



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2013

HIGHLIGHTS:

- WCC Board Meeting: August 21 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist
- Check out pages 19-23 for a Special Recycling feature!
- August's heavy trash is Junk Waste. Pick up is August 8 for ALL of Westbury.

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Single Stream Recycling Is Here!

After years of asking "when will all of Westbury be included in single stream recycling", we have the answer...NOW!

To help you make the most of this new program we have several pages dedicated to recycling.

Check out pages 19-23 for everything you need to know about recycling in Westbury! There is even a quiz to test your knowledge of recycling. Thank you to Westbury resident Robert Montgomery for sending the Master Recycler Quiz found on page 21. Happy recycling!



WCC Pres. Becky Edmondson helping to unload the carts!

Westbury Annual Meeting
September 18, 7PM
Westbury Baptist Church
Westbury Community Garden Update
2014 WCC Board Elections
Multiple Speakers including
CM Larry Green
AWARDS! DOOR PRIZES!

National Night Out: Oct. 1

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

Register with the WCC Office by Sept. 16 to be entered in a drawing to win a WCC Pizza Party during your event. We will also arrange for HPD, WAP Constables, or the WCC Board to visit your party.

Westbury Pool Adds More Classes

A new morning water fitness class began July 24 at Westbury Pool. Also, a new children's swim class has been added to the daily pool schedule. Many thanks go out to the Houston Parks Dept, Louis Moore, and Jeffield Jefferson for their commitment to bring quality programming to the Westbury pool. For more information on these exciting new **FREE** programs, see page 8.



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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

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

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 you one of the 682
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 page, Westbury Houston?**

WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

President's Message

It's early to start a list of things I'm thankful for, but that is how I am feeling this month. I am thankful to live in Houston; and while we'd like a lot more money spent on amenities in Westbury, the alternative to living in a fiscally responsible city is Detroit, which is bankrupt. You will read in the Crier about our Three Minutes with the Mayor, which is a pretty awesome thing; the mayor of the 4th largest city in the United States is willing to spend a Saturday morning making herself available to residents.

Last week Cindy Chapman and I had a great meeting at the WCC office with District K. Our CM Larry Green, Donald Perkins, his chief of staff, and Barbra Hite our constituent representative were present. The Braes Oaks Management District was also in attendance and we thank Executive Director, David Hawes, and Richard Rodriguez, Director of Services, for their time and commitment. We are so lucky to have these talented individuals working with us and for us on the Renaissance of Southwest Houston. We discussed

(what we are calling) the proposed Westbury Flood Protection Plan, which we hope will alleviate the flooding issues we saw in April. In addition to drainage, we talked about parks, streets, deed restrictions, economic development and libraries.

I am thankful for the City Parks department. Its workers make such a difference in our neighborhood. They mow our esplanades and partner with us on tree plantings and other beautification projects. Westbury Park is getting a major renovation. We have several volunteers for the Hager Park committee and are working on what can be done to improve that park; the two biggest problems are litter and graffiti. What do you think about having a splash pad at Hager? If you walk this park, why not take a trash bag along; keeping a park clean goes a long way to stopping litter. We have several residents who walk our esplanades and pick up trash. It takes all of us working together to make a difference.

Street and drainage issues are tougher. Keep calling in

the potholes to 311. Remember it is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. You might remember reading about the Hummingbird ditch being de-silted; that hasn't happened yet, but Harris County Flood Control has expanded that job to include work on the Brae- wick ditch and the Willow Waterhole Bayou. This is a step in the right direction. Thanks to all who sent their flooding pictures and stories in from the April flood; if you haven't, please do so as we are completing our data.

Economic development? The Westbury Centerette has recently been sold, but we do not know what the new owner plans. The Braes Oaks Management District is working on Economic Development as is SW Houston 2000 (which is our featured community partner this month). Members of the WCC and residents of Westbury participate with these organizations. There is always room for more volunteers in not only the WCC, but with many of our community partners. Find your passion and make a difference in Westbury!

Becky Edmondson

Board Notes:

- ◆ Two residents were unanimously approved as new members of the WCC Board: Eugene Sirls, New Westbury 4 Section Director and Jennifer Edmondson, New Director of Deed Restrictions.
- ◆ Topics included: Security report, financial report, new recycle bins, proposed bylaw changes, WCC policies, upcoming annual meeting, updates on external meetings (Mayor Parker, CM Larry Green, HPARD), deed restrictions, and pending new city ordinance on boardinghouses.
- ◆ The board convened briefly in closed session. Afterwards, the board authorized the President to negotiate a retainer with a lawyer

WCC Board Meeting
Wednesday,
August 21
7PM-9PM
Westbury Baptist

Subscribe to SW News Online

The *Southwest News* is a valuable neighborhood weekly newspaper, but not all Westbury residents receive a paper copy delivered to their homes. This can be remedied by anyone who can receive email. Go to www.village-southwest-news.com to sign up to receive a weekly email with a link to the E-edition (electronic edition) of the newspaper. It will appear in your email on Tuesdays.

Their articles explain in detail the activities that happen in our community and those who work to make the community better. Surrounding community events are also featured.



"Like" us on
Facebook

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock

Monday-Thursday 12PM—8PM; Fridays 11AM-7PM

Supervisor: Dan Reilly, Daniel.reilly@houstontx.gov or 713-726-7107

"Like" us on
Facebook

Stretching Exercise Class

Monday, Wed, Friday, 9-9:45AM
Improve your flexibility by joining this non-strenuous exercise class. No registration required. Wear comfy clothes.

Zumba Class

Thursdays, 8AM
Call Dan for details, 713-726-7107

Line Dancing Class

Mondays, 1-2 PM
Fun unique workout class.
For more info, call 713-726-7107

Nike Aerobic Hybrid Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:30-7:30PM with Stacia
To register, call Dan 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

**ADULT ACTIVITIES
RESUME ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 19
unless otherwise indicated*
All classes are FREE**

After School Enrichment

HISD resumes classes on Monday, August 26. 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.

Summer Enrichment

The Platou Summer program will run thru August 16. It has been a great summer with approximately 35 kids attending. Thank you to the volunteers who make this a special treasured program.

Games

Wednesday, 10 AM to Noon
New members are wanted!
Contact Wally at 713-729-9310

Ballroom Dance Class

Wednesday
Advanced Class 6-7PM
Intermediate Class 7-8PM
Call Marilyn 713-729-9425
No partner required.

***Portable Projects** will continue to meet at Bayland Community Center (6400 Bissonnet) until the end of August. Thursdays from 10AM to Noon. It will return to the Platou Center on Sept 5

***Quilting Group** will begin again on Tues, Sept 3 at 10AM. Call Janie at 713-729-1552 for more information

**Don't forget to recycle
paper & cardboard at
Chimney Rock Park!**



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5803 Cheena
Another One Sold!!



5626 Bankside
Another One Sold!!

What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar August 2013

Aug 3-4	Yard of the Month Judging in all sections of Westbury Have a nomination? Call 713-723-5437 What to judge a section? Call 713-723-5437
Aug 12-16	WCC Office Closed Email westburycc@sbcglobal.net
Tues 13	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Pavilion at Community Garden— 12501 Dunlap
Sat 17	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Sun 18	Westbury Pool -- Last Day of Summer Season 10605 Mullins (Near Parker Elem.) After this date, pool only open for weekends and classes.
Mon 19	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow Speaker on Habitat Restoration at Willow Waterhole
Wed 21	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30AM Salem Lutheran - 4930 W. Bellfort
Wed 21	WCC Board Meeting 7PM– 9PM Westbury Baptist Church—RM C103 Open to all Westbury residents!
Mon 26	1st Day of School for HISD
Tues 27	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South

**Welcome
Back to
School!**



City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

January	Tree Waste	July	Tree Waste
February	Junk Waste	August	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste	Sept.	Tree Waste
April	Junk Waste	October	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste	Nov.	Tree Waste
June	Junk Waste	Dec.	Junk Waste

**Planning Calendar:
Sept. 18 - Annual Meeting**

**Sept. 21- Harvest Moon
Celebration @ Willow Waterhole**
Oct. 26—Trick or Tree

Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

August 2013

Thurs 8	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 8	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 22	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

September 2013

Thurs 5	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 12	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 19	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM 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 go out 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. Current utility bill needed.
Environmental Service Center - 11500 S. Post Oak
Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM. Accepts Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com or www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

Three Minutes with the Mayor

The WCC recently took advantage of an opportunity to speak with Mayor Annise Parker via the "Three Minutes with the Mayor" program, which allows citizens to briefly speak with the mayor on a Saturday morning at a convenient location. Cindy Chapman, Becky Edmondson, and Marcia Hartman enjoyed this unique opportunity to speak with Mayor Parker directly and openly. We thanked the Mayor for bringing single-stream recycling bins to all homes in Westbury. We noted that the Department of Neighborhoods and the Police Department have resolved several long-term problem properties in Westbury and are actively working on other long-term problems. We thanked her for her support of neighborhoods. Becky quickly summarized Westbury's "green initiatives" - recycling, planting trees, the community garden, and future plans for the garden. We brought the three most recent *Westbury Crier* newsletters, which are good tools to show off accomplishments in the Westbury community.

We brought a basket of veggies, herbs, and flowers from the Westbury Community Garden, plus a fact sheet about the garden. The basket was a perfect visual display of beautiful, healthy organic food with colorful native flowers plus great-smelling herbs, and it served as a decorative centerpiece on the table when other citizens spoke with the mayor after we finished.

We told Mayor Parker that we are seriously interested in obtaining the seven acres on which the Westbury Community Garden sits and the WCC had hired a

reputable appraiser to appraise the property. She knows we have been in discussions with the Houston Parks Board (a non-profit organization which works to develop new greenspaces and improve existing greenspaces) about the property. She knows that the appraised value is a sum that we believe is attainable via active and aggressive fundraising.



Unfortunately, the land we lease for the garden is owned by the Houston Housing Authority (HHA), which is an independent organization rather than a city department. But our hope is that she sees the benefits in retaining this land as greenspace, as it has been for more than 30 years, and that adding more apartment units in an area that already has ample units available is unnecessary and wasteful of our federal tax dollars. There are hundreds of vacant, low-income units in the complex adjacent to the garden and there are thousands of vacant apartment units available throughout the Brays Oaks Management District. If the HHA seeks to improve low and moderate income

housing in this part of town, then there are many old or shoddy apartment buildings waiting to be torn down and then rebuilt.

It was a good visit, and what an incredible opportunity we had to sit down face-to-face with the Mayor of the 4th largest city in the United States and speak about anything.

What else did we do that morning on behalf of Westbury? We met other neighborhood leaders from District K who were waiting for their turn to speak with the mayor at the Stimler- Blue Ridge library branch and discussed issues we have in common. Since our Meyer Library branch will be replaced in the near future, we took a long time touring the Stimler - Blue Ridge library and talking with the librarians. One of the librarians lives at Westbury Gardens townhomes here in Westbury! We then went exploring to see what amenities were provided at

several Houston or joint Houston/ Ft Bend County parks to our south. We scoped out a new Senior Community Center that is under construction near Christa McAuliffe Middle School / Willowridge High School. We drove around and tried to figure out exactly where HPD will be building the new HPD station that will replace the Beechnut station. We marveled at the amount of dirt that has already been removed by the Harris County Flood Control District at Willow Waterhole on the east side of S. Post Oak.

All in all it was a spectacular Saturday!

Westbury Executive Office Business Center
We support growing businesses

11415 Chimney Rock
Houston, TX 77035

Phone (713)729-1122
Fax (713)729-5431
E-mail: Rieger@riegercpa.com

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COUPON EXPIRES JULY 31, 2013. NO DUPLICATES ACCEPTED, MUST BE ORIGINAL FROM *WESTBURY CRIER*

District K Meeting

District K Councilmember Larry Green visited the WCC office on July 19 with his Chief of Staff **Donald Perkins** and our Constituent Liaison **Barbara Hite** in a meeting with WCC President Becky Edmondson and Director of Community Relations Cindy Chapman.

Parks: We discussed our community center, each of our 3 public city parks, plus our 4th "park" (the 7 acres we are leasing from the HHA for the Westbury Community Garden), focusing on current issues and future needs. There was an extensive discussion about Hager Park. We are now recruiting volunteers to serve on a Hager Park committee, and two people have already joined the team. *Contact the WCC office if you want to volunteer on the Hager Park Committee.*

Transportation: TxDOT will be adding lights and median barriers along South Main. Also, some Westbury streets east of Chimney Rock that have had too many layers of asphalt laid over the years will be scraped down to grade and then overlaid with asphalt. This will improve stormwater capacity of the streets and will make it easier to back out of driveways.

Deed Restrictions: As we have mentioned in prior newsletters, the city earlier this year revised the development ordinance to allow higher density on lots outside Loop 610. At the time, we and other neighborhoods expressed concerns that many homes in Houston either do not have deed restrictions protecting



land use or the deed restrictions have vulnerabilities. We applaud **CM Larry Green's** staff for reviewing every set of deed restrictions in District K that were sent to them to examine them for specific vulnerabilities. Only one other city councilmember beside CM Larry Green has attempted to do this. The results have been provided to the Planning Department and each neighborhood will soon meet individually with a City Planner to review options to patch the vulnerabilities. Only a few neighborhoods had deed restrictions sufficient to meet all the vulnerabilities reviewed. To fix our vulnerabilities, Westbury deed restrictions will need to be amended. In July, the WCC board authorized hiring an attorney to review legal issues, including amending our

deed restrictions.

Flood Protection: We discussed flood protection issues and where homes flooded in April when 6-8 inches of rain fell in a short period of time. The WCC is preparing a packet of information for the city and county to document observations and data. To help get this issue the attention it needs from the city and county, we are now calling this the Westbury Flood Protection Plan.

We feel so fortunate to have such talented people working for us at District K. **CM Larry Green** tackles problems with the intention to solve

Thank you District K

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Tel.: 281-581-8681
Mon. - Sun.: 10am - 10pm

Westbury Pool

10605 Mullins @ Willowbend (near Parker Elem.) 713-723-2192

Adult Water Fitness

NEW A.M. Adult Hydro-Fit Training: Wed & Thurs 10:30AM - 11:45AM

Come out for 75 minutes of continuous cardio, strength training, martial arts, sports drills, flexibility, and plyometrics in the water. This class is for all levels. Beginners will be shown modifications when necessary.

Adult Hydro-Flow Training: Tues & Thurs 6-6:50PM

An integrative approach to water fitness training with light cardiovascular work, balance/core training, flexibility, and Ai Chi. Progressive rock and new age music is a part of the workout. Recommended for cross-training. Intensity: light.

Adult Hydro-Fit Power Training: Tues and Thurs 7-7:50PM

This class provides an athletic approach to water fitness training - with sports-specific drills, intense cardiovascular work, balance/core training, martial arts, and plyometrics. Improve your cardiovascular conditioning and muscular strength and endurance with minimal stress on your joints. Loud, rocking music is a part of the workout. Recommended for cross training. Intensity of exercise: moderate to hard.

N Kids H2O Safe Swim Class

E All City of Houston Aquatic Centers are offering **FREE** kids swim classes, including the Westbury Pool. Classes are Tuesday thru Friday from 5 to 6. A second swim class is offered on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6 to 7. Contact the Westbury Pool for more information.

Westbury City Pool 2013 Schedule

Now til August 18: Pool OPEN Normal Summer Hours Tuesday—Sunday 1-8PM; Closed Mondays

August 24 - September 1: Pool open on Saturday and Sundays only, 1-8PM

September 2 (Labor Day): Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

Questions? Call pool at 713-723-2192
Address: 10605 Mullins (near Parker Elem.)

---Cut me out---



STORM DAMAGE? CALL FOR A FREE INSPECTION



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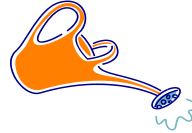
It is almost painful to open the monthly city water bill and see the combined water, sewer, and drainage fees. **The city water and sewer fees went up by 8.9% this year** (3.6% due to the increase in city population + inflation from last year, and the other 5.3% because the original rate increase in 2010 is being implemented over several years instead of all at once). The bill for May 2013 reflected a full month of the rate adjustment enacted in April 2013. For example, the cost of 5,000 gallons of water in May was \$26 and the related cost of sewer was about \$30, with a total cost of \$56 dollars, not including the separate drainage fee which is based upon the amount of impervious surface on your property.

Reducing your water usage saves you money on both water and sewer fees because the sewer fee is based on your water usage.

The city says the annual rate adjustment of your water & sewer fees is intended to cover cost increases to provide safe, clean drinking water and to collect and treat wastewater. This fee includes operational costs as well as the costs involved in the repair and replacement of portions of the System's aging infrastructure.

The City of Houston offers a FREE service to monitor your daily water consumption. The Consumption Awareness Program (CAP) provides consumers with several tools to help better manage their monthly water usage and bill. This program includes weekly customized usage reports, weekly projected bill estimates, and alerts/notifications for high usage. You can sign up for this great program thru your online water account. One resident received a email warning for high water usage that ended up being caused by a faulty sprinkler timer.

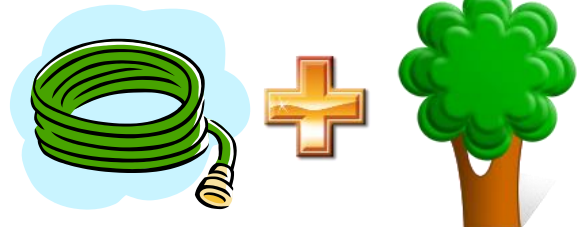
Here are some other tips to help you conserve water in your garden. Much of Texas continues to suffer severe drought conditions, so wise use of water saves both money and a precious resource.



Watering Tips for Houston Heat

It's that time of year again – make sure your trees stay healthy during the hot summer months by watering regularly. Here are a few fast tips for summer watering:

- ◆ Water in the morning or at night to avoid losing water to evaporation.
- ◆ Use a soil soaker or hose to water instead of a sprinkler. This will help water soak slowly and deeply into the soil, reaching the tree's roots.
- ◆ Water only when needed. If it rains 1 inch or more in a week, you won't need to water.
- ◆ Mulch around trees and shrubs to retain moisture.
- ◆ Weed around your plants to reduce competition for water.
- ◆ Water trees growing in full sun more often than those growing in partial shade.
- ◆ Avoid fertilizing in the summer, as this increases a plant's need for water.
- ◆ Watch out when leaves turn lighter green or yellow; this may be a sign of overwatering! (Water oaks leaves may turn yellow if the soil is too alkaline for the tree to absorb certain minerals.)



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By-Laws and Policy Changes

By-Laws & Policies - Update for September Annual Meeting

During July, the WCC By-Laws Committee prepared draft revisions to the by-laws for review by the WCC Board. The proposed revisions were not finalized by the deadline for the August newsletter; however, the final proposed wording will be printed in the September newsletter and will be provided online prior to the September General Meeting. The board also is reviewing the need to institute certain policies required by state law, as well as policies which the state authorizes us to establish, and other policies which document current practices. Here is a summary of proposed revisions, as of our print deadline.

Proposed Policies:

1. A policy about open meetings will be implemented as a companion to requirements in the by-laws.
2. In accordance with state law, the WCC will implement a Payment Plan Policy, a Records Retention Policy, and a Record Production and Copying Policy. The WCC will also implement a policy to document that Westbury has opted in to a city ordinance regulating Yard Parking.
3. The State sometimes regulates how subdivisions can restrict certain activities. The board is considering whether it would be helpful to our residents and future board members to document these items as policies.

The board wants to carefully consider the topic of policies to avoid overly detailed policies or too many policies. The WCC board and office are also considering whether practices exist which should be documented as policy. The board may opt to discuss these at the September meeting to get feedback and then vote on them at a later time.

By-Laws (Proposed Changes as of deadline):

1. Open Meetings – Add New Section 8.14 to add a requirement to hold open meetings, as required by state law. Create a companion policy with more details about open meetings.
2. Meeting Notices – Revise section 8.1 to clarify that meeting notices for both regular *and special* meetings are to be published in the Official Publication. Add alternate means of notification allowed by state law – mail, email, or website or other internet media.
3. Elections & Nominations – Change date nominations are due from 1st Thursday to the 2nd Thursday in August. Change month to publish call for nominations from July to August. The board is also considering adding some section director positions.
4. Budget – Change timing to publish an interim spending report from June to July, so that a half-year report of spending can be published in the newsletter
5. Publications – Delete references to specific names for our publication or website.



6. Amendments to ByLaws– Change deadline to propose by-law amendments from the 1st Thursday to 2nd Thursday, which will match the revised deadline for nominations.
7. Special Provisions – Replace Section 16.1 with 3 new items intended to provide the WCC board with better flexibility related to current and future greenspaces or other projects. One proposed provision says that the board may improve, beautify and maintain various types of greenspaces and public areas (activities which we have been doing for years). The second proposed provision lists a number of verbs related to real or personal property that the WCC would be authorized to do, for example: acquire, lease, operate, maintain, sell, convey, transfer, dedicate for public use, etc. The third proposed provision would allow the WCC to borrow money, if the board recommends such action.

Let us know your opinion. Come to the August & Sept WCC Board Mtgs.



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2013 Dues Form

2013 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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

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Why do my dues go to Dallas? Is this correct?

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Crime/Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days preceding July 18, 2013

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	2	7	1	0	10
Theft	12	7	6	2	27
Auto Theft	2	4	0	0	6
Robbery	0	1	1	1	3
Assault	1	3	1	0	5
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	22	9	3	51

*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 Locations (30 days preceding 7/18/13)

Block	Street	Crime
5200	Arboles	Theft
12300	Atwell	Theft
5000	Briarbend	Theft
12100	Burdine	Burglary
5300	Creekbend	Burglary
12000	Dunlap	Theft
10900	Endicott	Theft
5800	Fontenelle	Theft
12100	Landsdowne	Theft
5700	McKnight	Theft
5700	McKnight	Theft
5800	Southminster	Auto Theft
5600	W. Airport	Theft
5900	W. Bellfort	Auto Theft
6000	W. Bellfort	Theft
5300	Willowbend	Assualt
5800	Willowbend	Theft



Wondering what's going on with all those sirens that you hear? Go to houstontx.gov/activeincidents and look up HPD and HFD Active Calls.

Noisy Animal Complaints

The WCC office frequently receives complaints about animal noise and barking dogs. Director Cindy Chapman attended a presentation in July by HPD Sgt. Mike Hill regarding the revised city noise ordinance. HPD now has created specific codes to identify types of noise complaints made, including animal noise complaints. In addition, HPD has created codes to define how the responding officer closed the complaint – for example, no sound heard by officer. These codes will better help HPD track noise problems.

These tips were suggested when making noise complaints.

1. Call the HPD Non-Emergency number at 713-884-3131.
2. Request an officer who has been trained in Noise Complaints since patrol officers may not be as experienced in the details.
3. When complaining about animal noise, it is advised to have at least two different neighbors (with different addresses) to make a complaint and provide testimony.

“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. Or subscribe for notification emails at our website, westburycrimer.com.

**WAP Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666
Westbury HPD Storefront
713-726-7126
HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131**



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- ◆ Painting
- ◆ Fences
- ◆ Remodeling
- ◆ Drywall Repair
- ◆ Decks

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Great References



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Neighborhood
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New City Ordinance & Library Information

Boardinghouses – New Regulations to Protect Elderly and Disabled

A new city ordinance regulating boardinghouses “group homes” is scheduled to be approved by city council in July. The city defines a boarding house as providing lodging to three or more unrelated people who are elderly or disabled, and which provides light housework or meals or transportation or help self-administering medicines or other services (but does not provide personal care services). At the worst locations, the city has uncovered illegal restraints, abuse, neglect, fraud, and diversion of Social Security and food stamp benefits. You may have seen a case recently reported in the news where four elderly homeless men were discovered locked in a Houston garage with minimal food and facilities in exchange for their social security checks. The men were rescued after a concerned neighbor called police. The new city ordinance will require boardinghouses in the city to register the name and contact information for both owner and operator, to perform criminal background checks, to maintain certain records about their clients and operations, and be required to open their doors for inspections and investigations.

No one knows how many boardinghouses (group homes) are operating in Houston or in Westbury. They are not regulated by the state. The police are aware of about 400 in town, but it is believed that there are many more. **District K Councilmember Larry Green** has asked all District K neighborhoods to identify known or suspected group homes and boardinghouses and provide the information to his staff. ***Be a concerned neighbor and help protect the elderly and disabled. If you know or suspect a home in Westbury is operating as a group home or boardinghouse, please call or email the WCC office with the property address and any other information you can provide about the owner or operator or clients.*** The WCC will forward this

Houston Public Library – Did You Know?

Our Meyer branch library will be replaced with a new building in a new location, as approved by voters in the 2012 city bond election. The location and construction timing have yet to be determined.

Library cards are FREE for Texas residents. Apply in person. Adults need a photo ID. Children need a government ID or birth certificate or an immunization record. Library cards must be renewed in person every 3 years.

Library card users now need a PIN to use a self-check machine or to log in online.

The checkout period has been increased from 2 weeks to 3 weeks. Most items can be renewed once.

Save money by using the library to borrow books, movies, or music. You can borrow materials from any branch or main library and have it delivered to any branch you want. Your kids will LOVE having a huge library of materials to choose from.

The library now offers the ability to borrow downloadable ebooks, audiobooks, or digital videos via the Overdrive Digital Media Catalog. Ebooks and Audiobooks can be checked out for 14 days and videos for 7 days. Save money by borrowing these materials rather than buying. One avid Kindle user on the WCC board saved over \$30 in 2 weeks!

Your Houston library card can be linked to the Harris County library system, allowing you to check out books or ebooks from Harris County, too.

Your library card also allows access to specialized online collections such as genealogical records and online language courses.

Visit your local library branch and get a library card.

**The Meyer Library is located at
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A Call to Action



This month, we feature our community partner "Southwest Houston 2000", which is a civic organization dedicated to improving this area of town. They are seeking volunteers to serve on their board and committees, so we are reprinting a letter named "A Call to Action" issued by their President, Mike Bercu, which summarizes their history and activities. We encourage our residents to volunteer with them and to attend their informative Bi-Monthly Breakfast speaker events. Please contact them if you want to

Southwest Houston 2000 has been very active and successful for the past 30 years helping make Brays Oaks District (formerly known as Southwest Houston) a better place to work, live and play. Our organization had the vision approximately ten years ago for what became the "Brays Oaks Management District".

Recently even more good things are happening and we can proudly say we have been instrumental in making ideas a reality. For example, a major accomplishment last year was helping to get a new Houston Community College Campus to be located in our area.

Additionally, through our volunteering we have made progress in improving the Brays Oaks District by:

- *Coordinating with businesses, Homeowners Associations and apartments to encourage quality development
- *Partnering with the Brays Oak Management District to improve appearances, safety and reduction of crime, & bring in new businesses.
- *Assisting in festivals such as the Willow Waterhole Jazz Fest and Marian Park Festival
- *Working with HCC, HISD and Charter schools for better education for our children and young adults
- *Sponsoring and organizing Bi-Monthly Breakfast Meetings at Houston Baptist University that provide better communication in our community

- *Working with the Houston Police Department and assisting in funding the Braeburn HPD Storefront
- *Working with Houston City Council, Harris County, and State representatives on community issues
- *Introducing state of the art technology that will enhance our area
- *Partnering with area Super Neighborhoods.

We are excited about what we have accomplished for the Brays Oaks District. We can do much more with additional volunteers from businesses, non-profits and community area organizations. Please consider how you can provide some of your time, talent and expertise to Southwest Houston 2000 for the betterment of our community.

Contact me you have an interest in joining our board or participating on one of our committees, or if you have any suggestions, comments or questions. We invite you to attend our board meetings held at Braeswood Assembly of God, Youth Annex Building at the corner of Fondren and Willowbend, on the 3rd Thursday each month at 7:30 AM. Hope to hear from you soon. Thanks.

Regards,

Mike Bercu

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Neighborhood & Area News

Remodeling your home? Adding On? Remember, please let the Westbury Civic Club office look over your proposed plans before you start construction.

We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen, and without a doubt you would like to find out before wasting money on construction that later has to be modified or demolished. Obtaining a city construction permit requires your written acknowledgment that the plans comply with your deed restrictions.

Construction Near Kohl's

Fred Meyer of MC Mgmt says that 2 of the 4 lanes of Meyer Park Blvd have been obtained so that nearby utilities can be relocated to where part of the street had been. There will still be 2 lanes available to access the WalMart / Luby's area via Meyer Forest Drive. This modification will allow more land to be available for development next to the Kohl's.

Westbury Annual Meeting

Save the date! Wednesday, September 18th, is the date of our Annual General Meeting of the members of the WCC. We will have our annual election and a vote on the bylaws. We will have door prizes and some interesting speakers. Prizes will be awarded for the Hidden Trash Can Contest. Come out and hear the latest on the Westbury Community Garden. Join us and make your voice heard! It is a City election year and chances are there will be candidates to meet. We will have full details in the September *Crier*.

Update on Westbury Square

The property owner of Westbury Square has been appealing judgments made in favor of the city regarding conditions at the property since 2008. The delay will continue for a while longer. It is our understanding that the Texas Supreme Court has asked the city to respond rather than immediately denying the appeal.

New WCC Board Members

During the July 2013 WCC board meeting, two residents volunteered to fill board positions which have been vacant all year. In accordance with the WCC bylaws, board positions which have been posted in the newsletter as vacant can be filled by approval of the board. The WCC board unanimously approved both volunteers as directors, effective immediately.

Eugene Sirls is now a Section Director for Westbury 4. Eugene has lived in Westbury for more than 30 years and is also an active volunteer at the Westbury Community Garden.

Jennifer Edmondson joins the board as Director of Deed Restrictions. Jennifer grew up in Westbury and now owns her 1st home in the same great neighborhood! Jennifer has attended many classes about Deed Restrictions sponsored by District K and has amassed a wealth of knowledge about our deed restrictions and helpful city ordinances.

Welcome to the 2013 WCC Board!

**TRICK
OR
TREE**

Save the date. Saturday, October 26

Back by popular demand, we will again be distributing free trees to Westbury residents thanks to a partnership with Trees for Houston! Details will be in the September *Crier*.

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Green Westbury



Westbury 1 Yard of Month Winner

June & July Yard of the Month Winners

Parkwest 1

5630 Hummingbird - Trey Velasco & Jeff Pace
10707 Atwell - Robert Neustaedter and Barbara Franco

Parkwest 2

5723 Portal - Richard & June Tapia
10902 Ashcroft - Kirk Behnke

Parkwest 3

5907 McKnight - Jay Mikula and Andrea Abat

Westbury 1

5002 Creekbend - Audrea Bellinger

Westbury 2

5454 Stillbrooke - Tom Mathews & Bob Hergenroeder

Nature Classes at Platou Center

As part of the Summer Enrichment Program at the Platou Community Center, Westbury residents Hazel Potvin and Karen Schubert have been teaching Nature Classes to the children in the program. Under the direction of Edith Smith, a former science director for HISD, Hazel and Karen have been teaching weekly classes centered around the unique habitat of the Willow Waterhole, part of which is adjacent to the Platou Center. The children have studied butterflies and their life cycles, built two butterfly gardens, studied other native pollinators, made seed balls to plant native wildflowers, and hiked through a section of Willow Waterhole to distribute the seed balls. Many thanks to our generous residents for giving of their time and talent to our school children!

Hager Park Committee Needed

With all the work at Westbury Park, we have naturally had several inquiries about Hager Park improvements. Are you interested in joining a Friends of Westbury Greenspaces– Hager Park Committee? If so, contact Jennifer at 713-723-5437 or westburycc@sbcglobal.net

No Yard of the Month Winner in your section? Call the WCC office to volunteer as a judge today!



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It felt like Christmas in July this year as big trucks rolled through Westbury delivering new green recycling carts to more than 2,400 homes. At long last, every home in Westbury now has large recycle carts. The WCC thanks **Mayor Annise Parker, Councilmember Larry Green,** and Solid Waste **Director Harry Hayes** for heeding our long-standing requests to bring the large recycle carts to all homes in Westbury. We also thank the many residents who have contacted the city to request these recycle carts. Let's show how well we can recycle!

The 96-gallon cart is much bigger than the old 18-gallon green bins and it has wheels, making it much easier to move recyclables to the curb. The carts also keep recyclables from blowing away or getting wet. Even better, glass jars and bottles can be recycled in the 96-gallon carts. Each cart lid had a list of items which can be recycled. Read about acceptable items and appropriate ways to use your recycling cart on the next page. Afterwards, take the Master Recycler Quiz on page 21 and test your recycling knowledge!

Single Stream Recycling for ALL of Westbury!



Hidden Trash Can Contest

Send us a picture of your "hidden" trash can solution to enter our contest. Tell us a little bit about your design and an estimated cost to build it. Be sure to include your address and a way to contact you. Cash prizes will be awarded at the Annual Meeting in September in several categories from elaborate to simple, and from innovative to functional. First place is \$100! The plan is to judge them in August, so get your entry in. We have gotten several great entries!

You can't win if you don't enter! Send your entries to the Westbury Civic Club office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net with a subject line of "Trash Can Contest" by 11 PM on August 25, 2013. If you don't have access to email, then snail mail us or come by the office with the requested information.



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Single Stream Recycling 101

What Items can go in my new recycling cart?

Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, Phone Books, Cardboard (flattened), Aluminum and Tin cans (rinsed & drained), Plastic Containers #1-5 and #7 (rinsed & drained), and Glass Bottles & Jars (rinsed & drained)



What Items CANNOT go in my new recycling cart?

Plastic bags, trash bags, items with food on it such as pizza boxes or paper plates, Styrofoam packaging, grass clippings or tree branches. Motor oil cannot be placed inside cart. The City will pick it up when properly placed beside cart in closed screw top container.

Where can I store my cart?

Out of sight! City of Houston ordinance states that all trash cans must be out of public view. This means you cannot put the cart in front of your garage or house or on your porch. The cans must be in the backyard, in the garage or placed behind something that blocks it such as plants or a trellis. The WCC is having a Hidden Trash Can contest, see page 19 for more details.

When can I put my recycling cart out?

Recycling carts can be placed on the curb starting at 6PM every other Wednesday. Pickup for all of Westbury is every other Thursday. The first pickup for the entire neighborhood was July 25. The next recycling date is August 8. Carts must be removed by 10PM on Thursday.

Where on the curb do I place my recycling cart?

The green recycling cart must be placed at least 3ft away from the regular black trash cart. If your cans are placed directly next to one another the trucks CANNOT pick them up with their claw.

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Quiz — Are you a Master Recycler?

Only One Answer is Correct

1. Paper is great for recycling. I like to throw these in my recycling cart:
 - A. empty pizza boxes
 - B. used paper plates
 - C. old cardboard boxes, broken down, folded flat.
2. When not in use. I like to store my recycling cart:
 - A. out of view - in the garage, or on the side or back of my house
 - B. right in front of my garage for easy access
 - C. at the curb, so everyone can see my pretty new recycling cart!
3. After our party, we:
 - A. drain and rinse empty bottles and put them in the recycling cart
 - B. break the empty bottles, so they take up less room
 - C. put half-filled bottles in the recycling cart, just in case the recyclers want some
4. If we end up with lots of recyclable items, we:
 - A. put them all in plastic bags, to keep them tidy, then throw the bags in the recycling cart
 - B. place the items all mixed together in our recycling cart
 - C. put the items in the cart mixed with Styrofoam peanuts to help it all pack nicely.
5. TRUE or FALSE
After working in the yard we put all the clippings in our recycling cart. Nothing is more recyclable than leaves and twigs.
6. I just bought a 70-inch TV and now I have this huge box it came in. I will:
 - A. put the box out on the curb so everyone can see I got a new TV
 - B. jam it into the recycling cart even though it doesn't fit quite right
 - C. take it to the large paper recycling bin at the Platou Center on Chimney Rock.
7. These items are allowed in my recycling cart:
 - A. Phone Books
 - B. Magazines & Newspapers
 - C. Rinsed & drained cans
 - D. Rinsed & drained glass food & beverage bottles
 - E. All of the above
8. When placing my recycle cart and trash cart out, I:
 - A. leave them close to my front door in hopes the collectors might want to visit.
 - B. place them closely together for the convenience of the collectors.
 - C. place them at least three feet apart and three feet from other objects
9. I like to put my recycling cart out:
 - A. by 7AM the day scheduled for collection
 - B. all the time, so I never have to worry about missing the pickup.
 - C. with the handle facing the street, so the collection workers have easy access.
10. TRUE or FALSE
I can put out used motor oil for recycling, by placing it next to the recycle bin in a screw top container.
11. TRUE or FALSE
If I break a window or a ceramic item, I just put it into my recycle cart because it is made of glass.
12. Rinsed and drained plastic containers are great for recycling are great as long as they are labeled:
 - A. Plastics #2, #3 and #6
 - B. Plastics #1-5, and #7
 - C. Plastics less than zero.
13. TRUE or FALSE
I will respect my neighbors and the recycling program by following the simple guidelines.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS ARE ON PAGE 23.

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Excited Westbury Residents Receive Bins



A BIG Thank You to COH Solid Waste for delivering 2,437 carts to Westbury homes. Some carts were even delivered on a Saturday!



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Master Recycler Quiz Answers and Explanations

How did you rank? Are you are a Master Recycler?

12-13 Correct: Congratulations! You are a master recycler!

8-11 Correct: You're getting there!

5-7 Correct: Read the directions on top of your recycle cart again

0-4 Correct: Beginner. Read the directions again and keep practicing.



Quick Answer Check

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. FALSE
6. C
7. E
8. C
9. A
10. TRUE
11. FALSE
12. B
13. TRUE

Want some explanations? Why isn't your answer correct?

1. Pizza boxes and used plates will not be accepted by the recycling center due to possible contamination
2. Your recycling cart should be placed out of sight, just like your trash can.
3. Glass bottles are accepted in the new recycling carts. They should be rinsed, drained, and empty.
4. Plastic bags cannot be placed in your recycling cart. The reason is the bags get caught in the sorting machinery. Styrofoam of any sort is NOT allowed in the recycling carts. All of your recycling can now be mixed together in the single cart.
5. Yard trimmings cannot be placed in your recycling cart. They should be placed in biodegradable bags approved by the City of Houston and placed at the curb for trash pickup.
6. Large boxes that won't fit in your cart are welcome in the recycling bins at the Platou Community Center located at 11655 Chimney Rock.
7. Your recycling cart is for collecting and holding your old phone books, magazines, newspapers, and cans and bottles between recycling days.
8. Trash cans must be least three feet apart and three feet from other objects (trees, bushes, fire hydrants) with the handles facing your home.
9. Recycling carts out on the curb by 7AM the day of pickup.
10. Yes, you can place old motor oil next to your recycling bin and the city will take it. The City will collect up to 3 one gallon screw top containers.
11. The recycling program will not accept broken window panes or ceramic pieces do to possible contamination.
12. The recycling program accepts plastics that are labeled #1- 5 and #7. You can find these numbers on the bottom of your plastic containers.
13. Respecting our recycling program is just a good thing to do. Respecting your neighbors is a great thing to do!



Don't forget you can recycle paper & cardboard at Chimney Rock Park! Money earned from recycled paper goes toward the Community Center.



5623 McKnight PENDING
Westbury
3/2 + Port Cachere
Gameroom/Bonus Room



6123 Yarwell \$338,500
Maplewood South
4/2.5/2



5727 Wigton \$369,900
Maplewood South
3/2.5/3



5818 Cheena \$384,900
Maplewood South
4/2/2 + Sunroom



5706 Wigton \$349,900
Maplewood South
4/2/2

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