garden....



Growing Community Through Gardening



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### Westbury Park and Parker Elementary

### New Principal: Parker Elementary School

Lori Frodine has been named the new principal at Parker Elementary. There were two receptions on July 11 to welcome her, one for Parker teachers, administrators and staff and a second to meet Parker parents and students.

Frodine is originally from Colorado. She came to Houston 18 years ago and enjoys living here. She has 12 years of experience at HISD. Most recently, she worked for six years at Waltrip High School. Over time, she has been a teacher, a magnet coordinator, and an administrator. She has a sincere love of education and is looking forward to being the principal of Parker Elementary. She has a full appreciation for the Parker Music Magnet, having worked at Waltrip High School, which has an award winning band program. Her aim for Parker is continued excellence.

She took questions from parents. Her answers were thoughtful and positive. One little girl, possibly in 1st or 2nd grade, raised her hand and asked if she'd be a mean principal. Frodine responded, "Do I look mean?" The adults chuckled. She went on to explain she would not be mean, but she would have high expectations from Parker students. It was a wonderful answer and perfectly delivered.

### WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

### Help Westbury Park Get a New Shade Structure

A new Westbury Park Playground is coming soon! See the design for one of the playground structures pictured below. There is an additional Toddler Playground included but it is not pictured. Westbury Park is the park located near Parker Elementary. The existing playground equipment will be demolished by the city in a few months and construction of the new playground area will begin in late 2012. City taxpayer funds will purchase and install the play equipment:

however, the city does not provide shade covers similar to what has been built at the nearby Godwin Park playground. A "Friends of Westbury Greenspaces" committee has been created to raise additional funds to purchase a shade cover similar to what has been built at Godwin Park. The neighborhood around Godwin raised money to build their shade structure, and we can do it, too!



Playgrounds are attractive assets

to our community and play structures with shade will encourage our kids or grandkids to exercise outside even in hot weather. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution. Many employers offer matching gifts for community projects such as this. All amounts are appreciated and donors contributing \$250 or more will have their names engraved on a plaque placed at the playground as a permanent thank you.

Please use the form below. The WAIC is a 501(c)(3) organization which frequently partners with the Westbury Civic Club for improvement projects. Donations will be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you would like more information about fundraising or would like to help with the effort, then please contact Westbury residents Bill Burhans (burhans56@yahoo.com) or Melanie Rosen (rosenworks3@gmail.com).

Friends of Westbury Greenspaces Donation Form
Name(s):
Email:* (if amount is \$250 or more please fill out below)
*Names on plaque: Mail donations to: WAIC/Friends of Westbury Greenspaces, 5322 W. Bellfort, Suite 107, Houston, TX 77035. Checks should be made payable to the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC)/Friends of Westbury Greenspaces.

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# Free Market Analysis

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property, call **Larry Mercer** for a free Market Analysis.

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Or visit my web site at: www.Larrymercer.net





Neighborhood Specialist

### Q & A: Trees

Information in this column is not intended as legal advice, but to provide a general understanding of common practices. These questions and answers were gathered from several sources. If you need legal advice, consult an attorney.

### Q: Who is responsible for trimming or removing a tree located between the sidewalk and the street?

The City is. Call 311 to report a city tree that needs maintenance. Keep a record of the service number of your maintenance request, since it can sometimes take several weeks before the tree crew arrives. If a city tree poses an imminent hazard, then please let the WCC office know the details so that we can help expedite the issue.

#### Q: Who is responsible for trimming or removing a tree near a power line?

Call CenterPoint Energy at 713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143 to request tree trimming near power lines. A representative from CenterPoint Energy will inspect the tree to determine if it requires trimming. If the tree does not create an obvious hazard or service reliability problem, CenterPoint may defer maintenance until area-wide trimming is done in the future.

### Q: Who is responsible when a tree has limbs that obstruct a public sidewalk, but it is not a "city tree"?

The property owner is responsible. A property owner can be ticketed with a municipal fine if a tree is obstructing use of a public sidewalk and the owner does not trim the tree.

### Q. Can I force my neighbor to trim a tree that is on his private property?

Dangerous Tree: If a tree poses a dangerous condition and your neighbor refuses to repair or remove it, then call the city at 311 to report the dangerous tree. If the City determines that the tree is dangerous, then the city will issue a notice to have it removed within 10 days. If your neighbor does not remove the tree, then a municipal fine up to \$500 can be charged, and the City can enter the property to remove the tree at the expense of the neighbor.

Healthy Tree: If a tree is healthy and part of the tree extends over your property, then you are within your rights to trim the limbs that extend over your property. Be careful that you do not kill the tree and that you do not set foot on your neighbor's property without permission. You have the right to cut the branches back to the property line. It is a good idea to mention your plans to your neighbor in advance. If you kill the tree, you can be held liable for the cost of replacing it. You may consider hiring a professional tree-cutting service to cut the tree for you. If a tree is healthy and it is entirely on your neighbor's private property, then your neighbor owns the entire tree and makes all decisions regarding care.

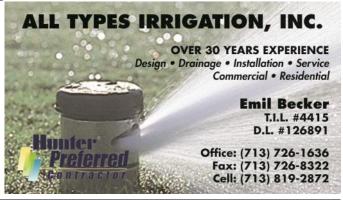
### Q: Can my neighbor be held liable for damage caused by his tree?

If the tree had been healthy before the approach of a storm, and instead it was the high winds associated with the storm that caused it to fall over and damage your property, then you cannot hold your neighbor liable. However, if your neighbor's tree was decayed, diseased, dead or in an otherwise dangerous condition prior to the wind event, then you can hold him liable for the damages. In that case, the tree would have posed an unreasonable risk of harm, and he would have had a duty to trim the branches or remove the tree altogether before the storm to prevent it from falling over.



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### Platou Community Center

### Summer Enrichment Program Recap

The Houston Parks and Recreation
Department summer program for youth has had a daily average of 65 children between the ages of 6 and 13. When the count reached 75 on some days, the center seemed to burst at the seams. The monsoon of July made it particularly hard for the staff and children. Though the enrollment was high, Dan Reilly, the new supervisor, Janet Range, his assistant, and Luisa Martinez, the custodian, kept things under control and running smoothly.

Five volunteers helped on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to provide some unique craft experiences to small groups of kids. Genie Mitchell taught a lot of boys and girls how to crochet. Janie Schexnayder and Hazel Potvin had the children make pinch pots with clay including glazing and firing in the kiln. Janie Schexnayder, Gloria Garcia, and Patti Solomon challenged the children to learn to stitch fabrics and non-fabrics and make other crafts. Maggie Hightower taught the new craze of Zentangle.

The children took field trips to the post office, the city recycling center, and to the larger Marian Park on S. Gessner. The program finishes up with a trip to a water park and a pizza party at the center.

### Platou Center - Too Small for All

Westbury is fortunate to have the city-operated Platou Community Center located in the heart of our community at Chimney Rock Park, 11655 Chimney Rock. Many of our readers may not realize that the Platou Community Center was once an office building for a utility district and was later remodeled into a community center building.

This summer, over 70 youth were enrolled in the Summer Enrichment program offered by the City. The Westbury Civic Club is gratified that so many youth



participated in the worthwhile programs at the Platou Center; however, the strong youth enrollment and cramped quarters meant that most of the adult programs had to be cancelled for the summer.

The Westbury Civic Club and the non-profit Friends of Chimney Rock Park believe that the Platou Community Center is too small to serve our community. A larger facility would be able to readily accommodate youth and adult programs at the

same time during the summer and when Afterschool Enrichment programs are offered during the school year.

Adult programs and activities at Platou will resume on August 14 since the youth program ends on August 10. The cost is free unless otherwise specified in the Platou schedule. Photos of activities can be seen on the Facebook page for the Platou Community Center. For more information, please contact Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107.

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# President's Mailbag

Q. I am trying to figure out why the civic club is allowing the corner of W. Bellfort and Checkerboard to be used as a yard sale on Fridays. What really boggles my mind is that this is held right under the WCC's nose seeing how is it a block from the office and I know there are board members that have to see this going on.

A. Commercial properties in Westbury are **NOT** covered by our deed restrictions, but they do have to obey city ordinances and state laws. We have stopped by this sale multiple times. They have obtained a state tax ID number and sales tax permit, and they are a tenant of the office building. We have warned them about parking and traffic issues. If you see someone parked illegally or unsafely, then please call the HPD non-emergency or the constables. In the meantime, we are reaching out to the owner of the shopping center and appealing to their sense of civic duty and pride. We will keep at it.

Continue to help Keep Westbury Beautiful by reporting issues and concerns to the WCC office. Never assume we have seen a problem and have chosen to do nothing or that someone else has reported it. We would rather have a dozen people report the same problem instead of having a problem fester. Westbury is a huge community and the more eyes watching out for our community, then the better off we all are.



### Yard of the Month July Winners

Parkwest 1: 5630 Hummingbird - Trey Velacso & Jeff Pace Parkwest 2: 10618 Ashcroft - Stephen & Cathryn Mellon Parkwest 3: 5922 Arboles - Stephanie & Alex Carr

Westbury 1: 5102 Waycross - Sharon Gillen

Westbury 2: 5446 Hummingbird - Josh & Lindsay Clark Westbury 3: 5310 Spellman - Tom & Norma Williams

Westbury 4: 5630 Ludington - Laura Reyes Westbury 5: 11015 Dunlap - Westbury Resident Westbury South: 12333 Ashcroft - Judy Peltier

#### Q. There is a group home or half-way house of some type in my neighborhood. Is this allowed? What is the WCC doing about these homes?

A. We are working on revisions to strengthen and update our deed restrictions for each section. We are also asking for your help to find out where every group home is located Westbury. Please contact the WCC office if you know, or suspect, where a group home is located in Westbury. We would like to know the address and any other information you have about the group home. Some group homes are licensed; some are not required to be licensed due to size and services offered; and some may be illegally unlicensed or boarding houses pretending to be group homes. We need to know the location of each group home so that we can monitor licensing and occupancy requirements. Our deed restrictions specify residential use and the people who live in handicapped group homes reside in those homes. Examples of commercial use violating our deed restrictions include: site used as a day care or other day treatment facility, or used as a boarding house/hotel where rooms are rented out.

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Joint Pain Seminar Wednesday, August 29 at 2:30 pm Thursday, September 6 at 2:30 pm Wilson Turner Auditorium Medical Plaza 2 7737 Southwest Freeway Houston, TX 77074

The event is free but space is limited. To register, call 713.222.CARE (2273).

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### Neighborhood and Area News

# Kelsey-Seybold to open new clinic in Meyerland Plaza

The 72,000-square-foot facility will be located in the space previously occupied by Borders Books in Meyerland Plaza. It will include 45,000SF of clinical space, a 27,000 SF warehouse and an on-site Kelsey Pharmacy.

### Trees for Houston -Tribute Grove

The Willow Waterhole Nature Reserve in Westbury has been chosen as the site of Trees for Houston's Tribute Grove for this year.

A Tribute Grove is a designated area in which donors can donate trees in commemoration of special occasions, honor a friend or family member, or make a memorial gift. Planting will start in the fall; the number of trees in the grove is determined by the number of donations.

If you have wanted to make a donation to Trees for Houston, now is a good time as the trees will be planted in our neighborhood! Check

<u>www.Treesforhouston.org</u> for more information.

### METRO US90A Rail Survey

Have you taken our survey? Issues affecting Westbury 2012: Metro Rail and future neighboring developments.

There are 18 questions ranging from Metro Rail to what you would like to see at Westbury Square. Please take a few minutes to share your opinions with us. Go to <a href="https://www.westburycrier.com">www.westburycrier.com</a> to link to the survey or fill out a paper copy in the WCC office. Make your opinion count!

### Health Fair at WHS Sept. 1

Save the Date! Congressman Al Green will be sponsoring at Health Fair at Westbury High School on Saturday, September 1, from 10AM to 2PM. Blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol checks, dental exams and free immunizations (must have child's current shot records) will be available.

### Fun Day in the Park

Games, food, fun, health Screening, athletic physicals, Back to School Supplies give-away for kids 6–18. Saturday, August 18, from 10AM to 2PM at Marian Park Community Center at 11011 S. Gessner.

Sponsors: Riceville Baptist, India House, Turquoise Center, BOMD, SWHouston 2000, CM Larry Green, 97.9 In The Box

### **School Zone Reminder**

As we start the fall school year, please be mindful of children walking to classes and pay attention to school zone speed limits. HISD classes start on August 27. Some area private schools will start before August 27. Westbury Christian starts on August 10. St. Thomas More starts half days on August 15 and full days on August 20.

### **Road Delays South of Westbury**

The City of Houston is installing a 42 inch waterline south and west of Westbury. There will be some lane closures on Hillcroft south of S. Main. Also, Chimney Rock south of S. Main will be closed from West Orem to River Bluff. All construction should be completed by December 2012 or January 2013.

# City Finally Removes Rusted Broken Fence on the esplanade Hillcroft @ McKnight





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