



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2011

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Deck the Halls Parade*
Dec. 10 @ 5pm
- **VOTE ON DEC. 10,**
see page 4 for details
- **NO WCC Board**
Meeting this month
- **MANDATORY WATER**
RESTRICTIONS STILL IN
EFFECT
- **BURN BAN INCLUDES**
NO SMOKING IN
CITY PARKS
- **December heavy trash**
is **JUNK WASTE**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dues Form	3
New City Councilmembers	4
Calendars	5
Security Update	6
Sunday Music in the Park	8
Westbury Little League	9
Platou Center Schedule	11
Westbury Area School News	13
Neighborhood News	15

How do you spell RELIEF? *RAILROAD-QUIET-ZONES*

We are pleased to announce that the Federal Railroad Administration approved the Alternative Safety Measure (ASM) application for the US90A Railroad Quiet Zone. There are five railroad crossings in our Quiet Zone (S. Post Oak, Chimney Rock, Hillcroft, Haviland, and Fondren). The City is working to get medians installed at the Haviland rail crossing, and it is their hope that the quiet zone equipment will be in place before the end of 2011.

Once the contractor gets the plans and provides a construction schedule, they will give us a timeframe for submittal of the Notice of Establishment documents which will dictate when trains must stop using whistles when entering the US90A Railroad Quiet Zone. Please note that trains will still use whistles if an unsafe condition is observed on the railroad tracks.

Our rail Quiet Zone has been a long time coming. Thanks go to Phyllis Frye, Tommie Allen, Frank Silcock, Edith Smith, and Cindy Chapman who worked tirelessly to make the sound wall and the Quiet Zone happen for Westbury.

12th Annual Deck the Halls Parade

The Deck the Halls Parade will take place on December 10 at 5PM. The theme this year is Fairy Tales. The parade will take its traditional route, which lines up at the old post office at 5500 Belrose, and goes down Burlinghall to Ashcroft to Warm Springs to Atwell. A map of the route and more information is available at www.deckthehallsparade.org.

Please help us fill up all the streets on the route, by inviting your friends, family, and co-workers. If your house is on the route, please light up your yard by December 9th. This is a tradition neighbors have enjoyed for years, marveling at the beautiful lights along the route. Another great way to enjoy the parade is to set up snack stations outside for spectators and parade participants. This is a wonderful chance to get out and meet and socialize with your neighbors, and cheer the parade as it marches by.

The Deck the Halls Parade is sponsored by the Mandell Family and the Beresford School. They work hard year round to plan a wholesome, fun, completely **free**, family event. For further information, please contact Ember or Noelle Mandell at 713-367-3787 or via www.deckthehallsparade.org



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GET YOUR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS READY!
HOLIDAY YARD OF THE MONTH JUDGING IS THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 10-11

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	VACANT	wccmaintenance@westburycrier.com
Membership	Janie Schexnayder	wccmembership@westburycrier.com
Security	VACANT	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT	wccvolunteers@westburycrier.com

Section Directors

Westbury 1	Sylvia Rendon	Westbury1@westburycrier.com
Westbury 2	VACANT	Westbury2@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	Don Bryan	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

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck

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

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

WCC Office closed

Dec. 19– Jan. 3

E-mail & voicemail will be checked several times a week

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

President's Message

What a year! It started with so many unknowns and there were many challenges. The Platou Community Center was slated for closing, but was saved! Thanks to all those who worked so hard especially, the Friends of Chimney Rock Park.

We had City Council Re-districting. We were so unsure of what would happen as most of Westbury moved from District C to K. But now we've had the election and I am pleased that Larry Green will be our new representative on City Council. Larry attended three Civic Club meetings as well as three WAIC (Westbury Area Improvement Corporation) meetings. He came for the Sunday in the Park music event at Willow Waterhole Park. He knows our concerns, our challenges, and what we hope to accomplish. If his attentiveness to learning the district weren't enough, he made a great choice for his staff and Barbara Hite will be working with him. This is wonderful news as Barbara really knows how to navigate the red tape of the city bureaucracy. She has served with Mark Goldberg, Anne Clutterbuck and now Larry Green.

The city formed a new department -- the Department of Neighborhoods. We supported this initiative. Neighborhood Protection officers are now attending are WAIC meetings and are working hard to rid our neighborhood of those things that violate city ordinance, i.e. inoperable cars, unkempt lawns, trashy property, unsecured commercial property, etc. I know many of you who live near or drive by these nuisance properties are frustrated by the length of time it takes to resolve issues. But progress is being made. Thanks to all of you who call 311 to report issues as soon as you see them. You can call or email the 311 service number to the WCC office so that we may track their resolution.

And the best news of all? The Westbury Railroad Quiet Zone has been approved! This is a great gift for this holiday season.

I wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, or, if you prefer, a very Happy Holiday.

Becky Edmondson

Board Mtg. Notes

- Bill Burhans, accompanied by his son Liam made an excellent presentation about Westbury Little League's 50th anniversary celebration.
- US90A Railroad Quiet Zone approval was discussed.
- 2012 Budget was discussed.
- Approved donation to Trees for Houston for their watering many Westbury trees all summer.
- Mary Seymour attended meeting to represent Borris Miles (TX state rep)
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water.

**There is NO
WCC Board Meeting
in December**

2011 Westbury Civic Club Dues

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

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

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

**Please send this form
with your payment**

**Online payment:
www.westburycrier.com
go to paypal.com**

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3 payments of 98.34

Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$36	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$234	\$
Subtotal	\$295	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
Total		\$

Thank You Westbury!

We greatly appreciate the residents who used the past *CRIER* issues to submit their 2011 dues.

Here's another chance to submit your dues and help us get another deputy added to our patrol!

Houston City Council



Larry Green is the newly elected City Councilmember for District K. Green is a life-long resident of District K graduating from University of Houston and Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He knows his way around government and legal affairs. For the last three years, he's been CEO of HoustonWorks USA, a nonprofit group that focuses on job training and placement.

As a councilmember, he says, he will emphasize keeping District K's neighborhoods safe, and will make sure that the area receives its fair share of city resources. Also among his priorities are flood control and street repairs. Larry has toured the Westbury area with WCC president, Becky Edmondson, so he is aware of our specific issues.

Ellen Cohen is the newly elected City Councilmember for District C. Ellen served as President and CEO of the Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) for 18 years. In 2005, Ellen was encouraged by a group of leaders in the community to consider running for the position of State Representative, District 134. On November 7, 2006, Ellen Cohen was elected to the Texas House of Representatives with the largest margin of any challenger to an incumbent in Texas at that time. During her two terms in the Texas Legislature, Ellen worked diligently to restore balance and integrity to the Texas Legislature and her record reflects this commitment. Ellen's service is one reason why she is recognized as a community leader. She has a reputation for lending her expertise and leadership to those organizations and issues that she cares deeply about; she vows to fight for education-related services, to keep libraries and community centers open, and to improve after-school programs.



December 10, 2011, City of Houston Runoff Election

Early Voting Schedule

November 30th - December 2nd: 7:00AM - 7:00PM

December 3rd: 7:00AM - 7:00PM

December 4th: 1:00PM - 6:00PM

December 5th - December 6th: 7:00AM - 7:00PM

We still have 2 at Large seats open. These are important seats and it is important that Westbury votes.

At Large # 2 - Kristi Thibaut and Andrew Burks

At Large #5 - Jack Christie and Jolanda Jones

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kendylm@waynemurray.net

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\$234,500



5219 Hummingbird
3 bed/2 bath
\$219,900



5171 Kingfisher
3 bed/2 bath
\$265,900



11122 Endicott
3 bed/2 bath
\$229,000

Call us Information on Featured Listings ♦ www.waynemurray.net

What's Happening in Westbury

December 2011 Events & Meetings Calendar

Sat 10	Deck the Halls Parade 5PM Parade route on Page 1 Theme: Fairy Tales
Sat 10	City Council Run-Off Elections Vote Early! See page 4 for more information
DEC 10-11	Holiday Lights/Decorations- Yard Judging 6PM-9PM Each section will be judged by the Yard of the Month judge for that particular section. Nominate a yard, call 713-723-5437
Mon 12	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:15-7:45PM Platou Center—11655 Chimney Rock Open to the public
Wed	NO WCC Board Meeting in December
Thurs 15	Annual Platou Holiday Social and Potluck 10:30AM-12:30PM Platou Center—11655 Chimney Rock Bring a dish to share. More information, see page 11.
DEC 19-31	WCC OFFICE CLOSED
Tues	No SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting

Important Trash & Recycling Information

- 🗑️ Trash cans need to be out on curb by 7AM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be removed by 10PM Thursday
- 🗑️ Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- 🗑️ 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 Westbury's regular Thursday trash day as long as it is in the correct recyclable bags
- 🗑️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- 🗑️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
SW Trash Depository/Recycling Center 10785 Southwest Frwy
 Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste and Recyclables. 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



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Weekend of Dec. 10-11
Holiday Lights Yard Judging

December 2011 Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

Thurs 1	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 15	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Tues 20	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE (South of W. Bellfort)
Wed 21	Heavy Trash—JUNK WASTE (North of W. Bellfort)
Thurs 29	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
JAN.	Heavy Trash—TREE WASTE ONLY

***ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:**
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TRASH CANS, PLEASE MAKE
SURE THEY ARE AT LEAST 3
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Crime in Westbury

Crook Nabbed Thanks to Vigilant Neighbors

On November 15, the combined efforts of neighbors and constables, both in Meyerland and in Westbury, surprised a crook who did not know how observant we are and how fast our constables respond to calls. The saga starts in Meyerland where at 3 PM a neighbor reported a suspicious vehicle at a nearby home in the 5200 block of Wigton. It was a dark pickup truck with a taped window driven by a white male. The vehicle was gone when a Meyerland constable arrived shortly thereafter. Thirty minutes later, another Meyerland resident in the 5500 block of Lymbar reported that the same vehicle and driver was observed trying to enter a neighbor's backdoor, but he again left before the constables arrived. All constables in the area were on alert.

Now our vigilant Westbury neighbors got involved. A Westbury 2 man was searching for a lost pet when he observed a suspicious vehicle at a neighbor's house. He called the neighbor at work and learned no one was supposed to be at the house, so he immediately called the constable dispatcher. Our Westbury afternoon constable, Deputy Constable Nurridin, and two Meyerland constables chased the vehicle through several neighborhoods until the truck was trapped at an apartment complex. An HPD K-9 team found and arrested the suspect at the complex.

This is a great example of fast response by our constables and how neighbors can help stop crime. The constable dispatcher number is 281-463-666.

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

HPD has some tips to protect yourself, your family and your property this holiday season.

WHILE SHOPPING

Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost

IN PARKING LOTS

- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during the hours of darkness.
- Before shopping, lock all your valuables in the trunk prior to parking in the parking lot.
- Ask the Security Officer to escort you to your vehicle if you are uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store.
- Watch for people who may be following you.

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Security / Crime

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37 * 30 days preceding November 20, 2011

	Single-Family Residential	Apartment/ Condominium	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	14	3	5	0	22
Theft	4	2	4	5	15
Auto Theft	3	3	1	0	7
Robbery	0	1	0	0	1
Assault	1	1	0	1	3
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	22	10	10	6	48

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 11/20)

Block	Street	Crime
11900	Atwell	Auto Theft
5900	Beaudry	Burglary
6000	Beaudry	Burglary
11600	Braewick	Burglary
10700	Carlotta	Burglary
5600	Cartegena	Auto Theft
6000	Dellfern	Burglary
6000	Densmore	Burglary
5800	Dryad	Burglary
12100	Dunlap	Burglary
6000	Duxbury	Burglary
5600	Effingham	Theft
5800	Firenza	Theft
6000	Fontenelle	Assault
6000	Hummingbird	Burglary
10600	Moonlight	Burglary
5300	Spellman	Burglary
5600	Spellman	Burglary
5400	W Bellfort	Burglary
5700	W Bellfort	Theft
5800	Warm Springs	Theft
6000	Willowbend	Auto Theft

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

Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch
281-463-6666

HPD Westbury Storefront
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HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

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Sunday Music in the Park

Sunday Music Series at Willow Waterhole

The Westbury High School Jazz Band, led by Mr. Al Campbell and Mr. Reginald Washington, provided a pleasant afternoon entertainment during the inaugural "Sunday Music in the Park" event at Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve in early November. The sharp-dressed musicians were wonderful and the weather was mild with a steady breeze.

Fox26 morning co-anchor Melissa Wilson was the emcee for the event which also included a tribute to HISD Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier for his support of Westbury High School and the acquisition of the LaPeak Apartments for a campus expansion. Dr. Grier was presented with a calendar and also two framed photographs featuring birds at Willow Waterhole taken by Dr. John Lienhard, a birder who is well-known in Houston for his "The Engines of Our Ingenuity" radio show. Dr. Grier also received an event T-shirt. The T-shirts and calendar were on sale at the event to raise money for amenities at the park. T-shirts are still available but only a few calendars remain available at press time. Contact the WCC office if you would like to buy a T-shirt. Each item costs \$10.

Event sponsors were the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and the Westbury Coalition for Change (WCC, Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, and Friends of WHS Foundation), with assistance from the Brays Oaks Management District. Shell sponsored the event T-shirts.



The next performances at the park will be:

February 19, 2012

Parker Elementary

March 25, 2012

Johnston Middle School



Westbury High School Jazz Band



Westbury residents enjoying the music and beautiful weather

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Westbury Little League 50th Anniversary



Westbury Little League Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary And Starts New 50 Year Capital Campaign



Westbury Little League (WLL) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2012. Approximately 400 children each year play in the Spring and Fall Leagues; many of the thousands of WLL alumni still reside in the area. The League serves the Westbury, Parkwest, Meyerland, Maplewood, Barkley Square, Marilyn Estates, Brays Oaks, and Willow Meadows communities. WLL has a proud history of winning the Little League World Series Championship in 1966 and developing several players who have played Major League Baseball.

Over the past 50 years, the League has taught children life lessons beyond baseball, provided a safe environment in which to play, created long-lasting relationships, and made the community a better place to live. In today's world where many children spend long hours playing computer games and watching television, Little League baseball gets kids outside and physically active. No child is left out; scholarships are available if registration fees cannot be afforded.

All the labor to operate the League is performed by families of the children. There is no funding from governmental entities. Funding comes from parent's registration fees, concession sales, business sponsorships, an annual auction, and hosting area-wide tournaments. The current level of funding is not sufficient to cover major infrastructural improvements needed to serve future generations over the next 50 years.

As part of the 50th anniversary recognition, all alumni are invited to attend next Spring's Opening Ceremonies. Westbury Little League is also seeking assistance from the communities served and alumni in a 50 Year Capital Campaign to fund infrastructural improvements. There are needs to replace or improve original facilities and they include: Installation of more energy-efficient, brighter lighting, and burying of electrical lines; Remodeling the concession area, rest rooms, and meeting room; Increasing security and installing/repairing fencing; Replacing old scoreboards; Improving drainage and irrigation; Planting trees.

If you are a business person, a Westbury Little League alumni/parent who can help or can attend the Spring 2012 Opening Ceremonies, WLL would like to hear from you and recognize

you. There are many who have been positively impacted over the years by Westbury Little League and the hope is that they are now in a position to give back and help future generations in the program. The WLL Board of Directors are hoping that more than \$300,000 can be raised. Major contributors will have facilities named in their honor. Westbury Little League is a 501 (c) (3) organization so contributions are tax deductible.



Westbury Little League 1966 World Series Champions

Bryan Boyne; Mark Harding; Thomas Herrick; Ronald Hooker; Jerry Jordan;
David McCaleb; Allen Michel; Mark Pearsall; Ray Plumb, Jr.; William Raymer;
Stephen Reeves; Michael Robinett; Richard Schneider; Daniel Wood
Coaches William Raymer and Ray Plumb

Mailing Address:

Westbury Little League
Attn: 50 Year Capital Campaign
P.O. Box 31392
Houston, TX 77231-1382

Phone and Email:

Anniversary and Campaign Coordinator
Bill Burhans
(713) 906-3254

burhans56@yahoo.com

Website: www.Westburyll.org

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Neighborhood
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11655 Chimney Rock

Supervisor: Chris Allen 713-726-7107 Chris.allen@houstontx.net

Monday-Thursday 12—8PM ; Friday 12-6PM

Open in the morning for scheduled classes

Activities/Classes/Groups

DAY ACTIVITIES

Stretching Class

Monday, Wed., Friday, 9-9:45AM
Contact Chris Allen 713-726-7107

Westbury Quilting Bee

Tuesday, 12PM - 3PM
Contact Janie at 713-721-5526

Games

Wednesday, 10 AM to 12 noon
Contact Wally at 713-729-9310

Portable Projects

Thursday, 9:30- 11:30 AM
Contact Hazel at 713-729-4568

EVENING ACTIVITIES

TOPS:Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Tuesdays, 5:45 to 7PM
Weight loss support group
Contact Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or
Naomi at 713-988-2233

Aerobics with Chris

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-7:30PM
Contact Chris Allen to register or come
preview the class

Free Ballroom Dance Lessons

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30PM
Call Marilyn at 713-729-9425
A beginner class will form soon

December Special Event:

NEW PUPPY PARENTING CLASS

Have you recently acquired a new puppy or do you plan to bring a new puppy home over the Holidays? Come to a FREE educational seminar to help you get your pup off to the right start in this critical phase of your puppy's new life with your family. Learn about housebreaking training, safe socialization and prevention of common behavior problems. Your presenter is Kathy Elder, owner of Kat's Animal Training, in-home dog trainer & behavioral consultant. **Free.**

Monday night, December 5, 2011, 6:30-7:45 PM

Adults & children over 12.

No puppies please.

For more information call Kat at 713-729-5481

Annual Platou Holiday Social and Potluck

Thursday, December 15
10:30 AM -12:30 PM

Join us for a holiday potluck and social.

Bring a dish to share.

Recent craft projects on display.

Visit with other Westbury residents.

Contact Hazel at 713-729-4568 for details.

New in January:

LINE DANCING CLASS

Begins on Monday, January 9
from 1 to 2:30 PM.

Good exercise and free.

For more information or to
sign up call Chris at
713-726-7107.

Monthly Meetings

Westbury Community Garden Meeting
2nd Monday 6:15-7:45PM

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Westbury News

Westbury Fall Community Garage Sale

The weather was perfect and the crowd showed up ready for shopping during the Oct 29, 2011, Westbury White Elephant Community Garage Sale event. As usual, folks were lined up along the sidewalk waiting for WCC President Becky Edmondson to give the signal to open the gate. Sellers reported brisk sales. The next community garage sale will be held in the spring. We want to thank the members of Westbury United Methodist and St. John's Presbyterian for allowing us to use their parking lots.



Why is heavy construction equipment being stored at the church property on the corner of West Belfort and Hillcroft?

The city is temporarily leasing the land from the church to store construction equipment being used to replace the water mains in Westbury 5. This capital improvement project has been planned for several years and is sorely needed as demonstrated by the large number of water leaks which occurred in Westbury 5 west of Hillcroft this summer.



Top Left: Rush of shoppers at the Westbury Garage Sale
Top Middle: Westbury Garage Sale sign on W. Belfort
Top Right: Construction on 6000 Hummingbird
Bottom Left: Long line of shoppers waiting for the Garage Sale to open
Bottom Right: WCC President Becky Edmondson ready to open

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AD BY DEJA LAND

Westbury Area Schools

Parker Elementary Chorus Students to Represent Houston

Parker Elementary, a magnet school for music has been selected to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association conference, in San Antonio, February 2012. The Parker Advanced Chorus, under the direction of Marianna Simpson, was chosen for this honor and it will follow in the footsteps of past Parker Choruses which were selected by audition for this conference.

The Parker chorus is part of a 33-year music program at Parker Elementary School, located in the Westbury community at 10626 Atwell. Parker has served as a model music program for HISD. In addition to chorus, Parker's music program includes Suzuki Strings, Band, Guitar and Piano. Parker has an ethnically diverse student population of over 800 students, 625 of which receive specialized music instruction, thanks to considerable efforts of parents and faculty, who raise funds to help support the music program. The music program was recognized as a National GRAMMY® Signature School in 2002.

The chorus students are working to raise \$13,000, to send the 75 member chorus and 25 chaperones to the conference in San Antonio. They are seeking help from the community through individual donations, corporate sponsorships and various fundraising events. For more information, please contact Jason Spencer at the HISD press office at 713-556-6393 or Carol Kehlenbrink, Parker Magnet Coordinator at 713-726-2122.

Anderson Elementary Wins First Place

Anderson Elementary students recently won 1st place overall in a HISD Mathematics competition among 31 schools. Way to go Anderson!

Parker Elementary Students to Perform

Parker's Performing Strings will be playing two concerts in the Houston Symphony's Family Series Concert *"The Night Before Christmas"* Saturday, December 3rd. The Houston Symphony will be accompanying the students. This is the first time the Houston Symphony has invited an elementary school instrumental group to perform with them.

Johnston Middle School SPARK Park Dedication

JMS is a HISD magnet middle school for the Performing and Visual Arts. For the past five years, the JMS PTO has been planning and raising funds to create a beautiful entry courtyard celebrating the arts programs at the school. On Nov. 17, the JMS Jazz Ensemble performed as parents, students, school officials and dignitaries gathered to celebrate completion of the new landscaping and paved courtyard at the school entrance on Manhattan.



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Johnston Middle School Receives Accolades from TEA!

Johnston Middle School has been awarded five Gold Performance Acknowledgements by the Texas Education Agency! JMS has been recognized in the following areas:

- Attendance Rate
- Commended Reading
- Commended Writing
- Commended Science
- Commended Social Studies

According to Mr. Wenden Sanders, principal of JMS, "This is great news and I am so proud of all the hard work that I know went into making this happen! Way to go Greyhounds!"

Volunteer: Tutors and Mentors

This time of year when our thoughts turn to gifts and giving, have you considered volunteering in one of our Westbury schools? The WCC will have a program in January to talk about the opportunities available. In the meantime if you are interested and want to get registered, go online to www.houstonisd.org. Click on VIPS login under the Parents or Community link section.

Westbury High School

Thanks to all who came out and test drove a Ford for the Baseball fundraiser, approximately \$3,000 was raised. Looking for a way to do more to help Westbury High School? They are looking for instruments for their Orchestra program. They need violins, violas, cellos and basses.

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Happy Holidays from the Westbury Civic Club!!!



Neighborhood and Area News

Thanks for New Water Collection System

The community garden has a new 1,480 gallon water collection cistern thanks to the good folks at Thermo Fisher Scientific who provided a grant to Keep Houston Beautiful for the purchase, delivery and installation of the cistern. Thermo Fisher employees and family members came to the garden to help with installation, as well as to help in weeding, digging up sweet potatoes and rebuilding one of the garden beds. The cistern will be used to water the fruit trees, blackberry patch and habitat gardens, once a little rain falls. Drop by the garden to take a close look at the cistern. It is quite a beauty, and just one more thing for which Westbury can be proud.

Fruit Tree Sale

Urban Harvest fruit tree sale on January 14, 2012. Mark your calendars. For more information, see next month's Crier.

Holiday Concerts

Parker Elementary and Johnston Middle School both are performing arts magnet schools and will have numerous free holiday concerts in December if you want to get into the holiday spirit. Check their school websites for the latest performing schedules. Additionally, Westbury High School will have a holiday concert on December 8 and the Westbury Christian School concert will be on December 5.

Westbury Community Garden 12500 Dunlap at Fonmeadow Interested in Gardening With Us?

Winter is a great time to grow vegetables in the Houston climate. The community garden has a few beds available for lease right now, so if you are interested, please send an email to rayinthegarden@sbcglobal.net. Come take a walk through the garden.

Holiday Gift Market

St. John's Presbyterian Church (5020 W. Bellfort) will once again present its annual Holiday Gift Market on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 12 Noon. The Market represents a chance to purchase gifts that keep on giving, but also to the less fortunate. Various booths will be available benefiting a variety of important organizations.

lifeline, mom's group

lifeline, a newly formed group for moms of preschoolers, invites Westbury moms to join the fun. The meetings are for all preschool and expecting moms, whether married or single, working in or out of the home. Our moms live in Westbury, Meyerland, Willow Meadows, and Willowbend. The group provides an outlet for moms to make friendships, enjoy some much needed grown-up time, get support, connect with their faith and have fun, all while their children enjoy a fun morning playing in the church childcare. *lifeline* moms group is a ministry of Willow Meadows Baptist Church, and is open to all moms in the community, regardless of religious or church affiliation. For more information or to RSVP call the church office at (713) 723-2870 or visit www.facebook.com/lifelinemom.

Tuesday Dec 13th 9-11am

Breakfast and coffee are free. Childcare opens at 8:45AM, cost is \$2 per child. Bring a snack & diapers. Please RSVP for childcare.

Wednesday Dec 14th 6-7:45pm

Dinner available at 5:30pm, cost is \$5 adult, \$2 child. Childcare opens at 6PM, cost is free.

Festival of Carols

Westbury UMC will host a Festival of Carols concert on Sunday, December 11, at 5:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. The program will feature choirs and bells performing carols from around the world. A reception will follow in Humphrey Hall. This will be a wonderful, celebration and the perfect opportunity to meet people in the community.



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