



# Westbury Crier

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2018

## Harvey: One Year Later

Hurricane Harvey brought record rainfall and flooding across Houston in August 2017. It seemed like the entire City was underwater for days. In Westbury, over 33 inches of rain in just 2 and a half days and flooded almost 700 homes. For more about this historical event and final published damage numbers, go to page 9.

## Action Items to Reduce Flooding in Westbury

Westbury is in desperate need of REAL solutions to the on-going, repetitive flooding along the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB). The channel is inadequate and cannot even handle a 10 rain year event, per data published by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD)). Hundreds of homes have flooded in 2013, twice in 2015 (Memorial Day and Halloween), in 2016 and in 2017. Additionally, the bayou came within inches of overflowing its banks on July 4.

The Westbury Civic Club Board approved a list of Action Items to Reduce Flooding in Westbury. The list and supporting documents are on pages 12-13. This list was sent directly to HCFCD. The list was also approved by the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, thus making it a SuperNeighborhood motion.

## HCFCD Explains Control Structure

The Willow Waterhole detention basins are part of Project Brays. This area is intended to hold water from the Willow Waterhole Bayou and then release it slowly back into the bayou. This will help Brays Bayou from filling as fast. Part of this work entailed a 5x5 ft control structure to be installed in the bayou. This control structure forces the water to only flow at the controlled rate. At a certain level, the water will go over the inflow weir into the basins. There is also an overflow weir that will allow the bayou to bypass the control structure in high rain events. Harris County Flood Control District attended the July WCC Board Meeting at the request of the Board to help explain and answer residents concerns regarding this control structure. HCFCD also answered questions regarding the bond and possible Westbury projects. If you are interested in hearing HCFCD presentation and the Q&A, videos of the meeting are posted on the Westbury Houston Facebook page.

## Harris County Bond Election to Reduce Flooding—August 25

On the one year anniversary of Harvey, Harris County will be holding a bond election. The proposed bond could be up to \$2.5 billion in flood reduction projects. One of the proposed “local” projects is on the Fondren Diversion Channel to the West of Westbury. This project is of interest to Westbury as this channel flows into Westbury over the dam on the Willow Waterhole Bayou. It is directly connected to our flooding. To read more about the bond proposal and how it could help Westbury, see page 11.

**The bond election will be on Saturday, August 25. Early voting will start on August 8. See page 6-7.**

## 2019 WCC Board Nominations August 9 Deadline

Elections for the 2019 WCC Board of Directors will be conducted on September 11 at the Annual Meeting. **All nominations must be received before 4PM on the second Thursday of August, which is August 9, 2018, the deadline specified in our bylaws.** Come join a great group of volunteers who strive to keep our neighborhood a great place to call home!

Please express your interest in running for the board of the Westbury Civic Club by letter or by email. If you send email, please use subject line of “WCC 2019 Elections”. Email: westburycc@sbcglobal.net. Mail: 5322 W Bellfort, Suite 100, Houston TX, 77035. Call 713-723-5437 if you have any questions.

- ◆ All board members must be a listed Owner of Record for a property located in Westbury, Parkwest or Westbury South and Section Directors must be a listed Owner of Record of home that is in the section they wish to represent.
- ◆ Candidates must submit interest to serve on the board by the deadline and must include the following statement filled out. “My name is \_\_\_\_ and I declare that I am eligible to be a Director or Officer of the Westbury Civic Club. I am the listed Owner of Record for \_\_\_\_\_(street address of home).”
- ◆ Candidates may submit a statement, not to exceed 100 words in length.
- ◆ All candidates must include contact information including home phone, cell home, emails, etc.

**“NEW” Library Coming to Westbury!  
Read all about this exciting news on page 16.**

## RECYCLING DATES

August 2018

Thursday, August 2

Thursday, August 16

Thursday, August 30

September 2018

Thursday, September 13

Thursday, September 27

## HEAVY TRASH

August 2018

Thursday, August 9

JUNK WASTE

September 2018

Thursday, September 13

TREE WASTE ONLY

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

## WCC OFFICE \*NEW ADDRESS

5322 W. Bellfort #100, Houston, TX 77035

Jennifer Edmondson.....WCC Office Manager

NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO DUES PAYING

WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appt.

## OFFICE HOURS/CONTACT

Monday- Thursday .....9AM-2PM

Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Telephone.....713-723-5437

Email.....westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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

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

"Like" us on Facebook at Westbury Houston

## SECURITY

Pct. 5 Constables (WAP).....281-463-6666

Report property crimes, suspicious activity, and vacation watch

Emergency.....911

Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency..... 713-884-3131

Southwest HPD Station .....832-394-0400

## CITY OF HOUSTON

District K CM, Martha Castex-Tatum..... 832-393-3016

District C Council Member, Ellen Cohen.....832-393-3004

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

Platou Community Center.....713-726-7107

Meyer Library.....832-393-1840

Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office.....832-393-0955

Houston Help & Information.....311

For missed garbage pickup, water line breaks, potholes  
sewer repairs, dead animals, traffic signals, heavy trash  
violations, neighborhood nuisances, and other city services

## CENTERPOINT ENERGY

Electric outage.....713-207-2222

Suspected natural gas leak.....713-659-2111

Street light repairs.....713-207-2222

Make sure to give pole number

## OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

County Commissioner Rodney Ellis>>.....713-755-6111

Graffiti.....www.braysoaksm.org

Shopping Cart Removal.....www.braysoaksm.org

Brays Oaks Mgmt. District - Use "report a problem" link

Poison Control.....1-800-764-7661

Harris County Tax office.....713-368-2000

Harris County Appraisal District.....713-957-7800

## 2018 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Becky Edmondson

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

Vice President.....Cindy Chapman

Secretary.....Dan Vega

Treasurer.....Marcia Hartman

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Communications.....Katherine Wingfield

Community Relations.....Eugene Sirls

Deed Restrictions.....Jennifer Edmondson

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

Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Donna Strom

Greenspace Beautification.....Mat Funk

Membership.....Jeff Benavides

Security.....VACANT

Volunteer Coordinator.....Robert Ellis-Montgomery

[robertsmontgomery@icloud.com](mailto:robertsmontgomery@icloud.com)

### SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1.....VACANT

Westbury 2.....Susan Brock

Westbury 3.....Tony Robert

Westbury 3.....VACANT

Westbury 4.....Judy Overton

Westbury 4.....Gail Reaben

Westbury 5.....Virginia Livingston

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

Westbury 5.....VACANT

Westbury South.....Brandon Richard

Parkwest 1.....Angie Furnari

Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss

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

Parkwest 3.....Lisa Placke

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

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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endorses an advertisement in the newsletter. Perform  
your own due diligence before contacting any advertiser.

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

Can you believe it? It's back to school time already! I liked it better when school started after Labor Day. It's time to watch for school zones and to remember to stay off your phones when driving through them. Inside this issue you will find updates on our schools and even the Butler Stadium schedule in case you want to have your own Friday Night Lights experience. How about attending the September 28th game of Westbury HS vs Bellaire HS? School announcements are on pages 18-19.

The big news, of course, is flood prevention. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett hosted the Brays Bayou watershed meeting in July. The county is soliciting input for its huge bond election on August 25. The City of Houston is charged with drainage and getting the water to the ditches, bayous and bays where it becomes the responsibility of Harris County. This August marks the one year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey. Look in this Crier on page 9 for some final Harvey numbers. Next month, we will cover Westbury recovery efforts.

Here in Westbury we want improvements to the Willow Waterhole Bayou and its watershed. As a natural tributary to Brays, it was rerouted by the early Fondren SW developers, but, as they say, water has a memory. It's going to be costly to mitigate the flooding problem but flooding itself is even more costly, not only in dollars but in real lasting human suffering. One proposed local project is the Fondren Diversion Channel which includes channel improvements and related detention. This channel is one

that causes the Willow Waterhole Bayou to top the dam and flood Westbury. Last month's Crier had an article called "Where is the Dam in Westbury?" We are re-running this article again this month on page 9. It is important to understand how our water is intended to flow vs how it actually flows. Water intended for the D140 (Fondren Diversion Channel) is coming into the D112 (Willow Waterhole Bayou) system and overloading it with water.

There are three solutions: mitigation projects, elevations and buyouts. Some Westbury residents have asked for a buyout. There is a section of homes that have flooded 5, 6, 7 or even 10 plus times. If a stretch of homes could be purchased, then inline detention could be added along the bayou to create more capacity. I'd like to see matching funds made available to help elevate our homes. Our homes square footages are smaller, as is the height necessary to raise the homes, making Westbury homes more cost effective to raise. We have to have solutions! People can't live with constant fear and stress. But we don't want to see the house values to fall so low that properties begin to deteriorate.

Am I the only person getting holiday rain dread? After the rain on the 4th of July, which thankfully caused no structural flooding, despite rainfall that came quick and fast, we and others living along the Willow Waterhole Bayou had questions for Harris County Flood Control District. They came to the July WCC Board Meeting ready to answer these questions. You can watch the HCFCFD presentation and Q&A

on our Facebook page, Westbury Houston. We are thankful that HCFCFD is an open and approachable group who are always willing to share their time and knowledge with us calmly and patiently. Flooding is a sensitive subject and Westbury residents are rightfully frustrated.

My vacation this summer took me to Russia. I loved the country and people that I met, but what a reminder that, no matter what it's like here, there really is no place like home in the good old USA. The rain put a damper on most everyone's 4th of July plans, but what a country to celebrate!

Hope all of you have had a nice restful summer.

Becky Edmondson



*Becky with Houston HEB President Scott McClelland at the Bellaire HEB VIP Grand Opening event on June 26*

### **WCC Board Meeting Notes July 2018**

- Board approved motion to accept a list of Action Items to help reduce flooding in Westbury. Document is online at [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) and page 12-13.
- Gary Zika, Harris County Flood Control District, gave a presentation about the Willow Waterhole and the control structure in the bayou by the basins.
- Discussion and Q&A about possible bond projects in the Westbury area
- Thank you to Jackie Murray and Kendyl Maurer with Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.
- The next WCC Board meeting is August 15 at 7PM.
- Annual Meeting with 2019 WCC Board elections will be on September 11\*  
\*THIS IS A NEW DATE DUE TO YOM KIPPUR
- Gary Zika presentation and the Q&A portion of the meeting was streamed live on Facebook on the Westbury Houston page. The videos were saved for reference.

**NEXT WCC  
Board Meeting  
Wed., August 15, 7PM  
Westbury Baptist  
10425 Hillcroft  
RM C109**





# Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock Rd ♦ 713-726-7107

Supervisor: Jayla Godbolt, Jayla.godbolt@houstontx.gov

## Summer Enrichment Program

The Summer Enrichment Program at the Platou ends on August 10. Fifty children ages 6 to 13 participated in a wide variety of experiences with lots of indoor and outdoor play, field trips and guest speakers. A loyal group of volunteers from Westbury High School provided lots of support for the whole ten weeks.

Friends of Chimney Rock Park provided speakers about birds, snakes, dogs and books. They also provided a week of art experiences using watercolors and acrylics, drawing, embossing, weaving and clay. Mason Brown, from HSPVA, assisted for a second year and helped students learn to use various art materials.

A great big thanks goes to Ms. Jayla Godbolt, Supervisor, her Summer Staffer, Ms. Danielle. and Mr. Nelson Ayala, Part-time recreation specialist for a well-managed fun-filled program.



## Regular Schedule Resumes August 13

### Stretching Exercise Class

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9-9:45AM

Improve flexibility in a non-strenuous exercise class.

### Ms. BeeHaven Quilters

Tuesday, 10AM - 2PM

Contact Janie at 713-721-5526

### Table Games

Wednesday, 10AM - 12:30PM

Take a chance at Dominoes, Card Games, and more!

### Table Tennis

Wednesday, 4-8PM

Open Adult and Teen Ping Pong/Table Tennis will be available with Mr. Nelson

### Interested in new classes/groups?

Call Jayla Godbolt at 713-726-7107 or email [platou@houstontx.gov](mailto:platou@houstontx.gov) if you want to form a craft class, play bridge, hold a meeting, etc. New classes are always welcome and needed. All classes are free and led by volunteers. The center will be open until 8PM Monday through Thursday.

## Meyer Library News

### → Meyer Library CLOSED

The Meyer Library suffered damage from Harvey and is still closed. The City approved \$1.2 Million to purchase land in Westbury for a new Meyer Library. Read all about this on page 16.

### → "Mini" Meyer Library at Godwin Community Center

A "mini" Meyer Library has opened in Meyerland at the Godwin Community Center at 5101 Rutherglenn next to Kolter Elementary. Limited Services. Staff can be reached at 832-393-1840. Hours of operation: Mon-Wed: 1:00PM-6:00PM / Thurs: 1:00PM-8:00PM / Fri: 1:00PM-5:00PM



## Westbury City Pool



Now– August 12: Pool OPEN

Normal Summer Hours

Tuesday—Sunday 1-8PM; Closed Mondays

August 13 - September 3: Pool open on

Saturday and Sunday only, 1-5PM

September 3 (Labor Day): Last day for

the pool to be open! 1-5PM

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# What's Happening in Westbury

## Events/Meetings Calendar AUGUST 2018

Aug 6-10	WCC Office Closed	
Wed 8	Early Voting Begins for the HCFCF Flood Bond Election See page 7 for polling locations and times	
Wed 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting St John's Presbyterian - 5020 W Bellfort	9:30AM
Wed 15	WCC Board Meeting Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft	7PM
Sat. 18	Audubon Society Bird Survey Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow	7AM
Mon 20	Brays Bayou Association Meeting The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow	7:30PM
Tues 21	SW PIP Meeting SW HPD Police Station—13097 Nitida	7PM
Wed 22	Star Party at Westbury Community Garden Westbury Community Garden—12581 Dunlap See page 23 for more information	8-10PM
Sat 25	HCFCF Flood Bond Election See pages 1, 6-7, and 11 for more information	
Mon 27	1st Day of School HISD	

## PLANNING CALENDAR

September 3 – Labor Day Holiday  
 September 11\* – WCC Annual Mtg  
 \*September 11\* – WCC Board Elections  
 \*New Date and Location  
 October 2 - National Night Out  
 October 27 - Fall White Elephant Sale  
 November 3 - Rain Date for the White Elephant Sale

**Welcome  
Back to  
School!**



## TRASH SCHEDULE Recycling in Westbury



All of Westbury recycles on Schedule A. Recycling is every other week. Recycling goes into the green trash can.

**August 2018**      **September 2018**  
 Thursday, August 2      Thursday, September 13  
 Thursday, August 16      Thursday, September 27  
 Thursday, August 30

## Heavy Trash Schedule

All of Westbury is on the same schedule for Heavy Trash. Pick-up is on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Odd months are TREE WASTE ONLY and even months are JUNK WASTE months.

**August 2018**      **September 2018**  
**JUNK WASTE**      **TREE WASTE ONLY**  
 Thursday, August 9      Thursday, September 13

## Important Trash & Recycling Info



- ♻️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday. Recycling is every other Thursday. Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- ♻️ Westbury is on Recycle Schedule A
- ♻️ NO Glass in the green recycling bins
- ♻️ Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM each Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM each Thursday
- ♻️ Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- ♻️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- ♻️ Yard waste MUST be in correct biodegradable bags
- ♻️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ♻️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers: **SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr** 10785 SW Frwy / Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables.
- ♻️ **Environmental Service Center** - 11500 S. Post Oak Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM. Accepts Hazardous Household & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ GLASS: May be recycled at Westbury United Methodist, 5200 Willowbend, in the orange container near W. Bellfort.
- ♻️ Refer to [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) or [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov) for more trash and recycling information

## Flood Bond Election

Harris County Commissioners Court is having a bond election on August 25, 2018, for the Harris County Flood Control District. Registered voters in Harris County will be asked to vote on \$2.5 billion in bonds for flood risk reduction projects throughout Harris County. The date of August 25 was selected because it is the one year anniversary of landfall for Hurricane Harvey, which brought devastating floods to Texas, including in Harris County. Early voting will start on August 8. Election location information is on the next page.

Harris County scheduled a series of community engagement meetings to solicit public input. Each of the watersheds in Harris County had a public meeting. The Brays Bayou Public Meeting was held on July 10 at Pershing Middle School on Stella Link. Meeting info on page 11.

The Houston Chronicle on June 18, 2018, listed about \$30 million proposed for improvements to the "Fondren Diversion Channel", which is upstream of Westbury in the Brays Bayou and Willow Waterhole Bayou watersheds. The Fondren Diversion Channel overflows through Westbury when the water level gets too high. Read more about this on page 11.

### Q: Is this bond election a response to the Hurricane Harvey disaster?

A: The bond election project list developed by the Flood Control District includes projects that address documented flooding issues in each watershed – issues that come into play any time there is excessive rainfall in those watersheds. The list is not aimed only at the specific flooding that occurred during Harvey, but is aimed at making our entire community more resilient in the future. The bond funds would allow the Flood Control District to leverage the federal Harvey-related disaster funding that is on its way to Harris County.

### Q: How much would the bonds cost property taxpayers?

A: The full cost of the bond will be phased in over several years, and will not impact property tax bills all at once. The Flood Control District plans to use these bonds over a 10- to 15-year period, as project timelines allow. Based on what could be \$2.5 billion in bonds and a likely borrowing schedule over approximately 15 years, the Harris County Budget Management Department estimates that the overall tax increase will be no more than 2-3 cents per \$100 of home valuation – meaning that most homeowners will see an increase of no more than 1.4 percent in their property tax. A homeowner with an over-65 or disabled exemption and a home worth \$200,000 or less would not pay any additional taxes for these bonds.

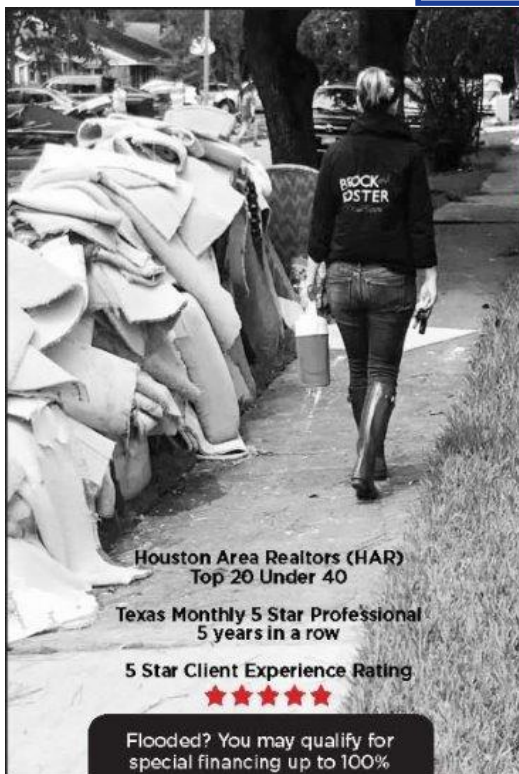
**Q: How big is the total need in Harris County for flood risk reduction projects?**A: Previous ballpark estimates of \$25 billion to achieve a 1% (100-year) level of service in Harris County suggest the magnitude of the flood risk issue.

Additional funding from a bond would allow the Flood Control District to get more projects started and finished faster.

### Q: How will projects in the bond proposal be selected and prioritized?

A: Harris County Commissioners Court directed Flood Control District staff to develop a list of projects that could be built with bond funding. This is not an exact list of projects that must be or will be built with bond proceeds. It represents a list of projects that would meet the goal of the bond election, which is to both assist with recovery after previous flooding events (including Harvey) and to make our county more resilient for the future. High on the priority list are construction-ready projects with federal funding partners (such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency) that give the County "the most bang for its flood control buck." The list also includes locally funded projects in economically disadvantaged communities that may not meet the federal grant requirements, but where there is a substantial need for flood damage reduction work and a potential to serve the greatest number of residents. Consideration is also given to areas that have a lower level of current protection as compared to other areas in the county.

The Flood Control District list also includes potential flood risk reduction projects that will be developed with input from the County Engineer, the Harris County Community Services Department, and other governmental agencies in Harris County.



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Westbury Willowbend Willow Meadows Meyerland

# Harris County Flood Control Bond Election—August 25

Your Decision. Your Vote. Westbury is respected as an area with high voter turnout. Keep up the Westbury tradition and VOTE!



**Voting locations may change up until Election Day.**  
**For sample ballots, locations, go to [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org)**

### What is this Election for?

Harris County Flood Control District is asking voters for a \$2.5 Billion bond for projects to help address documented flooding in all 22 watersheds across the county. Read all about the bond on the previous page.

## August 25 Election Locations Westbury Area Precincts

Locations subject to change, check [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org)

Pct.	Location	Address
14	Westbury United Methodist**	5200 Willowbend
22	Foerster Elementary*	14200 Fonmeadow
146	Platou Community Center	11655 Chimney Rock
291	Westbury United Methodist**	5200 Willowbend
293	Anderson Elementary*	5727 Ludington
403	Westbury Baptist*	10425 Hillcroft
453	Westbury High School*	11911 Chimney Rock
693	Braeswood Assembly of God	10611 Fondren

\*Waiting confirmation on location. Could Change.  
 \*\*Online information says Tinsley Elementary but address is for Westbury UMC which is the normal voting location for Pct 291

## EARLY VOTING AUGUST 8—AUGUST 21

### Hours of Operation

August 8 - August 10: 8:00AM– 4:30PM  
 August 13 - August 14: 8:00AM - 4:30PM  
 August 15 - August 18: 7:00AM - 7:00PM  
 August 19: 1:00PM - 6:00PM  
 August 20 - August 21: 7:00AM - 7:00PM

### Nearby Early Voting Locations

**SWHouston:** Bayland Park Community Center  
 6400 Bissonnet, 77074  
**Downtown:** Harris County Law Library  
 1019 Congress Ave, 77002  
**Astrodome Area:** Fiesta Mart, Inc., 8130 Kirby Drive  
**Galleria:** Harris County Public Health Environmental Services at 2223 West Loop South, 77027  
**Voting locations may change up until Election Day.**  
**Visit [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org) for up to minute news.**



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## Flood Gage at Landsdowne Updated After the July 4th Rain

### *Did the non-updating flood gage worry you?*

Instead of the usual outdoor activities associated with the 4th of July, Houston and the Westbury area were pounded with unanticipated heavy rain in the morning, which quickly caused roads across town to become impassable. News stations were broadcasting the status of all the flood gages in town, when the gage located in Westbury, on Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) near Landsdowne, flashed from Green (okay) to Yellow (Caution) status as WWB channel level kept increasing. Eyes all over Westbury were watching the information online to see how the level in the bayou was faring...and for an agonizing period of time, the level did not update with new information for about 40 minutes. All the while, rain is still pouring. Then the level updated with a small increase and then again there was an agonizing wait where the number did not update for more than 30 minutes.

What was happening with this gage? Why was the gage updating rainfall, but not updating level data? WCC Office Manager Jennifer Edmondson has asked Jeff Lindner, meteorologist for the Harris County Flood Control District, why the Westbury gage performed this way during the heavy rain. Jeff explained that the typical programming of the gages would not update level information unless the change is more than 0.1 feet in either direction. Jeff offered to adjust the programming of the gage so that it offers more frequent results when the level reaches a high level in the bayou. The next rain event should have the bayou updating even when level so residents know the status.



## Keep Storm Drains Clear

Did you read last month about the city's new Adopt a Drain program? To adopt-a-drain in your neighborhood, visit: [www.HoustonAdoptaDrain.org](http://www.HoustonAdoptaDrain.org). By adopting a drain, partners will receive information and tips from the City of Houston and Keep Houston Beautiful and notification of upcoming Houston Adopt-a-Drain events.



This program does not replace any job that City is supposed to be doing. This is a unique way to remind homeowners and residents to keep the gutters and drains clear of debris. This debris will otherwise clog the drains and slow the water flow.

## Weather Wary in Westbury

Does rain make you nervous? Are you unsure on the weather forecasts? Does listening to the news weather reports make you panic? You are not alone. Houston weather over the past couple years has made us all very wary, if not scared, of storms.

Houston gets rain. The trick is to know where and how much. There are many good websites and apps available that can help guide you before rain events or during them. One good piece of advice is to look for warnings and alerts from the actual source, for example the National Hurricane Center. This is not a complete list but a sampling meant to help guide you and add to your storm preps.

### **Harris County Flood Warning System - [www.harriscountyfws.org](http://www.harriscountyfws.org)**

This website is extremely helpful during a rain event. It shows real time bayou levels and rainfall amounts at gages that have been installed along the bayous. **Gage 445** is located in Westbury on the Willow Waterhole Bayou at the Landsdowne bridge. Gage 440 is located on Brays Bayou at S. Rice. A new tool just introduced to the website is a Flood Inundation real time map that can help residents make critical decisions regarding life and property during events. If you are ever curious about the rainfall amounts and rate, you can also look up historical data.

### **National Hurricane Center – [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)**

If there is a chance of a named storm or there is a current named storm, the National Hurricane Center is your go-to source. During an active named storm, there will be multiple updates issued along with many different maps. These include the wind probability, the storm track cone, storm surge, tides, and many more.

### **Hype-free Weather Forecast – [www.spacecityweather.com](http://www.spacecityweather.com)**

This website is dedicated to covering Houston weather news and forecasting with accuracy and without hype. Space City Weather was founded in October 2015. This website isn't about making money or getting "hits", it is truly about providing residents and business owners a quality forecast to make informed decisions. Eric Berger and Matt Lanza provide the most reliable forecast for Houston weather. You can also follow them on Facebook.

## When it Rains

If you would like to understand Houston's flooding problem, there is a 15 minute film produced back in 1979 that is as timely today as it was 39 years ago. The film is part of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image.



This film, narrated by actor Carle Bensen, presents Houstonians with a comprehensive look at their city's flood control infrastructure, put in place to deal with the heavy rains typical to the area. Due to natural factors such as a flat, low-lying topography and high clay content in the soil, as well as rapid urbanization, Houston has a history of flooding, and flood control projects, dating back as far as 1908. The film educates viewers about flood control systems in place, discussing strengths and weaknesses of the flood drain, storm sewer, bayou, channel, and pond system. It also recounts the physical and economic damage caused by flooding in the 1970s, the consequence of failure to continue to implement flood control improvements. In the end, the film is a plea to get back to the plan, urging the public to take action by voting on bond and tax allocations for drainage projects, and contacting their public officials to support the issues. Part of the TAMI library via the Patrick S. Coakley, Jr. Collection.

The film is available at [http://www.texasarchive.org/library/index.php?title=When\\_it\\_Rains&p=video1&b=0](http://www.texasarchive.org/library/index.php?title=When_it_Rains&p=video1&b=0).



## Harvey: One Year Later

Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Corpus Christi on August 25. The major rain started the evening of Saturday, August 26, only 18 hours later, over 16 inches of rain had fallen in Westbury. 691 homes flooded along the Willow Waterhole Bayou in Westbury. The rain in Westbury was approximately 33 inches for Harvey.

Many homeowners were rescued by helicopter or boat. This is the worst flooding ever seen along the Willow Waterhole Bayou. All records were broken from Memorial Day 2015.

Anywhere from 26 inches to 47 inches of rain fell across Harris County. All 22 of the major freeways in Houston Metro area had portions that were flooded and impassable.

Harvey flooded 154,170 homes in Harris county. In comparison, Tropical Storm Allison in June 2001 flooded 73,000 homes total. Below is a comparison chart.

## Harvey In Numbers

Information from HCFCD Final Harvey Report on June 4, 2018 by Jeff Lindner

- \$125 Billion** Estimated Damages
- 47,000+** Flood Insurance Claims (**\$2.89 billion**)
- 15,800+** Small Business Loans (**\$1.2 billion**)
- 177,600+** Individual Assistance Approvals (**\$4.8 billion**)
- 300,000** vehicles flooded
- 154,170** homes flooded in Harris County
- 96,410** homes flooded in City of Houston
- 23,810** homes flooded in Brays Bayou watershed
- 3,170** homes flooded in Bellaire
- 1,900** homes flooded in Meyerland
- 691** homes flooded in Westbury
- 60,049** residents rescued by government resources (tens of thousands more by local civilians)
- 32,000** people in shelters
- 65** shelters

Flood Date	Flood Name	Homes Flooded in Harris Cnty	Homes Flooded in Westbury
August 2017	Harvey	154,170	691
June 2001	TS Allison	73,000	Handful, if any
April 2016	Tax Day	9,840	25-35
May 2015	Memorial Day	6,335	420-450

## Where is the "Dam" in Westbury?

The "dam" in the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) is often mentioned in Crier articles when we discuss flooding. It cannot be seen from the road and is often envisioned incorrectly. The dam is an earthen structure that looks more like a big hill of grass. After the floods in 1975, the WCC Flood Action Committee had several proposals for an upcoming bond. One of them was to "install a barrier to the flow in the Willow Waterhole Bayou Channel immediately east of the Fondren Ditch to prevent floods in Westbury from rainstorms in Fort Bend County and Western Harris County". (Westbury Crier, August 1975, President John C. Severance).

Sometime in the early 1980s, the Willow Waterhole Bayou was dammed to separate Westbury from the Fondren water. This dam was funded thru a County bond election in 1982. The earthen dam

is located on the edge of Westbury behind Beaudry/Braewick and Lattimer/Braewick homes. It is the "beginning" of the WWB. While the earthen structure holds water back during an average rain storm, during heavy rains such as Memorial Day and Harvey, the dam is overtopped with water flowing from the Braewick ditches and the other side of the WWB coming from the Fondren area and the Fondren Diversion Channel, which sit at a higher elevation than Westbury. The developers of the Fondren area tinkered mightily with the natural flow of WWB which once meandered lazily through Western Harris County and in Ft. Bend County. Now there are narrow channels with 90 degree turns upstream of Westbury and this small "dam" at the entrance of the WWB into Westbury.

The Westbury Civic Club strongly believes that the "dam" is outdated and in need of repairs. This structure needs maintenance and needs to be addressed. This area no longer functions the way it was originally designed. It needs to be fixed. Parkwest 3 should not be the detention basin for Fondren.



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### Fondren Flood Risk Reduction Bond Project

The county proposes a \$2.5 Billion bond to pay for projects to reduce flooding risk in Harris County. The election for this bond will occur on August 25, 2018, the one year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey. Gary Zika discussed the proposed projects being considered which impact flood risk in the Brays Bayou watershed. This information is available on the bond website, which has an interactive map. [www.hcfcd.org/bond-program/](http://www.hcfcd.org/bond-program/)

Of particular interest to Westbury is a proposed "Local Project" intended to reduce the water level in the "Fondren Diversion Channel" upstream of Westbury (high water level in this channel overflows through Westbury via the Willow Waterhole Bayou). The proposed project involves "Right-Of-Way Acquisition, Design, and Construction of Channel Conveyance Improvements" on the Fondren Diversion Channel from near Beltway 8 and then as it heads north until it meets Brays Bayou (see map). Detention may be included in the project as mitigation to offset improvements to channel conveyance. There was discussion that the city of Houston is also interested in implementing a project to improve the channel/provide detention in the area of the Fondren Diversion Channel near Willow Waterhole Bayou.

Westbury residents are also encouraged to submit their project ideas and comments online at the bond website under the table Community Input. [www.hcfcd.org/bond-program/](http://www.hcfcd.org/bond-program/)

### HCFCF Brays Bayou Community Meeting

On July 10, Harris County Flood Control District held a community input meeting for the Brays Bayou Watershed and the upcoming Bond election. Hundreds of people came to Pershing Middle School to discuss flooding and mitigation projects that are coming or not coming. HCFCF encouraged online submittal of comments. The WCC drafted and approved a list of Action Items to Reduce Flooding in Westbury to submit for this process. If the bond passes, it is important to have Westbury relief projects.



### State Rep Shawn Thierry Meeting

Our State Rep Shawn Thierry held a small meeting before the HCFCF Bond meeting to get a better understanding of the Westbury flooding. Here is her statement about the meeting.

"Very productive meeting with dedicated constituents and stakeholders regarding the Harris County flooding projects which will be funded by the upcoming bond referendum. As State Representative, I am advocating for a portion of funds to be allocated for projects which will reduce flooding in Westbury along the Willow Waterhole Bayou.



I will be submitting our very specific written recommendations to the County to address flood mitigation as a result of the Willow Waterhole Bayou."



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# Action Items to Reduce Flooding WITHIN Westbury

Submitted by Becky Edmondson, President,

Westbury is in desperate need of REAL solutions to on-going, repetitive flooding along the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB). At the July 18, 2018 board meeting of the Westbury Civic Club, the WCC Board of Directors approved these "Action Items for Westbury Flood Reduction" to submit to the Harris County Flood Control District for consideration in the proposed 2.5 billion dollar county flood risk reduction bond. The bond election will be August 25, the anniversary of flooding due to Hurricane Harvey. General information about the proposed bond is available at <https://www.hcfc.org/bond-program/>

More information including the complete PDF document of "Action Items for Westbury Flood Reduction to HCFC", provided on the Westbury Civic Club website. <http://www.westburycrier.com/hot-topics>

Westbury is in desperate need of REAL solutions to on-going, repetitive flooding along the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB). The channel is inadequate and cannot even handle a 10 rain year event, per data published by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFC) for Flood Gauge 445 (located on WWB near Landsdowne Road). Hundreds of homes have flooded in 2013, twice in 2015 (Memorial Day and Halloween), in 2016 and in 2017. Additionally, the bayou came within inches of overflowing its banks on July 4, 2018. There is not enough capacity in the WWB as it flows through Westbury.

This is NOT a new problem; 200 homes flooded in 1975 and 1976 after development in the Fondren area caused much more water to flow into our neighborhood. Adjustments over the years by HCFCD helped for a while, but the drainage system no longer functions as originally designed. Westbury homes are flooding on a regular basis. Something has changed over the years in the area of the convergence of the D112-00-00, D140-05-00, D140-05-01, and D140-05-02 ditches/bayous and a small earthen dam installed by HCFCD to reduce flooding in Westbury.

Project Brays does NOT help the residents along the WWB in Westbury that repetitively flood. Why? Because of cost analysis basis, it was determined that it isn't financially viable to protect Westbury homes and residents. We need REAL solutions to mitigate the flooding WITHIN Westbury.

## ACTION ITEMS FOR HCFCD/County Bond to Reduce the Risk of Flooding WITHIN Westbury

1. D112-00-00, D140-05-00, D140-05-01, D140-05-02 and the "Westbury DAM area": This area does not function as designed. Westbury should not be the unintended detention basin for Fondren area water or water not intended to flow to D112.
  - ⇒ Regrade the Braewick ditches (D140-05-01 and D140-05-02) where they meet the Willow Waterhole Bayou (D140-05-00) on the western edge of Westbury.
  - ⇒ Revise scope of the proposed Harris County "Fondren Diversion Channel Improvements" to include channel improvements up and including the Willow Waterhole Bayou (D112) and also the relocation of the existing dam.
  - ⇒ Acquire detention between the D140-00-00 (Fondren Diversion channel) and the D140-05-01 and D140-05-02 Braewick ditches to offset channel improvements.
2. D112-00-00 (WWB): Provide new elevated bridges along the WWB at Landsdowne, Chimney Rock, and Hillcroft to reduce overflow. The water currently flows out of the D112 at the bridges even when the channel still has capacity.
3. D112-00-00(WWB): De-silt and re-grade the WWB from the existing dam to Chimney Rock.
4. The City of Houston plans to replace street drainage in Westbury. Reroute storm water from South of W. Airport (the "Westbury South" section of Westbury) to drain directly into the southern basin of the Willow Waterhole Detention Lakes along the W. Airport extension. There is ample capacity in that specific detention lake.
5. Offer HCFCD Buy-out of Properties in Westbury along 5600 blocks of Cartagena and Ludington, other repetitive flooding locations in Westbury such as Parkwest3, and to provide "Extreme Event Overflows" to the WWB when street drainage capacity is exceeded.



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# Action Items to Reduce Flooding WITHIN Westbury

Submitted by Becky Edmondson, President, Westbury Civic Club

## A Brief History of Flooding in Westbury

Westbury is the 2nd largest neighborhood in Houston with 5,000 homes. The neighborhood was developed in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) cuts through the neighborhood flowing from West to East and is an original tributary of Brays Bayou. The WWB appears on many historic maps, along with Keegans and Brays Bayous.

The early 1970s brought much development and change to the West of Westbury in the Fondren area. Much of the WWB flow was altered and changed to accommodate for development without much care to what happened downstream. The floods in 1975 and 1976 were greatly attributed to the flow from the West that inundated Westbury. The water was much more abundant and flowed very fast. Approximately 200 homes flooded those years.

The Westbury flood action committee was formed in the late 1970s in response to the floods. This group worked closely with HCFCD, specifically with Director Jim Green and Ronnie Mullinex. The July 1982 *Westbury Crier* stated "Thru the work of the Civic Club and the Harris County Flood Control District, we were also able to get over \$7,150,000 in projects approved for Westbury in the February 23, 1982 bond election. The following projects were approved.

1. Concrete the Willow Waterhole from South Post Oak to Hillcroft – \$3,500,000
2. Regrade the Willow Waterhole from Hillcroft to Bob White - \$450,000
3. Cover Hillcroft ditch from Airport to Bellfort - \$1,000,000
4. Regrade and repair shell ditch from Chimney Rock to Renwick - \$900,000
5. Cover or concrete line the Burdine ditch from W. Bellfort to Willowbend - \$1,300,000
6. Construction of dam on Willow Waterhole at Braewick. "

Most of these projects were completed, however, the biggest ticket item, #1, concreting the WWB, was not completed. It is unknown as to why this project did not get completed.

**BUT THE NEED TO REDUCE FLOODING NEVER WENT AWAY.**

The September 1983 Brays flood didn't affect Westbury as badly as previous floods, as only a dozen structures flooded. Meyerland and other neighborhoods off Brays Bayou flooded extensively and the Brays Bayou Association was formed in 1984 to address local flooding on Brays.

For 30+ years Westbury didn't have major floods. Not in 1998 with TS Frances, not in 2001 with TS Allison. That all changed on April 27, 2013. Approximately 150-200 homes flooded in Westbury on the East side of Hillcroft along the WWB. For the previous several years, residents had been reporting that streets and bayous seemed to fill much faster. Since the late 1990's, Westbury residents have been reporting many issues with the Braewick ditches and the dam on the Willow Waterhole Bayou. HCFCD assumes that the water from the Braewick ditches stays in the ditch and flows to the D140-05-00. In a typical Houston rain, the dam is easily overtopped by the flow, and water enters the D112 from the D140. Water from these 2 Braewick ditches also escapes down Warm Springs, W. Bellfort, Lattimer, and Ludington and flows very fast down the streets and enters inlets which in turn take it to the D112. This whole area of the dam does NOT function.

The WWB (D112) is outdated and not up to current standards. According to HCFCD, the WWB cannot even hold a 10 year event. The bayou is easily overtopped at Hillcroft and Landsdowne after 5-6 inches of rain. Many factors play into this.

Project Brays does NOT help the residents along the WWB in Westbury that repetitively flood. Why? Because of the cost an alysis basis it was determined that it isn't financially viable to protect Westbury homes and residents. We need REAL solutions to mitigate the flooding IN Westbury. Some of the engineering designs studied for Project Brays (which were not chosen) would have helped Westbury and given our homes 100 yr storm protection. Those portions of the project were not chosen.

If HCFCD is unwilling or unable to reduce the flood risk in the 100 year flood plain in Westbury, then they should offer a buy-out to Westbury residents. The answer cannot be to do nothing. Something has to happen, preferably proper mitigation. Now that HCFCD has installed a 5x5 ft control structure that restricts the flow of the WWB, we should be able to mitigate along our bayou and increase the size. No additional water would be going to Brays during a 100 year storm, as the water would be held in the Willow Waterhole Detention Basin.

Part of our official request to Harris County Flood Control was this brief history of flooding in Westbury. We are so lucky to have good records and information in the office. The Westbury has always had an active Civic Club and we have many residents that advocate for the neighborhood. Most of the WCC Action Items are not new ideas. With the changes to Brays Bayou and other areas in the watershed, now is the time to push again for Westbury relief along Willow Waterhole Bayou.

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## Data Facts from the HCFCG Gages

This information was sent with the WCC Action Items on page 12 and 13.

The Willow Waterhole Bayou (D112-00-00) goes from the dam in Westbury to Brays Bayou. The portion at Willowbend is 34.39 at stream level and top of bank is 51.10. At Landsdowne on the same bayou, stream level is 43.70 and the top of the bank is 54.20.

### Willow Waterhole Bayou at Willowbend

10% - 10 Yr Flood – 47.20 (Bank is 51.70)  
 2% - 50 Yr Flood – 49.80 (Bank is 51.70)  
 1% - 100 Yr Flood – 50.70 (Bank is 51.70)  
 .2% - 500 Yr Flood – 52.90 (Bank is 51.70) – it is now finally over the bank

### Willow Waterhole Bayou at Landsdowne

10% - 10 Yr Flood – 55.50 (Bank is 54.20) OVER TOP by 1.3 Ft  
 2% - 50 Yr Flood – 56.9 (Bank is 54.20) Over top by 2.5ft  
 1% - 100 Yr Flood – 57.5 (Bank is 54.20) Over top by 3.3 Ft  
 .2% - 500 Yr Flood - 58.70 (Bank is 54.20) Over top by 4.5 ft

Date	Flood Name	WWB Height at Landsdowne	WWB Height at Willowbend
4/27/13		55.10	48.10
5/26/15	Memorial Day	56.70	51.70
10/31/15	Halloween	N/A?	48.56
4/18/16	Tax Day	55.80	50.70
1/18/17	MLK Day	53.60	48.80
8/27/17	Harvey	58.30	53.60
7/4/18	4 <sup>th</sup> of July	53.59	44.35

## Hurricane Season is Here Do you Have Flood Insurance?

Hurricane season boosts potential for flooding; Hurricane season officially begins June 1. Are you prepared? Hurricanes often bring flooding, which is the most common and costly natural disaster in the U.S. A single inch of water in an average home can cause more than \$26,000 in damage. Homeowners, renters and wind insurance do not cover flood damage, but if your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can buy affordable flood protection. NFIP policies insure single-family homes for up to \$250,000 and their contents up to \$100,000. Renters can cover contents up to \$100,000. Non-residential property owners can insure a building up to \$500,000 and contents up to \$500,000. The average annual cost of a policy is about \$700, and it may be substantially less in

low- or moderate-risk areas. Most NFIP policies also include Increased Cost of Compliance coverage, which provides up to an additional \$30,000 if a structure needs to be elevated, relocated or demolished to comply with local standards for rebuilding in a floodplain. This is only available if repairs will cost at least 50 percent of the property's market value. A flood insurance policy usually takes effect 30 days after purchase. To sign up, contact an insurance agent or the NFIP Referral Call Center at 800-427-4661. For more information, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xQpr4>. Keep Informed. For more information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit: [www.fema.gov/hurricane-harvey](http://www.fema.gov/hurricane-harvey) or the Texas Division of Emergency Management at: [www.dps.texas.gov/dem/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/) Stay in Touch. For updates on your application status or appeals, visit: [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) 800-621-3362 (711 or VRS) OR 800-462-7585 (TTY)

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# 30 Day Crime Statistics for Westbury SuperNeighborhood

June 18 - July 25, 2018

## Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W
5800	Alvarado	Robbery	6/25	9PM	Westbury South
12400	Ashcroft	Robbery	6/22	8PM	Westbury South
12400	Ashcroft	Auto Theft (Truck/Van)	6/24	7AM	Westbury South
12400	Ashcroft	Auto Theft (Truck/Van)	6/26	4PM	Westbury South
5600	Benning	Burglary of Habitation	7/6	9AM	Westbury 5
10700	Braewick	Burglary from a Motor Vehicle	6/27	2AM	Westbury 5
12300	Braewick	Robbery	7/14	4AM	Westbury 4
10800	Burdine	Theft - US Mail (Package on porch)	7/10	3PM	Westbury 2
11100	Burdine	Theft - From Building	6/18	11AM	Westbury 3
5600	Burlinghall	Theft - of Construction Equipment	7/11	3PM	Westbury 3
5800	Cerritos	Burglary of Habitation	7/9	10AM	Westbury 3
6000	Dawnridge	Theft	6/30	6PM	Westbury 4
10900	Doud	Burglary of Habitation	6/18	7PM	Westbury 1
5900	Dryad	Burglary of Building	6/21	12PM	Westbury 4
5800	Duxbury	Burglary of Building	7/14	1PM	Westbury 4
6000	Duxbury	Auto Theft (Truck or Van)	7/8	6AM	Westbury 4
6000	Duxbury	Theft - other	7/9	12PM	Westbury 4
5500	Ettrick	Aggravated Robbery with Weapon	7/20	1AM	Westbury 4
5700	Fontenelle	Aggravated Robbery with Weapon	7/3	2PM	Westbury South
5800	Greencraig	Robbery	7/9	12AM	Westbury South
10700	Hillcroft	Aggravated Assault with weapon	7/2	9AM	W5 or PW2
11700	Hillcroft	Auto Theft (Truck or van)	6/18	5AM	W3 or PW3
12200	Hillcroft	Auto Theft (Car not truck)	7/18	10AM	W4 or W3
5600	Ludington	Burglary of Habitation	7/13	10AM	W3 or W4
5700	McKnight	Theft - other	6/28	9AM	Westbury 3
11400	Mullins	Burglary of Habitation	7/6	7AM	Westbury 3
5800	W. Airport	Burglary of Building	7/17	2AM	W South or W4
5700	W. Belfort	Aggravated Robbery with weapon	7/13	2AM	W5 or PW2
5400	Willowbend	Burglary of Habitation	7/16	12PM	Westbury 2

**KEY**

- Burglary from Motor Vehicle
- Auto Theft
- Theft
- Burglary
- Aggravated Assault with Weapon
- Aggravated robbery with weapon

The Westbury Civic Club strives to provide accurate information. Due to the printing date of the *Crier*, crime statistics are always delayed.

The crimes listed below took place between June 18 - July 25. They are in alphabetical order by street. The crimes are highlighted by type. Please see key above.

### Crime in Commercial, Public Spaces, and Apartments

This month there is too much crime in the commercial/, public space, and apartments to list each one individually. The chart below breaks out the type of crimes and how many at each type of location. The apartments at 12500 and 12600 Dunlap accounted for 20 of the 37 crimes at apartments. The WCC tries to publicize an accurate update list of crime in the area. If you have an idea of format, please call the office.

Crime Type	Westbury Homes	Apartments	Commercial/ Business	Public Space (Willow WH)
Aggravated Assault	1	4	2	0
Aggravated Robbery	3	1	3	0
Robbery	4	0	0	0
Burglary from Motor Vehicle	1	14	3	1
Burglary of Building	4	3	5	0
Burglary of Habitation	6	4	0	0
Theft - other	3	4	1	0
Theft - Shoplifting	0	0	3	0
Theft - US Mail	1	0	0	0
Theft- Construction Equip.	1	0	0	0
Auto Theft	5	7	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>

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# Westbury Area News

## Feeding Stray Cats

Westbury is known as an animal loving neighborhood. BUT for some residents too much love is not a good thing. The Civic Club has received numerous complaints about neighbors feeding stray cats. It is against City ordinance to feed stray cats unless you trap them and have them neutered.

## Links for Lost & Found Pets

Nextdoor Westbury - [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)

Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook

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



## AlertHouston

Staying informed during emergencies is important. There are two notification systems you can sign up for that the City of Houston will use to alert the public when emergencies occur. AlertHouston provides Houston residents with timely information about current conditions, expected impacts, and tips for keeping themselves, and their families safe.

[https:// www.houstonemergency.org/alerts/](https://www.houstonemergency.org/alerts/)



## Westbury Meet & Eat

Come out to Teotihuacan Mexican Restaurant at 6579 W. Bellfort every 1st Thursday of the month to meet Westbury residents. This event is open to anyone who lives in Westbury.

**August Meet & Eat: Thurs., August 2, 6PM**

**September Meet & Eat: Thurs., Sept. 6, 6PM**

## METRO Summer of Fun Pass

METRO will again be offering free rides on bus and rail for kids (K- 12th grade) from June 1 to September 1. Kids must register.

You can apply online, by mail, or in person. Go to [www.ridemetro.org](http://www.ridemetro.org) for more information.



## New Library Coming to Westbury

On July 25, Houston City Council voted to approve the purchase of the vacant US Post office property at 5505 Belrose in Westbury for a library in District K. The Houston Public Library (HPL) would like to purchase this property to either renovate the existing improvements or build a new public library and associated parking area at 5505 Belrose. This new library space would replace the Meyer Neighborhood Library at 5005 W. Bellfort and the Frank HPL Express Library at 10103 Fondren. The site is large enough to house the new library and has direct access to Chimney Rock and Belrose Street. The library service areas will be better served by a larger, more robust facility than the current smaller Meyer Library and Frank HPL Express. The Meyer Library has been rated the facility in most need in the HPL system for many years, due to its structural issues. The Frank HPL Express Library costs HPL approximately \$150,000 per year in rental costs and was never intended to be permanent. The proposed acquisition will resolve both issues and further HPL's One Houston One Library Transformation Plan.

Located just 1.5 miles from the old Meyer Library, the new site is convenient to the whole area. There should be plenty of parking as well as walking/biking access for much of the area. The property is just blocks from Westbury High School and Anderson Elementary, making it convenient for students. It's one mile from Parker Elementary and 1.5 miles from Meyerland Middle School. The proposed Willow Waterhole trail will run alongside the library property making it accessible by trail. The City of Houston's Platou Community Center and Chimney Rock Park is across the street on Chimney Rock. The City owned HFD Station 48 is a neighboring property. There are also a number of apartments on Chimney Rock and Gasmer that will also benefit from having a public library nearby within walking distance.

While the property is adjacent to the Willow Waterhole Bayou, it is not in the 100 or 500 year flood plains and the current buildings have never flooded. **We look forward to working with the City to make this a spectacular library for all of us.**



*Google Earth map picture of the Belrose Post office property. The yellow area is the approximate lot at 5505 Belrose. This lot has shared driveway access with the property next door on Chimney Rock.*

**Stay connected with what is happening in Westbury RIGHT NOW!**

**“Like” our Facebook page, Westbury Houston, to stay updated on neighborhood issues.**





# 2018 Dues/Assessments

## ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2

Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments.

**The amount of the 2018 Mandatory Assessments is \$235.80. The 2018 Assessments were due by April 1, 2018.**

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

## Mission of the WCC

*The purposes of the Westbury Civic Club, Inc. (the "Club") are to improve the appearance of the Westbury area and promote the civic, cultural educational, health, and general welfare of the residents of the Westbury and Parkwest subdivisions in Harris County, Texas (collectively, the "Community").*

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

Yes, this is correct! We have you mail your payments directly to our bank's processing center. This allows your payments to be processed immediately.

## Why Should I Pay My Dues? What are the Benefits?

- Protects your investment in your home by keeping Westbury a strong and vibrant neighborhood.
- Keeps the doors of the Civic Club office open and staffed.
- Protects your home and family with the Westbury Area Patrol through Constable Precinct 5.
- Improves the looks of our esplanades, parks, and green spaces.
- Advocates for City services and infrastructure improvements
- Hosts two White Elephant Community Garage Sale events each year
- Organizes community get togethers such as Coffee with Constables and National Night Out

Please send this form in with your payment

## 2018 Westbury Civic Club Dues

By filling out this form, you are giving the WCC permission to send you communications. We DO not sell your information or give it out to other entities.

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

**Make checks payable to:  
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.**

**Mail to:  
P.O. Box 975182  
Dallas, TX 75397-5182**

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

### Want to send your support in multiple payments? You may choose any

amount to pay in any increment throughout the year. Here are a few examples:  
 2 payments of \$167.50 is \$335/yr  
 3 payments of \$111.67 is \$335/yr  
 4 payments of \$83.75 is \$335/yr  
 5 payments of \$67 is \$335/yr  
 12 payments of \$28 is \$336/yr

Westbury Civic Club Dues*	\$50	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$285	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$335</b>	\$
<b>Additional Contributions:</b>		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Westbury Area Patrol (WAP)		\$
<b>Total</b>		\$

\*The Westbury Civic Club Dues encompasses all operations, programs, and services including greenspace, of the Westbury Civic Club, except patrol services.

Thank you for supporting the Westbury Civic Club and our important programs. We can't do it without you!  
 To contact the WCC Office, email westburycc@sbcglobal.net or call 713-723-5437.

## Back to School Bash

### August 21, 2-4PM, Westbury HS

The Second Annual Back to School Bash will be held at Westbury High School on Tuesday, August 21st, from 2- 4PM. We will have all feeder pattern schools in attendance (elementary and middle schools).

There will be food, bouncy houses, lots of giveaways, and a dunk tank. Come dunk your principal! Other participants include: HPD, the HCC mobile unit, Metro, Westbury Community Garden, and the Westbury Civic Club.



## Important WHS Back to School Info

**WHS 2018-2019 School Hours:** 8:30AM—4PM

### Registration Dates and Times: NEW to WHS

August 6-10 — 8am - 4:30pm  
 August 13-17 — 8am - 4:30pm  
 Sat., August 18— 9am - 12pm  
 August 20-23 — 8am - 4pm  
 Fri., August 24— 8am - 12pm

### Traffic/ Drop-Off and Pick Up

**Drop-Off:** All students will be dropped off for school on the circle drive off Chimney Rock. Students should NOT get out of their cars while on Chimney Rock Road. They must exit on the circle drive only. Police officers and crossing guards will be posted on Chimney Rock Road. Please drive carefully and obey the traffic laws.

**Buses:** Students who ride the school bus will be dropped off on the circle drive off Dryad.

**Student Parking:** Students who drive a vehicle to school can purchase a parking pass so they can park in the lot off Gasmer. Passes cost \$25 for the year and must be purchased through the front office prior to school starting.

## WHS Fine Arts update

In the August 2017 Crier we reported that then HISD School board president and our trustee for District XI, Wanda Adams, reported the good news that Westbury High School had been allocated an additional \$9.5 million for the new Fine Arts wing. Both Parker Elementary and Meyerland Middle School have strong Fine Arts programs and it makes sense to have a strong Fine Arts High School in the feeder pattern.

We asked for an update:

### What is the status of the next phase (Fine Arts facilities)?

*We are currently in the Construction Documents Phase for this portion of the Westbury High School project. The project team has completed the Design Development/35% Construction Documents Phase drawings and specifications for the Fine Arts Wing Addition. The final drawings and specifications needed for City permitting and contractor pricing will be completed in September 2018*

### Is a general timeline and project summary for the Fine Arts phase available for publication in the Westbury newsletter?

*The final Construction Documents will be completed in September 2018 and construction is scheduled to start in November 2018. Completion of construction on the Fine Arts Wing Addition is anticipated for the 3rd quarter of 2019. The Addition will provide approximately 13,500 sq. ft. of new space for the Fine Arts program such as Band, Dance, Choir, Art, and Orchestra. Also, as a part of this phase, renovations will be done to upgrade the existing Auditorium and convert some of the adjoining spaces into Drama support areas (e.g., dressing rooms, drama classrooms, etc.).*

### When will the Project Advisory Team (PAT) meet for the Fine Arts phase?

*The project team has been working closely with the principal and her staff on the development of the design for the Fine Arts Wing Addition. A project advisory team (PAT) meeting is currently being planned for early August 2018.*

## Friday Night Lights in Westbury

Want to catch a high school football game this fall? Here are the Westbury High School varsity games being played at Butler stadium on S Main at Hillcroft. Come out and support our local schools!

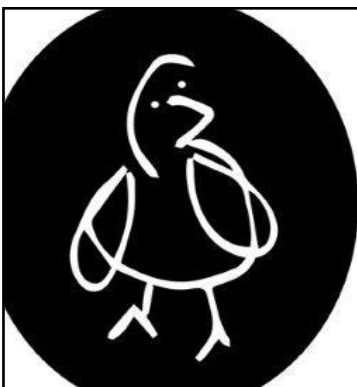
**Sat., September 15 vs Aldine Davis, 6PM**  
 (Teacher Appreciation Night)

**Fri., September 28 vs Bellaire, 7PM**

**Thurs., October 11 vs Sam Houston, 7PM**  
 (Homecoming)

**Sat., October 27 vs Lamar, 6PM**

**Sat., November 10 vs Heights, 1PM**  
 (Senior Night)



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

## School Starts in August

Most schools in Westbury start in August. Some private schools start in mid-August and HISD starts on Monday, August 27. Make sure to follow all school zone signs and lights. The Constables and HPD will be patrolling the school zones.

**Remember: No cellphone use in school zones.**

## Anderson Elementary News

The Dual Language program at Anderson Elementary School for the coming school year has been discontinued.



## Parker Elementary Construction Update

Students moved into the NEW Parker Elementary School Building in March. Demolition of the OLD Parker Elementary School has been completed and now there is an empty field busy with heavy equipment on the Atwell side of the school. On July 5, after the heavy rains, the empty field became a lovely, temporary "Lake Parker".



Some of you must be wondering - what happened to the detention pond, which had been located on Willowbend near the New Parker building? The answer is that the detention pond had been a temporary detention pond created for the construction phase of the new school building. Now that the old building has been demolished, the temporary detention pond has been removed, and the new school detention will be located underneath the school playing fields, which are currently being implemented.

Principal Lori Frodine has provided this status update about the anticipated timelines for the next steps of construction:

*"We plan on having the parking lot and carpool lane done by August, definitely by the time school starts. There will be a carpool lane that enters the Parker site off of Atwell and exits onto Stillbrook, this will be for drop off and pickup along with Willowbend.*

*The field and play areas should be done by September or October, really depends on weather.*

*The SPARK Park is part of this same timeline, the artwork is in process and will be life-size metal figures of students playing instruments. These will line the walkway from Atwell up to the school.*

***We are hoping for our official grand opening to happen in November or December."***



## DON'T LET ALLERGIES KEEP YOU FROM LIVING YOUR LIFE

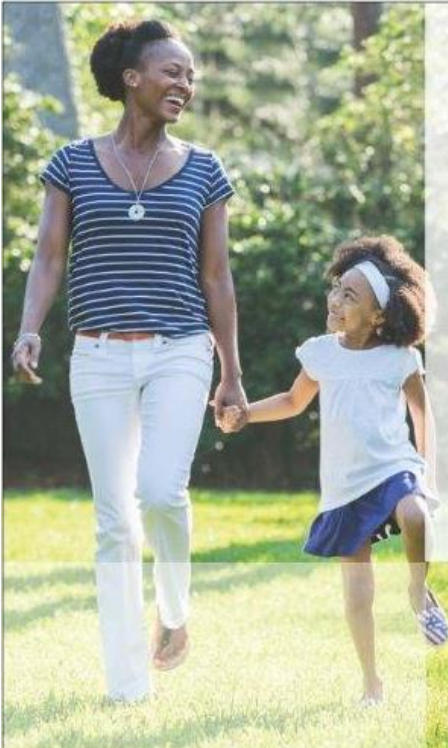
At this time of year, a variety of local pollens and mold spores can cause itchy, burning eyes and a runny nose. If you or your family suffer from seasonal allergies, Houston Methodist Primary Care doctors are here to help.

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## Celebration of “Arboretum Trail”

The “Arboretum Trail” at the Willow Waterhole Detention lakes was completed in June. A ceremony was held on June 23 to welcome the community to view its entire 300 feet length, and to thank all who participated in its construction. Nine Eagle Scout projects and one Gold Award project were completed in this effort. See the full list in the gold box to the right.

Russell Schexnayder, a Westbury resident and a founding member of both the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and the Brays Bayou Association, was the visionary for the trail and provided a large share of the funding required. A plaque has been placed at the trailhead honoring Russell for his contributions to the Westbury community.

Trail construction was led by the Conservation Committee of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy. Faith organizations from Westbury United Methodist, Salem Evangelical Lutheran, and the Interfaith Environmental Coalition also participated in creating the trail. Volunteer support was provided by Keep Houston Beautiful, Dow Chemical, and Constellation Energy. Jed Aplaca, from the City of Houston Parks Department, and Stephen Benigno, from the Harris County Flood Control District, provided advice on plant selection.



### Eagle Scouts (Boy Scouts of America)

Justin Varkey, Troop 55, St. John the Divine Episcopal  
Charles Pittman, Troop 500, Brentwood Baptist  
Sharrief Bellow, Troop 500  
Alex Huff, Troop 740, Willow Meadows Parents Club  
Asa Singleton, Troop 242, Wheeler Avenue Baptist  
Daniel Hinton, Troop 242  
Marcellus Jordan, Troop 242  
Benjamin White, Troop 242  
Shane Bennett, Troop 242

### Gold Award Scout (Girl Scouts of America)

Madison Contreras, Troop 1126 from St. Thomas More

### WHAT IS THE ABORETUM TRAIL?

The 300 foot long arboretum trail contains over 100 understory plants, all native to Texas. The diversity of tree groves and nearby wetlands make the area attractive for botanical education purposes and it is close to where a farmhouse stood when rice fields ruled the day. The site has a great view of “Triangle Lake”. It connects the Rafferty Memorial Oak, new Chimney Swift Bird Habitat, and a wooded area. This area is expected to become a key destination point for visitors to the Greenway.

**WHERE is the ABORETUM TRAIL?** The trail is readily accessed from Ricecrest, between S. Willow and Gasmer. Street parking is available on Ricecrest.

### Audubon Society Bird Survey

**Saturday, August 18, 7AM**

**Meet at the Gathering Place**

The Willow Waterhole Bird Survey was started in June 2007 and is held on the third Saturday of each month.

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## Keeping Westbury Beautiful

We often get email reports of problems, but it is always helpful when we get pictures and specific addresses attached to reports of unsightly occurrences reported to the WCC office. Thanks to two observant people who reported problems and included photos, we were able to obtain swift results. Just like with crime: See something, say something if you observe something that is unsightly.

### Massive Quantities of Street Litter

On a Tuesday morning in July, the WCC received pictures from Westbury High School teacher and coach, Robert Lyle, that Gasmer had an incredible amount of recycling material littering the street. The WCC reached out to Alyce Coffey at the City of Houston Solid Waste Department, who is always a helpful, knowledgeable, and all-round nice person. Alyce researched what had happened and the City cleaned the street. Thanks, Coach Lyle, for reporting and thanks to Alyce and Solid Waste for their quick response.

### Graffiti Story

Thanks to an alert resident, DJ Sloan, who spotted graffiti, took pictures, and reported the problem to the Westbury Civic Club. The WCC asked the District K office for advice, since this graffiti was on ATT equipment. Normally we would report graffiti to 311 or to the Brays Oaks Management District for abatement. Donald Perkins at District K was able to find the appropriate party. The graffiti has been removed. Thank you, DJ and Donald.



### All about Yards

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

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

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



## A Daily Dose of Art

A big thanks goes to the volunteers who organized an ART WEEK program for the children enrolled in the Platou Community Center Summer Enrichment Program. Art educator Gigi Spence, with the help of the volunteers, designed the art projects for the week. Karen Schubert, Diana Lovelady, Janie Schexnayder, Hazel Potvin, Jackie Heidorn, Lynn Dahlberg and Keddy Outlaw collected materials and guided the projects. Project activities included weaving, clay, watercolor, embossing, and free drawing. This is the 5th year where ART WEEK has been provided as a supplemental program for the children at Platou.



Volunteers came from Westbury High School, Meyerland Middle School, and High School for the Health Professions. Mason Brown, whose art area at the High School for the Performing & Visual Arts is the visual arts, assisted with drawing and painting and a special oil pastel drawing lesson with the children.



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

-Anonymous

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Phyllis Frye has been a Westbury neighbor since 1974 and a lawyer since 1981.



5911 McKnight - Parkwest 3  
Yard of the Month

## July Yard of the Month

**Westbury 1**—5007 Creekbend — JoAnne & Thomas Landgrave

**Westbury 2**— 10710 Moonlight — Westbury Resident

**Westbury 3**—5503 McKnight — Jennifer Sparks

**Westbury 4**— 5730 Etrick — Jacques Davidson

**Parkwest 3**— 5911 McKnight — Evan & Elizabeth Cavazos

**Parkwest 1 & 2, Westbury 5, and Westbury South** — Are you interested in volunteering to judge these sections? Contact the WCC office at [westburycc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westburycc@sbcglobal.net) or 713-723-5437.

## Group of Westbury Cub Scouts All Receive Eagle Scout Rank

Congratulations to these six young men who received the rank of Eagle Scout (Boy Scouts of America) on July 21 at Christ Church Presbyterian in Bellaire. They are from Troop 549. All six boys started out in scouts with Cub Scout Pack 705, which is chartered at Westbury United Methodist Church. Among them they have worked over 700 hours of community service and are just a unique and fun group of boys. Their Scout Master is Bill Folts, Jr.



Front Row:  
Ronan Panicker,  
Myles Watson,  
Thomas Roberts

Back row:  
Mekdim Sanders,  
Will Ussery,  
George Elizondo

## Lane Closures and Construction Projects

There are several different construction projects currently affecting Chimney Rock and other roads in Westbury.

- ⇒ A city project is replacing a large water line which runs down the Chimney Rock esplanade.
- ⇒ The WCC has been advised that there will be upcoming lane closures on the northbound side of Chimney Rock in the area of West Bellfort. These lane closures will last approximately a month and all lanes will be affected, although at different times. These lane closures are due to modifications which will be made to the underground culvert drainage system near the intersection.
- ⇒ Communications utility work (fiber optic lines) continues to be installed throughout Westbury.

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## Westbury Community Garden News



### TELESCOPE STAR PARTY

**August 22, 8—10PM**

Come out to the Garden on Wednesday, Aug 22 from 8PM to 10PM to look through telescopes owned by members of the Houston Astronomical Society. We will have close up views of the Moon and planet Saturn. Depending upon the sky conditions we may see some distant objects beyond our solar system.

Open to the public. Reserve a spot for your family or group on the WCG website. Admission is free.

<http://westburycommunitygarden.org/events/telescope-star-party/>  
Hosted by Houston Astronomical Society and Westbury Community Garden

### Volunteering in the Summer Heat

It can be challenging to find volunteers willing to toil outdoors in the heat of summer, but the garden welcomed volunteers on TWO different work days in June. On Saturday June 23, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority / Mu Kappa Omega chapter, based in Missouri City, Disciples of Christ Church (The Woodlands) and AmeriCorps came out to volunteer alongside ten dedicated members of the garden. The heat was brutal, but weedy patches were eradicated and old mulch was raked away so the aisles could be leveled and excess soil removed. A huge pile of cardboard was trimmed to fit the aisles. District K Councilmember Martha Castex-Tatum is a member the AKA sorority and helped at the garden.



The next Saturday on June 30, a busload of high schools students and their adult leaders from in Houston for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Youth Gathering worked hard in the garden. The ELCA Youth Gathering is held at different locations every 3 years, and 30,000 people participated in the 2018 Houston ELCA Youth Gathering! Our ELCA garden volunteers from the state of Michigan arrived early, finished early, and were fun to work with. They finished preparing the cardboard weed barrier, and then covered 5,600 square feet of garden aisles and borders with the cardboard and 22 cubic yards of mulch. More than a dozen garden volunteers also assisted. After the event, ELCA planners offered the remaining event items to their Houston community partners. As a result, the garden was able to obtain left-over office supplies, food serving items, and some picnic tables.

### WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

12581 Dunlap (77035) is off Hillcroft between W. Airport and South Main. Heading south on Hillcroft, turn right onto Greencraig, follow it around the bend where it turns into Dunlap. The large blue roof on the WCG Pavilion is readily visible. Street parking.

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

Contact us today at  
[membership@westburycommunitygarden.org](mailto:membership@westburycommunitygarden.org)

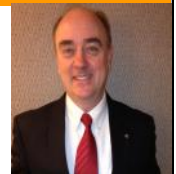


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