WESTBURY IS A DEED RESTRICTED COMMUNITY. DEED RESTRICTIONS ARE ACTIVELY ENFORCED.



VOLUME 68, ISSUE 7

OCTOBER 2023

Vote in 2023 Election

Voting is one of the most important things you can do to improve life in Westbury. It really matters who represents us in the City. Get out and meet the candidates and see what they stand for.

Westbury has several large pending City infrastructure projects including a multi-phase Storm Drain Reconstruction project that will hopefully fix many of the flooding issues in Westbury. The City needs to continue to address flooding concerns in Westbury.

All City Council positions and the Mayor are on the ballot. Almost all of Westbury is located in District K and our current City Council member, Martha Castex-Tatum is running unopposed. All of Westbury votes for the five at-large city council positions as well as the Mayor and City Controller.

See pages 10 and 11 for more information about the election including State and local propositions.

Get out and vote!!!





Daylight Savings Ends at 2AM November 6

NEXT

Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7PM

Westbury Baptist Church

Featured Speaker—

District K CM Martha Castex-Tatum

November WCC Board Meeting WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 7PM Westbury Baptist Church

Featured Speaker—
Harris County DA Kim Ogg
FREE GUN SAFE GIVEAWAY

The Westbury Civic Club board meets every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM at Westbury Baptist. The WCC does not usually meet in December.

Are you looking to get involved in your neighborhood, join the WCC board, come to the next WCC board meeting. **See page 7 for more information.**

IN THIS ISSUE:

President Message 3 Platou Center Calendar 4 **Event/Trash Calendars** 5 Join the WCC Board 7 WCC Annual Meeting Recap 8 New Tech Lab at MVPA 9 2023 Election 10-11 All About Water Main Breaks 12 Crime Stats 13 All About Recycling 14 WCG & Willow Waterhole

Online Owner Portal

The WCC finally has an ONLINE owner portal for each resident!

Use the handy QR code below and it will take you straight to our Westbury PayHOA portal sign-up page.

The new owner portal will allow owners to view invoices, pay directly online, send requests and more. Sign up TODAY!





Mandatory Water Restrictions

As of September 25, the City of Houston is still in Stage 2 MANDATORY water restrictions due to the lack of rain and ongoing drought conditions. These restrictions limit outdoor watering to specific times and days by address. You can only water your yard between the hours of 7PM and 5AM. Homes with even addresses can water on Sundays and Thursdays. Homes with odd addresses can water on Saturdays and Wednesdays. You can hand water flower beds and plants any time or day.

HEAVY TRASH

October 2023

Thursday, October 12 **JUNK WASTE**

November 2023

Thursday, Nov. 9
TREE WASTE ONLY

RECYCLING

October 2023

Thursday, October 5 Thursday, October 19

November 2023

Thursday, Nov. 2 Thursday, Nov. 16 Thursday, Nov. 30

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE

5322 W. Bellfort #100, Houston, TX 77035
Jennifer Edmondson......WCC Office Manager

Westbury Civic Club Office
Monday—Thursday—Appointment needed
WCC Office Closed Friday—Sunday

NOTARY SERVICES— available to paid WCC members

CONTACT US

WCC Office Telephone	713-723-5437
WCC Office Email	westburycc@sbcglobal.net
Deed Restrictions	westburycc@sbcglobal.net
WCC President	wccpresident@westburycrier.com

Visit our website at www.westburycrier.com "Like" us on Facebook at Westbury Houston

SECURITY

Pct. 5 Constables (WAP))281-463-6666
Report property crimes, suspiciou	s activity, and vacation watch
Emergency	911
Houston Police Dept. Non-Eme	ergency 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, Abbie Kamin	832-393-3004
Deed Restriction Enforcement (City Legal)	.832-393-6333
Platou Community Center	713-726-7107
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 outage713-207-	2222
Suspected natural gas leak713-659-	2111
Street light repairs713-207-	2222

Make sure to give pole number

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

County Commissioner Rodney Ellis713-755-6111
County Commissioner Lesley Briones832-927-4444
Graffitiwww.braysoaksmd.org
Shopping Cart Removalwww.braysoaksmd.org
Brays Oaks Mgmt. District - Use "report a problem" link
Poison Control1-800-764-7661
Harris County Tax office713-368-2000
Harris County Appraisal District713-957-7800

2023-2024 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contact the Westbury Civic Club at 713-723-5437 or westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Cindy Chapman
wccpresident@westb	urycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman
Secretary	Lindsey Pollock
Treasurer	Becky Edmondson

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Deed Restrictions	Maggie Donovan
Flood Control & Infrastructure	Jennifer Edmondson
Greenspace Beautification	Mat Funk
Security	VACANT
At-Large 1	Reagan Dunkin
At-Large 2	VACANT
At-Large 3	VACANT
At-Large 4	VACANT

SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1	VACANT
Westbury 2	
Westbury 3	Sylvia Rosales
Westbury 3	Jonathan Hansen
Westbury 4	VACANT
Westbury 4	Becky Pate
Westbury 5	Andrew Jefferson
Westbury 5	Donna Strom
Westbury South	VACANT
Parkwest 1	VACANT
Parkwest 2	Bob Droubi
Parkwest 3	Alan Hirshman

POSTED WCC BOARD VACANCIES CAN BE FILLED AT ANY REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Editor-In-Chief	Jennifer Edmondson
Edited by	WCC Publication Committee
Advertising 713-723-543	7/ westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Ad Disclaimer: The WCC neither represents nor endorses an advertisement in the newsletter. Perform your own due diligence before contacting any advertiser.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB PRESIDENT

October is the start of the new board year for the Westbury Civic Club. I am honored to serve one more term as President of the WCC; we have a great group of board members for the coming year of service. There are several vacancies available on the board. A resident of Westbury 1 attended our Annual Meeting, spoke to several board members, and has voiced his interest in the Westbury 1 Section Director position.

Vacant WCC board positions can be filled by board vote during regular monthly board meetings. Contact me or the WCC office if you are interested in learning more about joining the WCC board! I want to thank the new members of the WCC board for joining us, and thank those who have stepped down from the board for their service.

Thank you to the Houston Public Library system for coming to our annual meeting and providing an exciting update and presentation about the new library coming soon to Westbury. The WCC reached out to the library for this update and we can't wait for the new Shannon Walker library in Westbury to open. The new library will be absolutely amazing when it opens in a few months. If your impression of a library is a dull, quiet spot, then you are going to be astonished to see the amenities and features that a modern library can deliver. This new library will be top notch. I suspect our library will be one of the most popular library sites in the entire city! See page 8 for more updates on the library.

When you selected Westbury as your place to make your home, you made a great decision. We have a new library on its way. We have millions of dollars going into improvements at the Willow Waterhole Greenway area. Not in Westbury, but nearby, millions of dollars are going into trail improvements along Brays Bayou, the Jewish Community Center has spent millions of dollars on its facility, and the Texas Medical Center (only about 15 minutes away) continues to expand by adding new buildings, new research labs, and new assets.

The WCC has put a lot of effort into new online tools. We have a NEW website at www.westburyhouston.com. Did you know that there are multiple locales with "Westbury" in the name? We opted to use the name WestburyHouston for our website to clarify that we are not the Westbury located in England or New York or Australia or others. Our old website is no longer being updated, but we haven't completely shut it down until a few final items are fully migrated and tested on our new website. Take a look at our new website and let us know if you have any suggestions.

I encourage you to register for our online owner portal on PayHOA. We are excited that we will finally have a good way to communicate to our residents by email; however, we can't reach you unless you register. We have been having delays with our newsletter printer that we are working to resolve, but those who have joined our online owner portal don't have to worry, they get an email with a link to

the Westbury Crier each month along with other helpful information.

I have shared that we have a lot of good news going on in our neighborhood, but I would be remiss not to mention that the Westbury Civic Club has bills to pay, the biggest and most important bill is the monthly payment for the Westbury Area Patrol by the Precinct 5 Constables. The monthly cost of the Constable program has gone up 5% starting in October. Please pay your dues and support the WCC and our programs.

It has been a hot and dry summer, and all of us have likely had higher utility bills than usual, but there is no higher value than safety and security. I am reaching out to ask those of you who have the financial means to contribute to the WCC and to the Westbury Area Patrol / Constables to do so to the full extent you are able to. Most of us who live in Westbury have voluntary dues. If you have voluntary dues, it is very helpful if you send even \$25 or \$50 or \$100 instead of sending nothing. Our new member portal PayHOA has a great feature where you can easily set up periodic payments instead of sending a lump sum payment. For those who want to send a larger contribution than the regular dues amount, please contact the Westbury Civic Club and we will happily work with you.

Fall officially arrived on September 23. Ideally, cooler weather is not far off. And Halloween fun will end the month.

Happy Fall! Cindy Chapman

WCC Board Notes — September 2023

- → The September WCC meeting was the WCC Annual Meeting. See page 8.
- → The main speakers were:
 - Houston Public Library about the new library coming soon to Westbury
 - Bill Burhans about the Willow Waterhole
 - ◆ Jessica Cohen from Harris County Precinct 4
 - ◆ Sergeant Nick Derkowski, WAP, Harris County Pct. 5 Constables

See page 8 for more information about the speakers at the annual meeting.

- → The 2023-2024 WCC board was elected after an uncontested ballot. See page 2 for the list of new board members.
- → The WCC made a presentation of what the WCC has done for the past year including a detailed account of our new online owner portal and new website.
- → The WCC provided Chick-fil-A. Weichert Realtors provided water.
- → Thank you to Marcia Hartman, Cindy Chapman, and Jennifer Edmondson for the door prizes.



Wednesday October 18 7PM

Westbury Baptist Church 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room

Featured Speaker District K CM Martha
Castex-Tatum

Platou Community Center at Chimney Rock Park

11655 Chimney Rock Rd 713-726-7107 * platou@houstontx.gov

Supervisor— Dajai Tennard
Email—Dajai.Tennard@houstontx.gov

Platou Center is open from 11AM—7PM, Monday—Friday

Exercise—M/W/F, 9:30-10:30AM
Quilting— Tuesday, 9:30AM –2PM
Games—Wednesday, 10AM—12PM
New Members are Needed—Other
times can be added if interested.
Line Dancing—Thursdays, 11AM-12PM
TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Weight loss group meets Tuesdays 5-6PM

There is currently plenty of open times on the Platou Center Calendar. If you are interested in something in particular, like line dancing, genealogy, crafts and other great get together ideas, call Dajai Tennard at 713-726-7107.



Platou Center open house and a Trunk or Treat for kids! Halloween refreshments provided.

Family fun days at the Platou Center are held on the 4th Saturday of each month from 10AM to 2PM



Map of Westbury by Section

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Westbury is the 2nd largest neighborhood in the City of Houston with 5,000 homes. One reason Westbury has remained such a viable and desirable neighborhood is because of the very active Westbury Civic Club. The WCC has been advocating and working hard for the neighborhood for over 60 years. We often refer to different sections when talking about current or upcoming city projects, crime, or events.

Parkwest 1	198 homes
Parkwest 2	445 homes
Parkwest 3	311 homes
Westbury 1	543 homes
Westbury 2	530 homes
Westbury 3	853 homes
Westbury 4	834 homes
Westbury 5	501 homes
Westbury 5	150 homes
Westbury South	563 homes

What's Happening in Westbury

October 2023 Events & Meetings

Tues 3	National Night Out - Save the Date	
Thurs 12	Heavy Trash - JUNK WASTE	
Thurs 12	Southwest Mayoral Forum Congregation Beth Israel	7PM
Wed 18	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting Zoom Meeting	9:30AM
Wed 18	Westbury Civic Club Meeting Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room Speaker—District K CM Martha Castex-Tatum	7PM
Sat 21	Audubon Society Bird Survey 5310 South Willow Monthly bird survey	7AM
Sat 21	Halloween Yard of the Month Judging See page 13 for more information	Dark
Sat 28	MusicFest at Willow Waterhole 5300 Dryad	11AM -7PM

November 2023 Events & Meetings

Tues 7	Election Day
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash - TREE WASTE ONLY
Wed 15	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 9:30AM Zoom Meeting
Wed 15	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room Speaker—Harris County DA Kim Ogg, gun safe giveaway
Thurs 23	Thanksgiving
Nov 20-24	WCC Office Closed

December 2023 Events & Meetings

Thurs 14	Heavy Trash - JUNK WASTE
Wed 20	No WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting
Wed 20	No Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting
Dec 20 -Jan 5	WCC Office Closed Emails will be monitored

All About Trash

Trash, yard waste, recycling, and heavy trash are picked up by the City of Houston.

Regular Household Trash

Pick-up is EVERY Thursday. Regular household trash goes into the black trash can.

Yard Waste

Pick-up is EVERY week either on Thursday or Saturday or any day the City decides to come by. Yard Waste MUST be placed in the correct City bio-degradable bags.



Recycling in Westbury

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

October 2023
Thursday, October 5
Thursday, October 19

November 2023
Thursday, November 2
Thursday, November 16
Thursday, November 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.

October 2023
JUNK WASTE
Thursday, October 12

November 2023
TREE WASTE ONLY
Thursday, November 9

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- Regular trash pickup is every Thursday.
- Recycling is every other Thursday.
- Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- Yard waste is picked up on Saturdays.
- Westbury is on Recycle Schedule A
- MO Plastic Bags in 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 with City logo
- Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
- <u>SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr</u> **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.
- Refer to www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

Support the Westbury Civic Club Pay your 2023 Voluntary Dues TODAY!

Westbury is a unique neighborhood with the majority of the 5,000 homes having voluntary dues. Only about 450 homes in Parkwest 1 and Parkwest 2 have Mandatory Assessments. The active participation of volunteers and yearly dues contributions help the Westbury Civic Club achieve our goal and remain active in the City of Houston. The total voluntary dues requested for 2023 is \$375. This includes the WCC Dues and Westbury Area Patrol.

PLEASE NOTE: All homes are subject to the deed restrictions whether the dues are paid or not. All sections of Westbury and Parkwest have ACTIVE deed restrictions.

How To Pay Your Dues/Assessments

There are several pays to pay your dues or assessments.

- Activate your NEW online portal and pay directly online either via credit card or bank account.
 *Once your account is activated (the WCC office must approve), you can view invoices, make payments, setup payment plans, make requests, view calendar and much more. Use the this handy QR to start your online account today!
- Hand deliver* or mail a check to the WCC Office. 5322 W. Bellfort, Suite 100, Houston, TX, 77035 Make checks payable to the Westbury Civic Club *There is a drop slot located at the bottom of the WCC office door.
- Pay via PayPal. You may choose a specific amount or use the custom payment option to enter any amount or additional donation. You can find the link to our paypal page on our new website, www.westburyhouston.com.

Westbury Civic Club Voluntary Dues Form

Name				
Address				
Email				
Phone				
Included payment is for the following:				
☐ WCC Voluntary Dues - \$60				
☐ WAP Westbury Area Constable Patrol - \$315				
☐ Mandatory Assessments - \$267.35				
☐ Extra Donation (please specify WCC or WAP)				

Westbury Civic Club Dues - \$60

The WCC has been vital in keeping Westbury a desirable neighborhood over the past 60 years. The WCC helps maintain 7 miles of esplanades, issues the Westbury Crier monthly newsletter, enforces deed restrictions, provides community events and acts as a very important liaison with the City of Houston while advocating for Westbury. In a City the size of Houston, it is important to make sure you have someone representing you and your neighborhood. The WCC has done a good job of maintaining Westbury for over 60 years. Your contribution helps covers everything needed to operate and maintain the services we provide, this includes office rent, utilities, insurance, postage, printing, legal and professional fees, salary, etc. The WCC has one employee and all other work is done by Westbury board member volunteers, this allows us to keep our costs lower.

Westbury Area Constable Patrol - \$315

The WCC has a contract with Harris County, Precinct 5, Contract Deputy Program to patrol Westbury and provide 24-hour response. This program is referred to as the Westbury Area Patrol (WAP). The WAP currently consists of three Constables (2 Deputies and 1 Sergeant) that are assigned patrol Westbury daily. The Contract Deputy Program is designed so that even when a Westbury deputy is unavailable, the next closest Pct. 5 Constable will be dispatched. Several of our bordering neighborhoods (Meyerland, Maplewood, and Marilyn Estates) also participate in the Pct. 5 Contract Deputy Program, so deputies are typically nearby at all times.

The Harris County Pct. 5 Constables are certified peace officers, licensed by the State of Texas to enforce the laws of the State of Texas. The deputies are uniformed, armed and drive distinctively marked, emergency equipped, law enforcement vehicles. The Constables provide high visibility, rapid response to emergency and non-emergency calls, vacation watches, alarm monitoring, and home security checks. The WCC gets regular crime reports from our Sergeant to ensure that the WCC is kept up to date with crimes in our area.

2023 MANDATORY ASSESSMENTS

2023 Mandatory Assessments - \$267.35

Owners in Parkwest 1 and Parkwest 2 revised their deed restrictions in 1993 & 1994 to include Mandatory Assessments.

- → Properties in Parkwest 1 that have a new owner of record after the January 1, 1993, are subject to the Mandatory Assessment clause.
- → Properties in Parkwest 2 that have a new owner of record after the January 1, 1994, are subject to the Mandatory Assessment clause.

The Mandatory Assessments are due annually on February 1. The 2023 Mandatory Assessments are \$267.35. The WCC has launched our NEW online owner portal. This now makes it easy to view, track, and make payments online. The invoices for Mandatory homes have been mailed to the address on record. If you did not receive your invoice, please sign up for your new online owner portal (use the handy QR code to the left) to view a copy or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net. If you have past due assessments and would like to set up a payment plan, please email the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

WESTBURY IS A DEED RESTRICTED COMMUNITY.
DEED RESTRICTIONS ARE ACTIVELY ENFORCED.

JOIN THE WCC BOARD

Are you looking for a fun way to get involved in your neighborhood? Want to know what is happening in Westbury? Join the WCC board!

We have openings on the WCC Board and would love to have you! We want to hear your ideas and thoughts. We only meet once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. The WCC board consists of Westbury homeowners who love their neighborhood and want to see it remain awesome and ensure that we get our fair share of City resources.

Below is a list of vacant board positions. The At-large director positions can be filled by any Westbury property owner (listed owner on record). For section directors, in addition to being the listed owner on record, your property must be located in that specific section.

Come to the October or November meetings and find out what the WCC is all about and come join this fun group of people! You can email WCC President Cindy Chapman at wccpresident@westburycrier.com if you have any questions.

Vacant WCC Board Positions

Security Director At Large 3 At-Large Directors Westbury 1 Section Director Westbury 2 Section Director Westbury 4 Section Director Westbury South Section Director Parkwest 1 Section Director



Welcome 2023-2024 WCC Board!



The ballot for the 2023-2024 Westbury Civic Club board was uncontested and all persons named on the ballot were elected. Want to be a part of this awesome group? See box to the left and come to the next WCC board meeting.

Left to Right: Becky Edmondson, Jennifer Edmondson, Becky Pate, Andrew Jefferson, Reagan Dunkin, Cindy Chapman, Alan Hirshman, Jonathan Hansen, Maggie Donovan, Lindsey Pollock, Mat Funk, Marcia Hartman, Bob Droubi

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE WCC OFFICE MANAGER

Westbury is very lucky to have Jennifer heading the office. She has worked for the Westbury Civic Club since 2011. Jennifer was born and raised in Westbury. She is passionate about all things Westbury and Houston. She is always advocating for flood control in Westbury and holding the City accountable. She worked many, many extra hours on our new owner portal and website and we are very thankful. Jennifer is an hourly employee, but you will often find her responding to residents online late at night on her own time. Thank you Jennifer for all that you do!



Check out our NEW website Today! WWW.WESTBURYHOUSTON.COM

Our new updated website, www.westburyhouston.com is full of great information. All the deed restrictions for each section are posted online as well as the WCC policies and by-laws. There is a tab for disaster preparedness and a whole new updated section on each of our parks in Westbury. Check it out today and learn more about your neighborhood.

Below are some quick links for the most often asked questions in the WCC office.

<u>House Plan Review</u> - New Homes, Solar Panels, additions, etc. Form is online at www.westburyhouston.com. Submit plans and completed form to the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

<u>Statement of Account</u> - Email the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

<u>Resale Certificates</u> - Form is online at www.westburyhouston.com Return payment and completed form to the WCC office

<u>Deed Restrictions, Policies, By-laws</u> - Available online at www.westburyhouston.com

<u>Account Balance</u> - Set up your PayHOA account today. Use QR code on previous page.

HOW TO CONTACT THE WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB

WCC Office—
westburycc@sbcglobal.net
713-723-5437

WCC President—
wccpresident@westburycrier.com

Social Media—Facebook—Message Westbury
Houston

WCC Annual Meeting Recap

The Westbury Civic Club held our Annual Meeting in September. It was nice to see so many familiar faces and meet new residents. The annual meeting is when the WCC elects the new board for following year and reviews all the achievements of the past year.

The new 2023-2024 WCC board was uncontested and elected. You can see the list of new board members on page 2. This year, we invited guest speakers with a focus on major capital projects that will greatly benefit quality of life here in Westbury and public safety.

NEW Library COMING SOON to Westbury

The future head librarian of the new library in Westbury, Felicia Briscoe, gave an exciting update about all the great features and programs that will be in our new library. The brand-new Houston Public library being constructed in Westbury will be named the Dr. Shannon Walker Library, honoring the first astronaut from Houston, who grew up in Westbury.

The library will host separate spaces for children, teens, and adults. It will feature TECHLink with a maker space and also a recording studio for audio or video taping. There will be a sound engineer on staff. There is more technology in this library than any other library in Houston. Programs will include book clubs, classes, and story-time. There will be two passport desks and a coffee area.

The project manager for the library, Raiset Ruban Valiente, brought display boards showing materials and colors that will be installed in the new library. The Children's area will be colorful with a forest ambience. The Adult area will be like a living room with a small auditorium with a goal to build a sense of community. Astronaut Dr. Shannon Walker will be honored in the lobby and in the Teen Space. There will also be NASA or space references in various locations in the library. Visitors will be able to enter from the Belrose or the Chimney Rock entrance.

It is exciting that this library will be located right in the middle of Westbury! Our librarian Felicia Briscoe is competitive and believes that this library has the potential to be one of the most-visited and most popular libraries in all of Houston. Let's work to make that vision happen! Felicia said that the library will open in late fall or December, but "it will be well worth the wait". They are already planning to feature performances from local schools for the grand opening event. Stay tuned to future Criers for the library grand opening date!



WCC Office Manager Jennifer Edmondson, WCC Treasurer Becky Edmondson, and future head librarian of new library in Westbury Felicia Briscoe

Willow Waterhole - "A Diamond in the Community"

Bill Burhans, a resident of Westbury and President of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy, provided an overview of activities and projects at the Willow Waterhole. More than \$12 million dollars have already been raised for more trails, signage, more parking, property improvements, intersection crossing improvements, and more. A pier at Westbury Lake and a paved Dryad parking lot have already been completed. Trail construction work is ongoing and will total about 8 miles. Precinct One (Commissioner Rodney Ellis) is building the trails around Westbury Lake. Environmentally, the detention lakes provide wetland and shoreline habitats, the lakes are stocked with fish, several uncommon prairie plants are protected, and more than 230 different bird species have been identified thus far. The site is busy with activities: Scout projects, tree plantings, school cross country events, music events, and more.



Bill Burhans with Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy

Westbury Area Constable Patrol

Sergeant Nicholas Derkowski of the Harris County Precinct 5 Constables oversees our Westbury Area Patrol (WAP) patrol program. WAP is the most expensive, but most important program, of the Westbury Civic Club. Sgt. Derkowski gave a public safety overview. Crime reports are down compared to last year, but the number of arrests is about the same. Theft of catalytic converters is much lower compared to last year. He reminded people to report crimes to them so that law enforcement knows where to patrol. During the week of the Annual Meeting, they were focusing on speeding problems on Willowbend and West Bellfort.

Harris County Precinct 4

After many years of Westbury being entirely in Harris County Precinct One, now Westbury is split between Precinct One (Rodney Ellis) and Precinct Four (Lesley Briones). Jessica Cohen, an Infrastructure Project Manager for Precinct 4, talked about the new "Places 4 People" projects underway with Precinct 4. Precinct 4 is working with partners to implement these projects. The closest projects to Westbury are trail improvements and under road trail crossings along Brays Bayou. Those of you who bike or walk along Brays Bayou trails will enjoy these improvements. Before and after the meeting, there were some discussions about possible projects for the Westbury area of Precinct 4.



Harris County Pct. 4 Listening Tour NEW Verizon Innovative Learning Lab at

Westbury is located in two Harris County Precincts (Precinct 1 and Precinct 4) and represented by two different Commissioners. Harris County Precinct 4 is led by Commissioner Lesley Briones. Commissioner Briones is holding listening tours around her precinct in an effort to get to know her constituents and what they need/want.

On September 13, the "Listening Tour" by Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones came to southwest Houston and was held at Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center. There were many Westbury residents in the crowd. Marcia Hartman and Cindy Chapman from the Westbury Civic Club spoke with both County Commissioner Lesley Briones and Houston District C Council Member Abbie Kamin during the event. We appreciate our elected officials asking for community input.

Did you know that Precinct 4 has 1.2 million residents. and is larger in size than the state of Rhode Island?





The new school year at Meyerland Performing & Visual Arts Middle School (MPVA) started with the opening of a brand new technology lab, the MPVA Verizon Innovative Learning Lab (VILLs). The new VILLs space is the result of an expanded partnership between



MPVA and Verizon to bring more technology and STEAM related opportunities to campus. Students will have opportunities to attend virtual field trips with the VR equipment and let their imaginations run wild with the 3D printing technology.

MPVA's Principal, Auden Sarabia, is especially interested to see what their students create in the VILLs lab, "It was incredibly challenging to keep the reveal of this lab quiet as I am so excited to see how the students will use this new tech. Academics are the mind of our school and the arts are the soul. Having the ability to have these two areas challenge each other has the possibility to create wondrous things for our kids. The space will be used by our educators as well as after school clubs and I expect it to be in high demand."

MVPA held a Back-to-School Bash on August 24 and debuted the new VILLs space. New and returning families had a chance to visit the campus and get the lay of the land before classes resumed on August 28. The atmosphere was celebratory with a DJ, Food Trucks, and Cheerleaders welcoming back students.

Meyerland Performing & Visual Arts Middle School is a magnet and neighborhood school in Houston ISD with 11 award winning performance and visual arts magnet programs including Theater, Dance, Orchestra, Band, Broadcast Journalism, Creative Writing, Mariachi, Art, Piano, Guitar, and Choir. For more information visit

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What is on the Ballot?

State — 14 State of Texas propositions

Harris County — Harris County Hospital Bond Proposition

City of Houston— Mayor, ALL City Council Members, City Controller, 2 City Charter Propositions

EARLY VOTING

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 3

October 23 - October 28 — 7AM - 7PM Sunday, October 29 — 12PM - 7PM October 30 - Nov. 3 — 7AM - 7PM

Beat the crowds! Vote early. You can vote at any location. There are many locations throughout the County. Go to www.harrisvotes.com for a full list and sample ballot.

Closest location to Westbury is Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, 77074.

City of Houston Propositions

The following City propositions are amendments to the City Charter and will be voted on by ALL voters that live in the City of Houston. Please check www.harrisvotes.com for more information.

Proposition A Currently, the City Charter only allows the Mayor to set the agenda for City Council meetings. Proposition A proposes to allow an item to be placed on the agenda if at least 3 members of City Council request it.

Ballot wording— Shall the City Charter of the City of Houston be amended to enable three or more council members, by written request, to have item(s) placed on the agenda of a regular city council meeting and to have such item(s) considered by council?

Proposition B Proposition B proposes to change the City Charter in an attempt to compel the local regional planning board H-GAC to give more representation to Houston and Harris County.

Ballot wording—Shall the City Charter of the City of Houston be amended: to require that membership by the City of Houston in a Council of Government or Metropolitan Planning Organization shall be contingent on the votes of the governing board for such council or organization being apportioned proportionately on the basis of population, notwithstanding statutory voting members, and that members representing local governments shall have at least 90 percent of the total votes; and to require the City of Houston to withdraw its membership from any non-compliant Council of Government or Metropolitan Planning Organization if the voting system is not corrected within 60 days of the effective date of adoption of this charter provision?

More about Proposition B—

Houston is a member of a 13-county regional planning organization called the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). For example, H-GAC decides how to distribute state and federal funds in the region and makes decisions on regional transportation issues, among its various planning responsibilities. The current structure of H-GAC voting membership does not reflect the large populations of Houston or Harris County. Even though many Houston residents suffered severe flood damage from Hurricane Harvey, Houston received 2% of the local federal mitigation funding. Prop B is on the ballot after a petition drive by a group of citizens who are seeking a way to compel H-GAC to consider population in its voting structure. Since Houston and Harris County have the largest populations in the region, changing the voting structure of H-GAC could provide more influence by Houston and Harris County when H-GAC is making decisions. The group that did the petition drive notes that "Houston and Harris County make up 57% of the population represented on the H-GAC's board of directors, yet the city and county combined only have 11% of the voting power." It is not clear what steps H-GAC will take if Houston voters approve this proposition.

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Early Voting starts in October, and the General Election is on November 7. In this election, voters will be selecting candidates for City of Houston Mayor, ALL City Council Members, and City Controller. Both the State and the City Houston have propositions on the ballot. You can read more about the 2 City Charter Propositions on the page to the left and you can read more about the Texas State propositions on this page. We also encourage you to do your own research on the propositions.

We encourage Westbury residents to express your opinions by voting! Westbury is well-known as an area that has high numbers of voters, so let's keep that tradition going. Voting shows that our residents are informed and engaged with issues.

For questions about voting or to see a sample ballot for YOUR specific address, go to www.harrisvotes.com

VOTING FAQS

- * **Identification** Voters must bring approved forms of identification to vote.
- * What is prohibited? No wireless devices. No photographs. No electioneering within 100 feet of the doors (for example, you should not wear campaign materials inside the polling place)
- * Where can you vote? At any designated polling location anywhere in Harris County, during early voting and during the general election. Check www.harrisvotes.org for polling locations and sample ballot.

Local Mayoral Forum Thursday October 12, 7PM

There will be a Mayoral Forum at nearby Congregation Beth Israel on N. Braeswood on October 12 at 7PM.

This event is a convenient way to meet some of the candidates who are running for Mayor and learn more about their plans for our great City.

Participating Mayoral Candidates are: Robert Gallegos, Gilbert Garcia, Lee Kaplan, Sheila Jackson Lee, and John Whitmire. Mayoral forum hosted by The Greater Meyerland Super Neighborhood #31, Congregation Beth Israel's Social Justice Committee, and the Brays Bayou Association.

State of Texas Propositions

There are 14 propositions on the ballot for amendments to the State of Texas Constitution. All voters in Texas will be voting on these propositions. These funds are from the budget surplus.

Prop 1 - "The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming,

ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."

- **Prop 2** Allow cities or counties to reduce property taxes for child-care facilities.
- **Prop 3** "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."
- **Prop 4** Reduce property taxes by school districts and the state would then send funds to school districts to offset this reduction in school property tax. Various other tax reforms.
- **Prop 5** Set-up a fund of \$3.4 billion to be used to support Texas research universities (not UT or Texas A&M since they have other funding sources). This would benefit Texas Tech, University of Houston, University of North Texas, & Texas State University.
- **Prop 6** Set-up a fund of \$1 billion for the Texas Water Development Board to support water projects across the state. Creates the New Water Supply for Texas Fund, the Statewide Water Public Awareness Account, and the Texas Water Fund to address critical water challenges across the state.
- Prop 7 Create a \$5 billion fund to incentivize new power plants fueled by natural gas.
- **Prop 8** Create a \$1.5 billion Broadband Infrastructure Fund to expand internet availability across the State and improve telecommunications.
- **Prop 9** Provide a cost-of-living adjustments to some retired Texas teachers, who have not had an increase in almost 20 years.
- **Prop 10** Exempt certain equipment and medical products from taxation by counties or school districts.
- **Prop 11** Create the El Paso County Conservation and Reclamation District. Other counties and regions in Texas have similar districts, which tax local residents to support the creation and development of water services and other facilities.
- **Prop 12** Eliminate the Galveston County Treasurer's Office. If approved, other county officials would take over the duties of the treasurer. Only affects Galveston, but all of Texas votes on this proposition.
- **Prop 13** Increase the mandatory retirement period from 70-75 years old to 75-79 years old for justices and judges on appellate, district and criminal district courts.
- **Prop 14** Set-up a fund of about \$1 billion to purchase land to develop new state parks.

Harris County Hospital \$2.5 Billion Bond

Harris County voters will be asked to approve a bond for \$2.5 billion for the Harris County Hospital District, the pubic healthcare provider for the County. The Harris County Hospital District, also known as the Harris Health System, was founded on January 1, 1966 as a safety net hospital system to provide quality care to the residents of Harris County who lacked access to healthcare. For over 30 years, Ben Taub and LBJ Hospital have been the cornerstones of public healthcare in Harris County. But in that same time, the population of the County has nearly doubled.

If approved, the funds would:

- ◆Build a new hospital on the LBJ Hospital campus with Level 1 trauma center. This will become the first level 1 trauma center outside of the Texas Medical Center.
- •Renovate the existing LBJ Hospital for additional services such as mental healthcare.
- ◆Renovate and enhance Ben Taub Hospital to extend its lifespan by 10 years. Ben Taub is one of the only two major trauma centers in Houston.
- ◆Add new community health clinics and improve the existing clinics.

If the bond is approved, the average homeowner of \$300,000 property/home is looking at additional \$6 per month in taxes (\$72/year).



Message from CM Sally Alcorn about Water Main Breaks

Hi Friends, I understand how frustrating it is to witness water leaks, especially when the city is restricting water use due to drought conditions. There's nothing worse than seeing water running down the street when you can't even water your own lawn except on certain days. I get it. At this morning's council meeting, the public works director shared some of the context behind the ongoing water leaks. I thought it was important I pass this information along.

Houston Public Works (HPW) Director Carol Haddock stated that in regular, non-drought times, Houston has about 100 to 150 active water leaks on a weekly basis. HPW has staff to address, investigate, and repair 100 to 200 leaks per week. Due to drought conditions we are experiencing this summer, the number of leaks has grown to 500 per week. In the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, when many Houston neighborhoods were built, standards called for shallowly buried sewer and water lines. These shallow water lines are more susceptible to shifting and breaking when the soil dries. Pipes installed today are buried deeper, lowering the chance of being affected by extreme weather.

City crews are averaging more than 200 repairs a week, utilizing overtime to work around the clock, seven days a week. During this time, HPW has also been working to add more contractors to our leak repair efforts. We have increased the number of contractors from four to ten and are hoping to add two more contractors soon. As contractors

onboard, we have been able to increase the number of leaks contractors are addressing from 100 to 200 per week. Our goal is to have contractors repair 300 to 400 leaks a week until the backlog is completed. Since June 1st, 3,000 leak repairs have been completed, with 2,000 of the repairs performed by city crews.

It's extremely important to report a water leak to 311 when you see it. Don't assume that someone else has already reported it; we will be able to filter out any duplicate reports. If a leak you previously reported has worsened, please call 311 to let us know. Like the water leaks we're experiencing, some sewer lines are also experiencing leaks, but the effects may not be as visible. If you're noticing that your shower or sinks suddenly start draining slower and you have no reason to believe it's an issue caused by your household pipes, please call 311.

HPW indicates that repair crews are addressing leaks in order of severity. Normal, routine leaks may take two to three weeks, sometimes longer. If more severe leaks arise, they jump the line. HPW is working to shorten these timelines by hiring more contractors and increasing their workloads. Combine this with improved weather conditions and hopefully, we will soon return to normal.

Stage Two drought restrictions remain in place to maintain water pressure for firefighters, hospitals, and other life-safety facilities.

WESTBURY AREA IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

Is Crime High in 77035? During the September WAIC meeting, HPD Commander Hassig was asked why the news media was proclaiming that zip code 77035 is one of the Top 10 Dangerous Crime areas. Commander Hassig said that the data came from the FBI and had not been reviewed by HPD. He noted that HPD has been working with the FBI to arrest gang members on federal criminal charges, and that there were several large apartment complexes located in 77035 that had been raided. One apartment complex near Westbury in 77035 had more than 40 gang members arrested. In general he said that violent crime is slightly lower compared to last year, and that much of the violent crime involves domestic violence.

Air Alliance Houston – spoke about the upcoming permit public hearing on September 28 for Martin Marietta Materials on Gasmer.

The WAIC Board approved donations to the following organizations:

- *\$750-SW HPD Family Day event
- *\$500-Westbury HS senior fundraiser
- *\$300-Anderson ES fall festival
- *\$250-WCC NNO celebrations.











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Crime Statistics for Westbury SuperNeighborhood

August 15—September 20, 2023 Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

KEY

highlighted by type. Please see key above.

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W	Theft from		
5500	Bankside	Simple Assault	9/11	10am	Parkwest 2	Motor Vehic		
5400	Briarbend	Theft from Motor Vehicle	8/16	1pm	Westbury 2	Auto Theft		
11000	Chimney Rock	Simple Assault	8/16	11pm	Westbury 2			
6000	Dellfern	Vandalism, Destruction, Damage	8/28	10pm	Westbury 4	Vandalism		
6000	Densmore	Theft from Motor Vehicle	8/22	6am	Westbury 4			
6000	Dryad	Robbery	8/18	5pm	Westbury 4	Robbery		
5500	Duxbury	Theft from Motor Vehicle	8/17	4pm	Westbury 4			
5800	Greencraig	Simple Assault	9/12	10pm	Westbury South	Burglary		
5900	Lattimer	Burglary, Breaking and Entering	8/30	2pm	Parkwest 3			
5800	Ludington	Theft – other	9/6	4pm	Westbury 4	Simple Assa		
5800	McKnight	Theft from Motor Vehicle	8/28	3pm	Westbury 3	Theft—othe		
5900	Portal	Theft from Motor Vehicle	9/18	3am	Westbury 5			
5700	Southminster	Simple Assault	9/18	12am	Westbury South	The crimes listed took		
5600	W. Airport	Simple Assault	9/19	9pm	Westbury 4	place between August 15 and September 20. They are in alphabetical order		
5000	Willowbend	Simple Assault	9/8	12pm	Westbury 1			
by street. The crimes of								

Crime by the Numbers

Crime Type	Homes	Apts./ TH	Comm./ Business	Park/ Public
Aggravated Assault	0	4	2	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	5	6	2	2
Burglary	1	5	2	0
Robbery	1	6	4	2
Simple Assault	6	22	7	0
Shoplifting	0	0	11	0
Drugs, Narcotics	0	0	0	1
Vandalism, Damage	1	4	2	0
Auto Theft	0	1	0	0
Theft of Vehicle Parts	0	1	1	0
Theft—Other	1	1	3	1
Trespass of Real Property	0	5	1	0
DUI	0	0	0	2
Disorderly Conduct	0	1	2	0
Sexual Assault	0	1	0	0
Obscene Material	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	15	58	37	8

Pct. 5 Constable Dispatch Westbury Area Patrol 281-463-6666

SW HPD Station

832-394-0400

HPD Non-Emergency

713-884-3131

VACATION WATCH

Are you going on vacation over the summer?
If you pay your Westbury Area Patrol dues, make sure you

request a vacation watch by the Constables. Vacation Watch is a great service that is included in our contract.

A deputy will check out your property at least once a day to make sure it is secured and no suspicious activity.

You can register for a vacation watch online at https://constablepct5.com or call 281-463-6666

Halloween Yard of the Month Judging—Sat., October 21



Yard of the Month judges will be driving around each section on Saturday, October 21 awarding Halloween Yard of the Month winners. Do you have a favorite home? Nominate your neighbor at westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

Are you interested in being a Yard of the Month Judge? Contact the WCC office and let us know!

For People of All Recycling Levels

By Emily Vanlandingham

Hi! My name is Emily Vanlandingham and I have lived in Westbury all my life. My Girl Scout Gold Award is about the dos and don'ts of recycling. I hope to take some of the confusion out of it and show everyone that recycling is something we can all do every day to improve our quality of life. I grew up knowing all about recycling, but once I started this project I learned even more.

In order to better understand the common mistakes people make when recycling, I worked with the City of Houston to host a "dumpster dive" with recycling bins. We gathered recycling bins and their contents from seven houses and took them to the Environmental Services Center (11500 South Post Oak). Alyce Coffey, the City of Houston's Community Outreach Manager for the Solid Waste Department, educated the group of volunteers on the basics of what can be recycled through the City of Houston. Then everyone worked to sort through the seven bins and collect data on what items were found that are not recyclable in the normal green Houston recycling bins. This event opened my eyes to the many rules of recycling that people are never taught. Such as, no dirty containers, only plastics numbered 1-5 and 7, and no tiny papers. We thought we recycled well, but EVERY bin that was surveyed had at least one item that was not recyclable through the City of Houston.

We learned how important it is to keep the recycling stream (stuff in your big green bins) as trash free as possible.

YES, PLEASE RECYCLE THESE in your BIG GREEN BIN!

- Clean Plastics #1-5 & 7 (look for the number in the recycling triangle)
- Paper and cardboard
- Clean Glass
- Milk type Cartons...rinse and remove cap
- Cans (aluminum and other metals)

DO NOT put in your BIG GREEN BIN

- Any plastic films (grocery bags, snack wrappers)
- DO take them to HEB, Kroger, or other stores that have bins for plastic film. I bet you all go to the grocery store!
- Styrofoam and other #6 plastics
- Shredded paper (i know, surprised me too...it is too small and messes up the machines)
- Straws (just don't use them)
- Receipts (thermal paper kind)
- Books (just the bindings...glue that binds them, you can

rip out the pages and recycle those)



Use the QR code below to reach the City of Houston Recycling Page and Game











WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN **12581 DUNLAP**



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.



Willow Waterhole More than Just Flood Control

TRAILS * BIRDS * WILDFLOWERS

Visit the Willow Waterhole TODAY! The main Westbury Lake trails and gazebo are easily accessible via the new parking lot at the end of Dryad. Additional trails and parking are available on the street off Ricecrest.



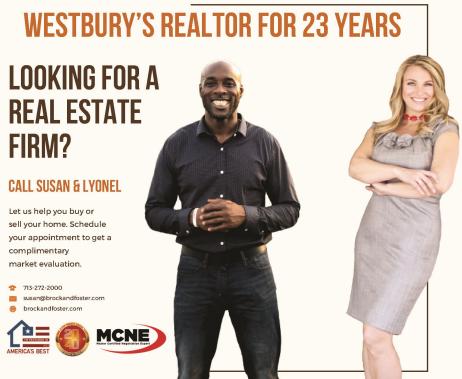
Photo-Mark Mulligan, Houston Chronicle

Audubon Society Monthly Bird Survey @ the Willow Waterhole

Saturday, October 21, 7AM Meet at the Gathering Place, 5310 S. Willow For more information, visit the Houston Audubon website, https://houstonaudubon.org/









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