



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- WCC ANNUAL Meeting, September 19 @ 7PM Westbury Baptist Church, RM C109
- White Elephant Sale Saturday, Oct. 27, see page 6 for details
- Register your National Night Out Party, see page 7 for more info
- September's heavy trash is TREE WASTE ONLY

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WCC Publication Committee
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HHA has Plans to Build 250 Low-Income Housing Units in Westbury



- ◆ HHA has plans to build on the site of our acclaimed and beloved Westbury Community Garden
- ◆ The adjacent complex has HUNDREDS of VACANT units & THOUSANDS of VACANT units are available nearby
- ◆ HHA wants to purchase the Hillcroft Property that was just torn down to have Hillcroft Frontage and to increase the size of the project

HELP US SAVE THE WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Sign our petition at Change.org and come to the Annual Meeting on September 19 at 7PM.

***DO NOT DESTROY OUR WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN, WINNER OF A NATIONAL AWARD FROM KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AND MULTIPLE LOCAL AWARDS

***DO NOT WASTE FEDERAL TAXES ON BOONDOGGLE PROJECTS THAT ARE UNNEEDED.

***DO NOT LET THE HHA THREATEN OUR PROPERTY VALUES, OUR HOMES, OUR GARDEN, AND OUR COMMUNITY.

The Westbury Civic Club learned about these HHA plans by accident when HHA surveyors showed up at the Westbury Community Garden site in August. Although we have been working very hard the past few weeks to negotiate with the HHA with the help of our allies, we regret that the land site and the Westbury Community Garden REMAIN AT RISK. Furthermore, the Westbury Community Garden has already suffered DAMAGES due to the turmoil. The planned expansion of the garden has been put on hold. The big work day event of 4,000 volunteer hours that was to take place in October has been cancelled.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE HHA HOUSING PROJECT, THE PETITION, AND HOW TO HELP SAVE THE GARDEN, CHECK OUT PAGES 11—13.

Annual Meeting: September 19 @ 7PM

Location: Westbury Baptist Church RM C109
Guest Speakers: Councilmember Larry Green, Director of Solid Waste Harry Hayes, Sgt. Hutter, Pct. 5, Crime Prevention Specialist
Come Meet Your WCC Board and City Reps and win great door prizes!

National Night Out: October 2

Start planning your parties NOW! See page 7 for more information.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Westbury White Elephant Sale

The Fall White Elephant Community Garage sale will take place on Saturday, October 27, from 8AM to Noon at Westbury United Methodist Church parking lot. Please see page 6 for more information including booth sale dates and prices.



Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

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

Directors at Large

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

Section Directors

Westbury 1	Sylvia Rendon	Westbury1@westburycrier.com
Westbury 2	Austin Chen	Westbury2@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	VACANT	Westbury3E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	Ron Brown	Westbury3W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	VACANT	Westbury4E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	Vicki Eldridge	Westbury4W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	VACANT	Westbury5W@westburycrier.com
Westbury South	Robert Capps	Westburysouth@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	Parkwest1@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 2	Peter Zografos	Parkwest2@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 3	Joe Niles	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

Westbury Civic Club Office

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

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

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

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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

FREE NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch

281-463-6666

HPD Non-Emergency

713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)

713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront

713-726-7126

Platou Community Center

713-726-7107

Poison Control

1-800-764-7661

Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)

713-207-2222

District K Councilmember Larry Green

832-393-3016

District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen

832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee

713-755-6111

City of Houston 311 Hotline

(for all Non-Emergency Issues)

Forestry Department

Graffiti

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Heavy Trash

Neighborhood Protection

Parking Management

Recycling

School Crossing Light Repairs

Water and Sewer Repair

Stay connected!

**Are you one of the 452
likes on our Facebook
page, Westbury Houston?**

WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

President's Message

If I thought July was a busier than usual summer month, then August exceeded all others combined. On August 1st, surveyors for the Houston Housing Authority(HHA) showed up in the Westbury Community Garden and the next three weeks swirled by in a blur of angst, conversations, emails, and almost too many meetings to count. I have been angry, sad, and spent several sleepless nights with the fate of our beloved Community Garden at stake as well as the whole neighborhood. To think that those seven acres of green space that have been park space for 30 years would suddenly become an unneeded 250 unit housing project administered by the HHA was so distressing. Plus, an adjacent lot, where two decrepit buildings on Hillcroft were finally demolished just a few months ago, was also slated to become part of the HHA housing project. As we go to press, things are still in motion. There are several articles in this Crier that will give you the full story. We will have updates on our website. I have been humbled by the show of support and assistance from our friends. How can you help? Check out pages 11-13.

It is now September and school is in session. The upcoming bond issue will bring important improvements to both Westbury High School and Parker Elementary. We discuss WHS on page 17 and will review Parker in next month's edition. Several of us from Westbury spoke at the HISD Board of Trustees meeting and Westbury was the site of HISD's press conference to announce the bond referendum. Voters will have a chance to decide in November if they want to invest in HISD's plan for a better future.

As I stood in front of Westbury High School for the HISD press conference, I was reminded of one of Westbury's strengths - our history and our long-time residents. Russell Schexnayder was VP of the WCC in 1982 when the federal housing project was first proposed and had documentation related to the court case which stopped its development 30 years ago; his wife is our current Membership Director. Cindy Chapman as a young mother helped lead the team which brought new Westbury Park playground equipment dedicated in 1994; she is now part of the team for its replacement 18 years later. Wally Davenport served as President of the WCC in the 1980s and is now active with the Friends of Chimney Rock Park, which helped save our Platou Community Center last year. And me? I was a new Parkwest resident, 29 years old and pregnant with my second child when someone called me in September of 1982 and asked me to go to City Hall to speak against a proposed housing project. Our city Councilman who stood with us in 1982 was George Greanias, now President of METRO! Read more of our history on page13. One project in the planning stages is the scanning of all 56 years of Criers. Because it is true that knowing our past will help us as we plan for the future.

Please come to our annual meeting on Sept 19 and show your support for Westbury. On hand will be our voice on City Council, CM Larry Green. Get an update from Director Harry Hayes of the Solid Waste Department and have a chance to personally ask the question "where is my big recycling bin?" Sgt. Hutter from Precinct 5 will address security concerns. Hear the current status of the Housing project and the Westbury Community Garden.

Fighting for Westbury,
Becky Edmondson

Board Mtg. Notes

- The Board approved a motion to modify the WCC bylaws, to comply with state legislative changes, to be voted on at Annual Meeting.
- Deed Restrictions– Letters were sent about high grass in Parkwest 1 & 2 and mowing will commence for three properties which did not comply
- WCC Office Operations– Currently obtaining door prizes for annual meeting and NNO; Adding additional pages to the Crier
- After much discussion, the Board approved 2 motions related to the Westbury Community Garden and Houston Housing Authority:
1) Re-affirm its opposition to new multi-family housing, with preference to upgrade existing multi-family housing.
2)Support keeping the site where the Westbury Community Garden is located as greenspace, as it has been for the past 30 years, with the goal to keep it as a permanent greenspace.

ANNUAL MEETING

September 19, 2012
7PM
Westbury Baptist
RM C103

September Volunteer Opportunities

*Scanning Historical Documents at the WCC office, call Jennifer at 713-723-5437 for more information

*Deed restriction revision committee, call Jennifer at 713-723-5437 for more information

LETTER FROM A WESTBURY RESIDENT TO THE WCC OFFICE

I am a 35 year resident of Westbury. I would like to thank our Civic Club staff for their outstanding work on behalf of our subdivision. I appreciate all your efforts to keep our neighborhood one of the best in Houston, and I encourage all residents to pay the Civic Club dues. I also would like to make a plea for EVERYONE to pay for our excellent constable service which many of us take for granted. This service is vital to the safety and well being of all of us. We must support this invaluable protection by all taking part or risk losing it.

Thank you. (Name withheld by request)

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, Wednesday, Friday, 9-9:45AM

Improve your flexibility by joining this non-strenuous exercise class.

Aerobics

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:30-7:30PM

To register, call
713-726-7107

Line Dancing Class

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



TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Weight loss support group

Tuesdays, 5:45 to 7PM

Drop in to preview the program or
call Dorothy 713-723-4441 or

After School Enrichment Sign-Up

School has started again! The 2012-2013 After School Enrichment program will begin at the Platou Center on September 4. 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. Added this year, is a free meal program. Snack time between 3 and 4PM and **free dinner** between 5 and 6. Sign up soon to hold a place for your child. Call Dan at 713-726-7107 for details or to register.

Quilting Workshop

Tuesday, 10AM - 3PM

Contact Janie at 713-721-5526

Games

Wednesday, 10 AM

Contact Wally at 713-729-9310

Portable Projects

Thursday, 9:30- 11:30 AM

Any kind of handiwork: knitting, crochet, needlepoint, card-making
Contact Hazel at 713-729-4568

Ballroom Dance Class

Wednesday

Advanced Class 6-7PM

Beginner Class 7-8PM

Call Marilyn 713-729-9425

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



RECYCLE AT CHIMNEY ROCK PARK

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



11714 Hillcroft St.
JUST LISTED
\$174,500



5647 Cartagena
Another One Sold!!



10810 Atwell
\$277,500



5110 Torchlight
\$234,900



5006 Creekbend
\$229,000



11114 Ashcroft
\$299,500



5131 Torchlight
\$189,900

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JACKIE MURRAY
Cell: (713) 825-9179

jackiem@waynemurray.net



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Area Residents &
Neighborhood
Specialists



KENDYL MAURER
Cell: (281) 904-8199

kendylm@waynemurray.net



10815 Ashcroft
JUST LISTED
\$319,900



5515 Kinglet
Another One Sold!!

"We sell more, because we do more."

Call for more information on featured listings!

What's Happening in Westbury

September 2012 Events & Meetings Calendar

Sat 15	Willow Waterhole Monthly Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at 5310 S. Willow
Mon 17	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Tues 18	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM 12501 Dunlap under the pavilion
Wed 19	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30-10AM Salem Lutheran—4930 W. Bellfort Open to all Westbury residents!
Wed 19	WCC ANNUAL Meeting 7PM– 9PM ***NEW LOCATION*** Westbury Baptist Church—RM C103 Free Prizes! Speaker: CM Larry Green
Thurs 20	Last day to register your National Night Party with the WCC office. If registered before 9/20 then eligible for a pizza party drawing. Register now at 713-723-5437
Tues 25	Booth on sale for the White Elephant Community Garage Sale Open to WESTBURY residents ONLY WCC Office— 5322 W Bellfort #107 during normal operating hrs
Tues 25	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building—9009 W. Loop South
Wed 26	WCC Office open late 5PM-7PM for White Elephant Sale booth sales—only WESTBURY residents 5322 W Bellfort #107—ph 713-723-5437
Sat 29	Willow Waterhole Harvest Moon Festival 6-8PM Hayrides, Walk, Train rides, free watermelon and water. Bring the family and enjoy a nice evening at the waterhole
Oct 2	Booths on sale for the White Elephant Sale to NON-Westbury Residents. During normal operating hours at 5322 W. Bellfort #107
Oct 2	National Night Out Start planning your party now! Register your party at the WCC office at 713-723-5437 or westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Planning Calendar

Oct. 2 - National Night Out

Oct. 27– White Elephant Sale

**Nov. 17– White Elephant Sale
Rain Date**

September 2012 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

Thurs 6	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Tues 18	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY (South of W. Bellfort)
Wed 19	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY (North of W. Bellfort)
Thurs 20	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

October 2012 Heavy Trash Calendar

Tues 16	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE (South of W. Bellfort)
Wed 17	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE (North of W. Bellfort)

Important Trash & Recycling Information

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

ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS:
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 2012, THE HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE WILL BE CHANGED.
ALL OF WESTBURY WILL NOW BE PICKED UP ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH. This change is only for the pick up day, not for the type of trash picked up.

For monthly breakdown of trash type, please see chart below.

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

January	Tree Waste ONLY	July	Tree Waste ONLY
February	Junk Waste	August	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste ONLY	September	Tree Waste ONLY
April	Junk Waste	October	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste ONLY	November	Tree Waste ONLY
June	Junk Waste	December	Junk Waste

White Elephant Sale

Do You Need to Have a Garage Sale?

Westbury White Elephant Community Garage Sale is October 27

Yard sales, garage sales, estate sales, moving sales, etc. are NOT ALLOWED at residential properties in Westbury. This applies to ALL sections of Westbury and Parkwest. The Civic Club provides fall and spring community garage sale events to our members. The Civic Club will provide security and publicity for the sale. The Civic Club does NOT provide tables, chairs or shade.

Booth space will go on sale Tuesday, September 25, for Westbury residents ONLY. Booths will be on sale during the normal Civic Club office hours 9:30AM to 1:30PM. **The WCC office will be open late on Wednesday September 26, from 5PM to 7PM for booth space purchase.** You must be a paid current member of the Westbury Civic Club to purchase a booth. This means you had to have paid your WCC membership dues of \$40. The booth price for Westbury residents will be \$15-\$20. Booths will go on sale to non-residents on October 2. The booth price for non-residents is \$55-\$60.

The Westbury White Elephant Sale allows residents the opportunity to sell unwanted items at a highly visible central location with security provided. Most crimes are crimes of opportunity, so the fewer non-residents that we invite down our streets on the weekends, the fewer weekday crime problems we have to contend with.

So, have fun, make money, be safe and be a good neighbor. **Plan on having a booth at the Westbury White Elephant Sale!**



IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 25—Booths go on sale for Westbury residents

Sept. 26—WCC office open late from 5PM to 7PM

Oct. 2—Booths on sale for non-residents

Oct. 27—White Elephant Community Garage Sale

Nov. 17—Rain Date





Home Improvement

Home Remodeling & Repair

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www.hillhomeimprovement.com

Bathroom Remodeling
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Westbury Resident 







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5322 W. Bellfort #206
(713) 877- 8811
pzografos@farmersagent.com
www.farmersagent.com/pzografos



National Night Out

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 2nd, is National Night Out (NNO). It's the perfect time to get together and meet your neighbors. If you have never heard of NNO, it is a national event celebrated in October here in Houston.

National Night Out is an event designed to celebrate neighbors and to learn more about safe neighborhoods. We encourage all residents to organize block parties or other events and spend some time getting to know each other better. The official NNO for Houston and Westbury will be conducted in the evening of October 2nd.

Please contact the WCC office at 713-723-5437 to let us know the time and location of your NNO event. Why tell us? First, we will try to arrange for HPD, WAP Constables, or WCC board members to drop by your event. Also, we want to acknowledge your efforts in the next newsletter.

Register your event by September 20th to be entered in a drawing to win a WCC Pizza Party during your event. The first 10 parties to register will receive a NNO promotional kit with giveaways and signage.

Register before
Sept. 20 for a chance to
win a pizza
party!!!



Are You a Good Neighbor?

(reprinted from October 1984 *Westbury Crier*)

Exert yourself a little bit and get to know your neighbors. A really good neighbor can be a great help in times of crisis. Make friends ...get to know them, their habits, their vehicles. Have a block party. Most of the time all it takes is a little effort on your part—most people want to know their neighbors. Good neighbors are a great crime deterrent.



2011 National Night Parties throughout Westbury

Welcomes
New Clients! 10% off
boarding with Ad

FONDREN
★ ★ ★
5 STaR KeNNeLS
★
281-835-4445

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www.fondren5starkennels.com

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Babies—Pre K.
Professional teaching balanced
w/ nurture
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cwehmeyer@wmbc.org



Meadows Preschool
The Little School with a Big Heart
4300 W. Bellfort
Houston, TX 77035

Westbury Park

Help Westbury Park Get a New Shade Structure

A new Westbury Park Playground is coming soon! See the design for one of the playground structures pictured below. There is an additional Toddler Playground included but it is not pictured. Westbury Park is the park located near Parker Elementary. The existing playground equipment will be demolished by the city in a few months and construction of the new playground area will begin in late 2012. City taxpayer funds will purchase and install the play equipment; however, the city does not provide shade covers similar to what has been built at the nearby Godwin Park playground. A "Friends of Westbury Greenspaces" committee has been created to raise additional funds to purchase a shade cover similar to what has been built at Godwin Park (see picture on the right). The neighborhood around Godwin raised money to build their shade structure, and **we can do it, too!**

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

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



Main Playground
(Ages 6-12)



**Donations as
of 8/25/12**

**\$2400 from Westbury
residents and \$750 in
matching grants from
employers.**

Total= \$3150

Friends of Westbury Greenspaces Donation Form

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ * (if amount is \$250 or more please fill out below)

*Names on plaque: _____

Mail donations to: WAIC/Friends of Westbury Greenspaces, 5322 W. Bellfort, Suite 107, Houston, TX 77035.

Checks should be made payable to the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC)/Friends of Westbury Greenspaces.



10400 South Post Oak #E
Houston, TX 77035
Phone: 713-728-9663
Open: 11A - 8P Tue - Thur
11A - 9P Fri - Sat
Closed: Sun - Mon
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**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

Crime/Security

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37* 30 days preceding August 25, 2012

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	15	5	2	2	24
Theft	9	3	4	0	16
Auto Theft	0	4	0	0	4
Robbery	0	1	0	1	2
Assault	2	1	0	0	3
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	26	14	6	3	49

*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 7/23/12)

5700	Arboles	Theft
10600	Ashcroft	Burglary
10800	Ashcroft	Burglary
11300	Atwell	Theft
11900	Atwell	Burglary
5900	Beaudry	Assault
12100	Braewick	Burglary
10900	Cedarhurst	Burglary
5600	Cerritos	Theft
10600	Chimney Rock	Theft
5600	Dawnridge	Burglary
5800	Dryad	Burglary
10700	Dunlap	Theft
5700	Ettrick	Assault
11900	Hillcroft	Burglary
11500	Landsdowne	Theft
5800	Ludington	Theft
5700	Southminster	Theft
5800	Southminster	Burglary
6000	Vickijohn	Theft
5900	W. Airport	Burglary
5500	W. Bellfort	Burglary
5900	W. Bellfort (2)	Burglary
5200	Willowbend	Burglary
5300	Willowbend	Burglary

WAP Constable Dispatch

281-463-6666

Message from Pct. 5

Constable Camus has assigned Sgt. Mitch Hutter to the newly created position of Community Contact. He has been with Precinct 5 for over 20 years and has spent the entire time as a Deputy/Sergeant in the contract deputy program. He is a Certified Crime Prevention Specialist.

He will be working with us much closer than has been done in the past. He will be reviewing all of the reports of crime occurring in the various neighborhoods and meeting with the deputies assigned to the contract programs and discussing problems. In addition, he will be reviewing reports made by Houston Police Officers and will be working closely with their crime analyst in an attempt to deal with problems as they develop.

As a Crime Prevention Officer, he will be able to do home security inspections that may qualify home owners with a discount on their home owner's insurance, as much as 5-10% depending on the carrier.



Getting Rid of Graffiti

Please report all graffiti to the Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) by visiting www.braysoaksmid.org and selecting "Report a Problem". It would also be helpful to let the WCC office know about the problem. BOMD has a team under contract which abates graffiti by using color-matched paint or power-washing or cleaners. The abatement team documents the graffiti for the police department and will contact private property owners to obtain permission prior to starting work. Since gangs target school areas as part of their recruitment process, it is especially important to report graffiti found near our schools. Gang related graffiti sometimes observed in the Westbury area includes: Crip, 52, 5II, LK (initials for the Latin Kings), a crown, a star, or a pitchfork. For more information about gang graffiti, visit <http://stophoustongangs.org>

Scam Alert

There were reports of a door to door Home Depot sales scam in Westbury 2 and PW1 but no one called the Constables. If they had, the Constables would have approached the individual and asked for ID. This person was NOT from Home Depot. He was asking to inspect anything from roofs to drywall to bathrooms. It was a scam. Always ask for ID and if they won't show you or you are uncomfortable, call the constables ASAP. This is what we pay them for!
CALL 281-463-6666

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Pictured Vonnie Cobb and Shannon Cobb.

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Free Market Analysis

If you are thinking of selling your home or want to know the market value of your property, call **Larry Mercer** for a free Market Analysis.

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ACTUAL PETITION WORDING

Tell HHA and City of Houston: Save the 7-acre Westbury Community Garden Site in Houston

Subject: *Do Not Spend 27 Million Federal Tax Dollars to Build Low-Income Housing Units on the Site of the Westbury Community Garden and Do Not Spend Money to Buy Adjacent Property on Hillcroft to Build the Apartments.*

I just signed a petition to support saving the 7-acre Westbury Community Garden site in Houston. The Westbury Community Garden is one of the largest and most successful community gardens in Houston and has won local and national awards for its work "growing community through gardening". I request that the HHA find an alternative site to build low-income housing units in Houston, rather than using the 7-acre site of the Westbury Community Garden and any adjacent properties. As additional justification for this request, the Westbury Community Garden is located next to a 940-unit, low-income apartment complex with more than 300 vacant units. Furthermore, the Brays Oaks Management District, where the garden is located, has thousands of vacant apartments available for lease at this very moment.

In closing, I ask that the HHA please honor its own corporate promise "to effect positive change in lives and communities citywide...while changing...communities for the better". Neither the construction of a housing project on the site of the Westbury Community Garden nor the proposed acquisition of the adjacent Hillcroft frontage property for more housing is in the best interest of the local community. Thank you for accepting my comments on this important topic.

X

Description of the Westbury Community Garden (with Photo)

For almost 30 years, a 7-acre tract of land at Greencraig and Dunlap in the Westbury SuperNeighborhood owned by the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) has been park space. It was first leased by the City of Houston's Parks & Recreation Department and since 2009, the site has been leased to the Westbury Civic Club. The location is home to the Westbury Community Garden (WCG), one of the largest, most successful community gardens and winner of both local and national awards. The garden serves to educate adults and children about good nutrition and ecology, strengthen community spirit, provide organically-grown food, and serve as a gathering place for the community. There are 64 raised beds, an education pavilion, an orchard, compost areas, rain water collection and a butterfly garden. An expansion had been

planned in October with a corporate sponsor to add: 35 more beds to satisfy the waiting list; an acre of fruit trees to answer a request from a local food pantry partner; and a Children's garden area to expand the outreach for Foerster Elementary and area children. The garden's slogan is "Growing Community through Gardening" and that is what it does.

We have successfully created a space where residents of area single family homes garden with residents of the nearby multi-family housing. Our gardeners are as diverse as the produce they grow.

We believe that the Houston Housing Authority's proposal to spend an estimated \$27 million of federal tax dollars to build a 175-250 unit housing project on the land currently occupied by the productive, positive WCG is a misguided use of land, effort and money. There is plenty of "affordable housing" available in the area. In the Brays Oaks Management District there are more than 100 low-income apartment complexes with over 23,000 units in total; there are thousands of vacant units available for lease right now, including more than 300 vacancies in the apartment complex adjacent to the garden.

Building an affordable housing project in this location would only concentrate poverty in an already distressed community. There are no nearby large area grocery stores. This area is a food desert.

We need more green space, not more apartments. Please help us save this seven acre tract of green space and keep the Westbury Community Garden growing.

We are so appreciative of all the partners who recognized the value in what we were doing and helped make the Westbury Community Garden what it is today! Leadership Houston Class XXVIII, Keep Houston Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, Keep Texas Beautiful, Scotts Miracle Gro, HISD's Foerster Elementary, HISD administration, Bethel's Heavenly Hands, Lloyds Register, Thermo Fisher, Houston Astros, KB Homes, Centerpoint Energy, Hoar Construction, Retired NFL Players, CM Anne Clutterbuck, State Rep Alma Allen, City of Houston's Solid Waste Dept, Mayor's Office; Fox Sports, Plant a Row for the Hungry, National Gardening Association, the Garden Writers Association, Franklin Park Conservancy, Urban Harvest, Bellaire United Methodist Church, Student Conservation Association, Mayors Anti-Gang Task Force, Nestles, SuperNeighborhood 36, Brays Oaks Management District, Westbury Civic Club, Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, Westbury SuperNeighborhood 37, Westbury Garden Club, Girl Scout Gold Award, Boy Scout Eagle project, the City of Houston's Dept of Neighborhoods, Delta Kappa Gamma; and hundreds of individuals who donated their time and money and talent.

In closing, we ask the HHA to please honor its own corporate promise "to effect positive change in lives and communities citywide...while changing...communities for the better". Neither the construction of a housing project on the site of the Westbury Community Garden nor the proposed acquisition of the adjacent Hillcroft frontage property for more housing is in the best interest of the local community.

- The Westbury Community Garden leadership

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WCC President's Viewpoint of HHA Issue

What follows are my thoughts on the Houston Housing Authority's planned Affordable Housing project and the Westbury Community Garden, the seven acres of neighborhood greenspace, that is in danger of being lost. We are early in this process and I don't know where we will be when the Crier is delivered the first week of September. I think it is important that everyone is informed and, with the WCC Annual meeting coming up on September 19th, this will definitely be a topic. We will keep you updated through our website and Facebook.

The Westbury Civic Club currently holds a lease from the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) on a 7-acre tract of land which features the award winning Westbury Community Garden. It is leased with a 180 day cancellation clause. For 30 years these seven acres on Dunlap have been park space. It had been leased since the 1980's by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. For nearly three years, this site has been home to the Westbury Community Garden, perhaps the largest, most successful community garden in Houston; it reaches and teaches hundreds, if not thousands, of residents.

On 8/1/2012, surveyors for the HHA were observed at the garden by one of our gardeners, who informed the WCC. We had no idea anything was in the works and alerted our City Councilman Larry Green along with the Brays Oaks Management District. CM Green spoke to the HHA and learned that the HHA is reviewing plans to construct a 175-250 unit, "affordable housing" apartment project at this site.

According to the HHA website, it has plans to build 4-6 new 250 unit housing projects in Houston for a cost of \$27 million each. The HHA proposes to buy the Hillcroft Frontage property adjacent to our 7-acre community garden site. We had been relieved to finally be rid of these derelict buildings on Hillcroft and had hoped they would be replaced with good commercial retail businesses to serve the existing population. More apartments are the last thing our area needs.

We were appalled that the HHA had not come to our community, nor to our representatives with its plans. We were further appalled that the Hillcroft property mentioned above was included in the 2013 draft plan. Making our dismay even greater, the Westbury Community Garden (WCG) planning committees had devoted countless hours this year with plans to expand the garden in October: to add 35 more beds for those on the waiting list, to add an acre of fruit trees, and to create a dedicated children's garden area. Due to the turmoil, those expansion plans are now on hold and the October work days have been cancelled.

CM Green facilitated a meeting with the HHA on August 13th to hear what the proposed HHA plans were. Mr. Gilliam of the HHA said they were still in the discovery phase and did not have a firm plan. If the plans move forward, the HHA would build about 20 units per acre. They are in the process of doing their due diligence and said the questions I posed (see below) are ones that they, too, will be investigating.

The Houston Housing Authority says their corporate promise is to "effect positive change in lives and communities citywide...while changing...communities for the better".

♦If the HHA is charged with de-concentrating poverty, why would additional public housing be built adjacent to 940 low-income apartment units? A recent check with that apartment management indicated there were over 300 vacant units. In the Brays Oaks Management district there are over 100 apartment complexes comprising over 23,000 units with thousands of vacancies. According to the recent Pew Report, segregation by income in Houston is among the starkest in U.S. The WCG has proven that it helps combat this problem - it successfully brings together people from broad backgrounds.

♦How does this HHA project make life better for the people that live in the 940 unit apartment complex next door?

♦How does taking 7 acres of greenspace that has been a park for 30 years and turning into a housing project make our community better?

♦How does this impact Foerster Elementary? I spoke to the school principal and the school is at capacity in its current configuration.

♦How does removing or changing the community garden that serves hundreds and hundreds of people, a garden which has won recognition locally and nationally, make life better for the community?

♦How does buying up what could be real commercial retail development with Hillcroft frontage help a neighborhood that needs stores not more housing?

♦How does spending \$27 million to build something that is not needed make sense?

At the garden's dedication both Houston Mayor Annise Parker and CM Ann Clutterbuck spoke about the importance of gardens. Clutterbuck said, "Gardens are restorative, life-giving, life-affirming places where we can experience nature and work with one another to make our small corner of the world a better place." And that is what the Westbury Community Garden has done; we have made that small corner of the world a better place. Our slogan is "Growing community through gardening" and that is what we do.

I am hopeful that we can find a good solution. I understand that the Houston Housing Authority owns this land and has federal money that they need to spend, but I think, once they do their due diligence, they will see that this seven acres is not the place to build. However, they said they cannot just turn it into permanent park space and walk away. Ideally we need to find a way to keep these seven acres as green space as it has been for the last 30 years. We are investigating avenues that would allow that to happen. With the future ever in our sights, we are continuously working to better the quality of life for our community and the Westbury Community Garden is a key example. We would hate to see it destroyed just because the HHA has federal money to use or lose.

Becky Edmondson

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How Can I Help Save The Garden?

What can you do to Save the Westbury Community Garden and its 7 Acre home?

We need the Houston Housing Authority to realize this is not a good spot on which to build a housing project. We then need to save the seven acres as green space by converting it to park space. If there are millions and millions of dollars available to build something we don't need then surely there's a little bit of money to make this a park. Houston is full of innovative ideas. Here's what you can do to help:

1. Sign our online petition, link is available on our website www.westburycrier.com or you directly to the site at <http://www.change.org/petitions/save-the-westbury-community-garden-and-its-7-acre-home>
2. Write to your elected officials in the city, state and federal governments: the Mayor, the City Council members; your State Representative and State Senator; your United States Congressmen; the Houston Housing Authority.
3. Attend a HHA Board meeting: September 18, 2012, at 3PM, at Uvalde Ranch Apartments, 5300 South Lake Houston Parkway, Houston, Texas 77049
October 16, 2012, at 3PM, at Forest Green Townhomes, 8945 Forest Hollow, Houston, Texas 77078
4. Attend City Council open comment period on a Tuesday at 1PM

BEFORE the Community Garden....



AFTER the Community Garden....



Housing Project Controversy in 1982—History Repeats

Here is a *Crier* article from September 1982 plus updates from subsequent months detailing the history of a housing project the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) wanted to build in Westbury. This plot of land is where the Westbury Community Garden is currently located and where the HHA again is considering building a housing project at the corner of Greencraig and Dunlap.

September 1982: On August 23, 1982, the WCC learned of the Greencraig housing project when a reporter called the president. The WCC asked for a 90 day delay but was ignored. Elected officials were notified. Councilman George Greanias is working actively to support us. State Rep. Ron Wilson is working actively to assist us by obtaining a ruling from the attorney general of the violation of the state open meetings act. Congressman Phil Archer and Senator John Tower are working diligently at the federal level. Mayor Kathy Whitmire continues to support the HHA decision despite its obvious legal/moral obligation to consider the views of area residents.

October 1982: The WCC filed suit against the HHA. Judge Leshner ruled in the WCC's favor and issued a Temporary Injunction.

December 1982: As reported at our November meeting, an out of court settlement was reached with the HHA which stopped this project. However they still own the land.

March 1983: We recommend that the Greencraig property be turned over to the city for development of a public park.

Editor note: We don't know at what point the Houston Parks & Recreation Dept (HPARD) took this property under lease but it remained with HPARD until 2009 when the WCC began to lease it from the HHA for the community garden.

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our website,
www.westburycrier.com
or our Facebook page,
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2012 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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Name(s) _____
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Thank You Westbury!

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

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

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

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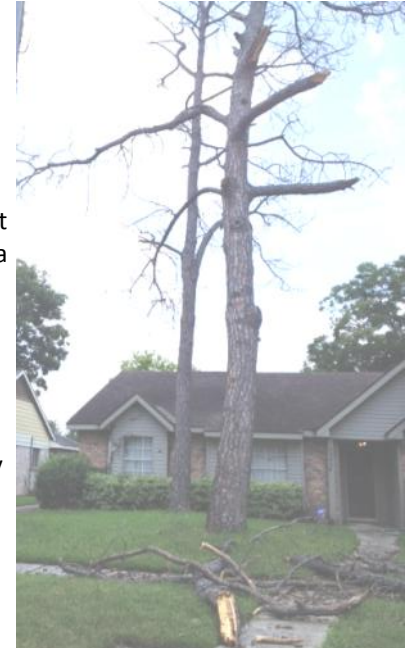
A home is the single largest investment most of us will ever make. You don't want to be left with a huge out of pocket expense in the event of a loss. With hurricane season upon us, a Westbury resident who is a residential/commercial insurance adjuster offered to write an article that speaks from his many years of experience. Here are his thoughts.

- ◆ Check your homeowner's policy to see if you have Recoverable Cash Value (RCV) on your home. RCV means you will receive full replacement cost on your home, less the deductible, if damage occurs. Actual Cash Value means you are only paid an amount that has the age, general condition and the deductible factored in. For example, if you have a 12-15 year old composition roof and a hail storm hits the area, after depreciation and application of the deductible, you could conceivably receive less than \$2000. Check your deductible also as many homeowners were surprised at their deductibles after Hurricane Ike.

- ◆ Please inventory the contents of your home. If you have any kind of devastating loss to the interior, the first thing an adjuster is going to do is present you with blank inventory worksheets and require you to fill them out. If fire has totaled the interior, then completing a visible inventory is going to be virtually impossible. Homeowners should take a video camera and start at the front door and video the entire interior. Open cabinets and drawers so that you can video everything. In bedrooms, don't forget to open closets. The objective is to have as accurate a representation of your contents as possible. Take your finished video and store it off site. If you don't have access to a video camera, then still shots are also good. If you have a unique, expensive and/or rare piece, you need to have it appraised and properly noted on your policy. If you don't, it will be as \$250. If you have an extensive cache of jewelry, tools or guns, you need a separate endorsement. Your objective is to have everything identified. Review both your dwelling and content coverage every year. A lot of people rely on their agent to keep up with these things, that's not their duty. YOU must do it.

- ◆ Pictures and legal documents. Scan and store important things off site. This includes a copy of your most recent homeowner's policy. Adjusters seldom have a copy of the policy with them.

- ◆ If you have dead trees in your yard, you should have them removed. If your neighbor has dead trees that you fear may damage your property, put them on written notice with a certified letter.





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CONCRETE WORK Driveways, Patios, Etc....

15

Deed Restriction 4-1-1

Do You Know Your Deed Restrictions?

Here are general guidelines for Westbury/Parkwest. Please refer to your specific deed restrictions for your actual restrictions and exact setback distances.

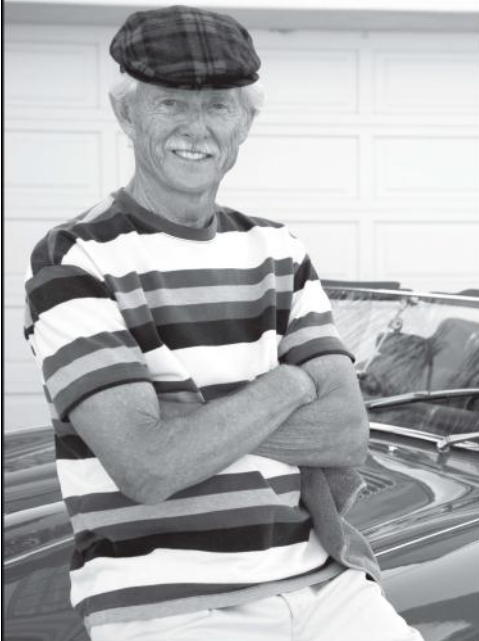
Fences

- ◆ City ordinance does not permit dangerous materials such as barbed wire and heights over 8 feet require a city permit. The city also has rules about safety fencing for swimming pools.
- ◆ The location of fences is covered by Deed restrictions. Generally fences may not be closer than 25 feet to the front lot line (on some of our major streets the set back is 30 feet or more). As a rule of thumb, a fence does not extend closer to the street than the original front of the house. For homes on corner lots, the fence cannot be closer than 10 feet to the side lot line. **Note:** these distances are not measured from the curb, but instead are measured from where the city street and utility easement ends. The building survey for your property should indicate the setback lines.

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.

Remodeling

- ◆ Any construction, including fences or carports, must be set back a certain distance from the front boundary of your property, commonly called the front lot line or front building line (BL). In addition, some sections of Westbury/Parkwest have restrictions regarding rear setback distances.
- ◆ All parts of a residential structure, including carports and attached garages must be set back a certain distance from the side boundary of your property, commonly referred to as the side lot line. Detached garages often have different setback rules than the main residential structure and connecting a garage to the residence may trigger a deed restriction violation.
- ◆ The exterior of your homes is required to have a certain percentage of brick or masonry. Stucco is not considered masonry.
- ◆ A key deed restriction is that the property shall have only ONE single-family dwelling.
- ◆ Homes in some sections are limited to a single story.
- ◆ City codes and ordinances also regulate your construction projects. Interior remodels which comply with ONE single-family dwelling generally are regulated by city codes and ordinances rather than deed restrictions.



Tune Up for Life Health Fair

The second annual Tune Up for Life Health Fair will be held on the Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital Campus on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. "Tune up" your health with our free health screenings:

- Prostate (PSA blood draw)
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Westbury High School on the November Bond Proposal

Help for Westbury High School!

Unlike many high schools in Houston, Westbury High School (WHS) shares its name with its surrounding community, so the fate of WHS affects all of us in Westbury. Both Parker Elementary and Westbury High School in the Westbury community have major capital improvements proposed in the upcoming HISD bond election in November, and this month we will talk about WHS.

Westbury High School opened in 1961 when the new subdivision of Westbury was experiencing tremendous growth and popularity. The school was noted for its academics and breadth of course offerings. Although many improvements have been made in the Westbury residential community since the 1980s, two areas of concern have remained difficult to resolve – economic redevelopment of its commercial areas and restoring the reputation of Westbury High School.



From left: Cindy Chapman, WHS Principal Wainwright, HISD Trustee Larry Marshall, and Becky Edmondson at the HISD Bond Referendum Press Conference held at WHS on August 20, 2012.

During 2008 and 2009, representatives from many local community organizations and government entities joined forces to determine what WE as a community wanted to see improved at WHS. Money was raised to hire a consultant to create a package of information so that we could be better advocates for WHS. Many of the ideas from the community input are already being implemented at WHS. These ideas include strengthening the Fine Arts programs (since feeder schools Parker Elementary and Johnston Middle School are Music or Fine Arts magnet schools) and adding an Environmental Science program (to take advantage of the school's proximity to the 279-acre Willow Waterhole Nature Reserve).

Community concerns related to the WHS buildings and campus are addressed in the upcoming HISD bond election in November 2012. What did the community ask for regarding physical improvements to the WHS campus?

- ◆**Provide sufficient capacity for the number of students at WHS** – The building is too small for the number of students that attend.
- ◆**Build a permanent home for the WHS 9th Grade Academy** – As enrollment at WHS soared in 2006 all the 9th grade students at WHS were put into classrooms in a trailer park campus (nearby, across Burdine) and the first “9th Grade Academy” in HISD was born. It has been an outstanding new concept and the students are thriving. There are now 23 temporary buildings which house the 9th grade students. School officials tell us that it is sometimes difficult to recruit students to WHS when parents realize that their 9th graders will be situated in a trailer park campus.
- ◆**Buy two adjacent apartment complexes for campus expansion** – WHS is located on 23 acres, but modern high schools are built on 50 acres. If the HISD bond proposal is approved, then HISD will purchase the remaining two apartment complexes on the east side of the school to bring the total campus size up to 48 acres. In addition to building additional classroom space, HISD will build a regional athletic facility on the land to be shared by area schools. The larger campus will also provide a direct connection to the Willow Waterhole Nature Reserve, a wonderful asset to the Environmental Science classes at WHS.
- ◆**Maintain WHS Facility in Top Rate Condition** – Some sections of WHS are original to its 1961 construction and are more than 50 years old and we are aware that buildings that old often need major repairs or updates to meet modern needs. Westbury deserves to have an excellent school and facility.

In summation, there are many aspects of the upcoming HISD bond proposal to be considered by voters; however, residents of Westbury are directly affected by the proposed upgrades for Westbury High School, which have been long requested by our community. Next month, the condition of Parker Elementary, here in Westbury, will be reviewed in respect to the HISD bond proposal.

Becky Edmondson – WCC President

Cindy Chapman – Past WCC President, Director of Community Relations

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Keeping Westbury Clean & Green

Family Tree Planting Day

Saturday, November 10, from 8 AM to 12 noon

Come out to plant a tree or two or three for the future. We have designated areas on Westbury esplanades that need trees. As you drive around you will see empty spots. We invite all Westbury residents to register for this event. We will assign you a place to plant, mulch and stake the trees. We hope to record and photograph families and/or individuals who plant each tree so that they will have a record of their participation.

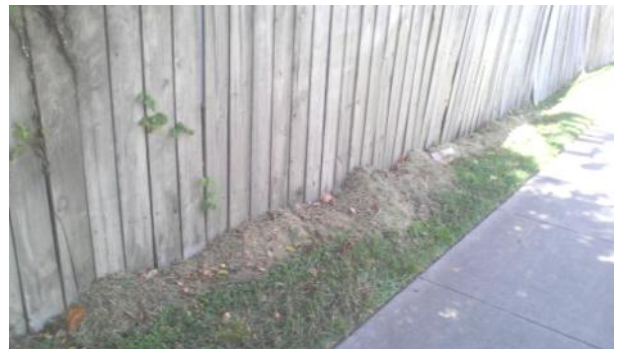
If you cannot help by planting a tree but would like to donate money to buy supplies, send your donation to the Westbury Civic Club. You will receive a receipt for your donation. Trees will be provided by Trees for Houston which has long been helpful to us in improving the tree canopy in Westbury.

Please call the Westbury Civic Club office at 713-723-5437 to register. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 10.

No Dumping on Esplanades

The city esplanades are NOT dumping grounds for trash or tree debris. The city does NOT routinely collect tree or yard waste placed on city esplanades or other publicly maintained areas along city streets. The Westbury Civic Club pays our landscaping contractor to clean up these messes – most recently, tree limbs left on esplanades and yard waste dumped behind a fence which faces a city street.

The city collects bagged or bundled yard waste each week and collects tree waste each month during heavy trash at homes. During **Tree Waste** heavy trash months, the tree waste is shredded as mulch, but during **Junk Waste** heavy trash months, the tree waste may go to a landfill. Tree Waste will be picked up in all months heavy trash.



Top Right: Debris around tree on esplanade.
Bottom Right: Lawn trimmings thrown over a fence along major street

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Yard of the Month

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having a blast"

-Barbara Szopa, Parkwest 2
YOM Judge



Parkwest 2 Yard of the Month Judges Barbara Szopa and Martha Severance



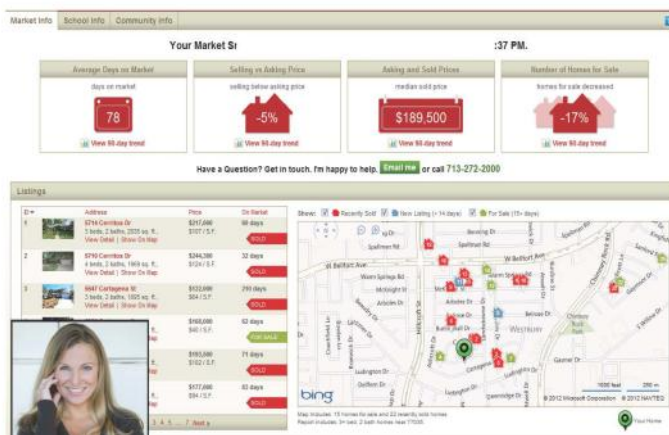
Westbury 1 August 2012 Yard of the Month Winner

Yard of the Month August Winners

- Parkwest 1:** 10803 Sagamore—Amy & Clint Harris
- Parkwest 2:** 5726 Spellman—Eva & Mike Quearry
- Parkwest 3:** 5934 Beaudry—Jacob Bramwell
- Westbury 1:** 5210 Kinglet—Charles & Judy White
- Westbury 3:** 11419 Gaymoor—Margaret Lyle
- Westbury 4:** 5931 Effingman—Carine Smith
- Westbury 5:** 6019 Portal—Lynne & Larry Hoffman
- Westbury South:** 12421 Mullins—Toni Pulkrabek
- Correction from August Crier—Parkwest3 Winner was 5926 Arboles**

A special thank you to all
the Yard of the Month
judges! Y'all are awesome!

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



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Willow Waterhole Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events at Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve

Activities are presented by the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and sponsored by the Brays Oaks Management District. For more information about location or parking, refer to the website www.wwgc.org closer to the event date.

Harvest Moon Festival –Saturday, September 29, 6–8 PM

Family activities resume at Willow Waterhole for the fall. Kids and “kids at heart” will enjoy a horse-drawn hayride and riding on a miniature train. **FREE.** Or enjoy an evening stroll at Willow Waterhole as the harvest full moon peeks above the horizon at dusk. If you wish, bring a picnic. Light refreshments will be served.

Not-so-Scary Classic Movies – Fri., October 19, 7–9:30 PM

Kids and adults will enjoy classic movies projected on an outdoor screen near the “South Gazebo”. **FREE.** Prizes will be offered for the best Halloween costumes. Two movies will be played: “Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein” and the Boris Karloff version of “Frankenstein”. Bring your own chairs or blankets. Light refreshments will be served. If you wish, bring a picnic supper.

November Activities: Live Music on November 4 and more Outdoor Movies on November 30. Stay tuned to future *Criers*.

Presented By:

Sponsored By:



Willow Waterhole
Greenspace Conservancy



BRAYS OAKS
Management District
Est. 2005

Trees for Houston - Tribute Grove

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

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

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

Audubon Society Bird Survey

Saturday, September 15 at 8AM


Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot at
5310 S. Willow

Bring your binoculars and good shoes for walking.

Come prepared to see many species of birds!

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Neighborhood and Area News

Second Freight Rail Track Underway at South Main

Those of you who travel Chimney Rock or Hillcroft down to South Main/US 90A may have noticed the recent clearing of underbrush between the Westbury South soundwall and the existing railroad tracks. For many years, the Union Pacific railroad has had plans for a second railroad track to haul freight along this route, and the recent clearing activities are related to this planned second railroad track. This work has nothing to do with preliminary plans by METRO to build a light rail line parallel to South Main connecting the Texas Medical Center and Westbury and Missouri City, and several points in between. It may also explain the train horns we have been hearing during the day as they warn workers near the tracks.

According to news reports from last October, Union Pacific Spokeswoman Raquel Espinoza told reporters that Union Pacific is adding a second track along what exists between Post Oak and Sugar Land; it is a \$46 million project. There were concerns that there may be 60, 70 or more trains a day. "At this point, we do not have any plans to grow the traffic. We're not building this line for additional business," Espinoza said.



WHS Baseball Team Needs Your Help!

Can you help the Westbury High School Baseball team? The riding lawn mower that Westbury High School uses to maintain their baseball field has broken down and is beyond repair. If anyone has a riding lawn mower to donate please contact the WCC office. Or you can support the team by sending your donations to the WCC made payable to the Westbury Baseball Booster Club. Thank you!

Nominations for 2013 WCC Board

The following individuals have been nominated for the 2013 WCC Board.

President—Becky Edmondson
 Vice President—Marcia Hartman
 Treasurer—Pamela Schertz
 Community Relations—Cindy Chapman
 Greenspace Beautification—Carlos Mata
 Membership—Janie Schexnayder
 Security—Lesley Cross
 Parkwest 1—William Grimsinger
 Parkwest 2—Peter Zografos
 Parkwest 3—Joe Niles
 Westbury 1—Sylvia Rendon
 Westbury 2—Austin Chen
 Westbury 3—Ron Brown
 Westbury 4—Vicki Eldridge
 Westbury 5—Virginia Livingston
 Westbury South—Robert Capps
VACANT: Secretary, Communications, Deed Restrictions, Volunteer Coordinator, Flood Control & Infrastructure, Westbury 3, Westbury 4, Westbury 5

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METRO Survey Results

Thanks to those of you who took the time to take our survey. Your comments were interesting and insightful. We as a board know what our personal opinions are, but it is nice to hear from the rest of you! METRO is a divisive issue with many comments made about it on both sides. With the current state of the economy, a 90A light rail line is looking way off in the distant future but it is important that we stay involved.

As Metro is adding light rail lines throughout the city, it will be important for Westbury to be connected. **Yes 71.5%**

METRO has presented two alternative routes on US90A and both alternatives are the same for Westbury. However, there is an alignment option available through Westbury on both of those routes.

Straight line option down S Main: 66.7% Favor 20.6 Oppose
Down Hillcroft and W Airport esplanades: 28.5 Favor 61.8% Oppose

With no option to select no opinion : **72.7% favor S Main and 27.3% favor the Hillcroft/Airport route**

Where the station would be located was pretty evenly split with **29% strongly preferring a Chimney Rock/West Airport station** as opposed to **21.2% for Hillcroft**. However, strongly disliking those locations was about the same **16% disliking Chimney Rock and 18% disliking Hillcroft**.

46% had used some form of public transportation in the past 6 months.

39% work in Downtown, Medical center or University area.

Who took the polls: 41% north of W Belfort, **48%** between W Belfort and W Airport and **10%** south of W Airport.
26% have lived here less than 5 years; **21%** for 5-10 yrs; **17%** for 10-20 yrs; **20%** for 20-40 yrs and **14%** have lived here over 40 yrs.
Ages 21-29= **7%** Ages 30-44= **33%** Ages 45-60= **33%** over Age 60= **23%**

St John's planned duplex project: **60% opposed, 40% favored**. Comments ranged from full support to scathing disapproval. The Meyerland Civic Association voted unanimously this month to oppose the project. Discussions are ongoing.

And now to the fun questions! What do you want to see at Westbury Square and the Westbury Centerette?

71% Restaurant, **58%** Grocery store, **52%** QUALITY retail space and **41%** would like to see luxury apartments above the retail; **42%** new larger library; **28%** new larger community center; **25%** pharmacy; **13%** gas station; **12%** fast food. Check out next month's *Crier* for people's comments to this question.

Bottom line: the majority of people want nice development that they can patronize.

Make sure to check out the next page for the answers to the survey question, I really want a _____ in Westbury.

Get a Jump on Springtime!

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I Really Want A _____ In Westbury

Why did the WCC ask this question in our recent survey? We want to show developers what Westbury residents want - to help developers understand what will be a successful venture in Westbury.

"Somewhere to go" topped the list of requests, whether it was a restaurant, a coffee shop, a library, a pedestrian friendly retailer, or a dog park. We want a gathering place. Many wanted a full HEB grocery, a Starbucks, Whole Foods, or a Trader Joes - all asked for by name. Some asked for a new library, for example, "I love Meyer Branch, but it is a very tired, too small building for the number of people it serves."

Next most common were requests for a general upgrade of the community. Some wanted mandatory dues/assessments across Westbury. Others desired greater participation in the constable patrol program, i.e. a bigger police presence. And one popular idea - a new life for Westbury Square and other retail properties.

We give thanks to all residents who participated in the survey. Your participation shows you care about Westbury. We have included a sampling of comments from the survey – I really want a _____ in Westbury.

"An HEB - a BIG one like the new ones they're building in other parts of the City."

"Starbuck's or other good coffee shop with internet access - place that's open til at LEAST until 10pm."

"My dream is for the all space along West Bellfort, between Westbury Square and the empty former gas station next to Autozone, and going around the corner down Chimney Rock, to become sort of a modest version of Rice Village - cool restaurants, cool unusual places to shop, a place you'd like to spend a couple of hours."

"I would like to see Westbury Square come back to life like (it was) in the 60/70's, or like a town center like Sugar Land has with restaurants & shops. Westbury could learn a lot from Sugar Land on how to make Westbury an area without all the 'garbage' that is allowed to populate it."

"I'm happy with what's in Westbury and willing to drive to other parts of Houston for products and services not offered here."

(I have a) "sense of pride in our diverse, well-educated neighborhood. An outdoor space that's pleasant, like a beer garden, coffee shop or a tea shop."

"Drop point for recycling items which are not picked up by the small, green bin service. I know we can take certain items to S Post Oak location, but I have to drive my glass bottles to West University about once a month. This is a huge hassle and makes the car smell like old beer."



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