



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2013

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The new Westbury Park is now open. Go explore at 5600 Stillbrooke.
- WCC Board Meeting: January 15 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist
- December's heavy trash is Junk Waste. Pick up is December 12 for ALL of Westbury.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Platou Schedule	4
Calendar of Events	5
White Elephant	6
Keep Beautiful	7
Mural @ WGC	8
Save the Garden	9
WAIC	10
Crime/Security	11
2014 Assessments	13
Westbury Square	15
WHS Magnet Prog	16
Power of One	17
Levitt Pavilion	18
Westbury Park	20-23
Westbury Park Donors	22

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WCC Publication Committee
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Deck the Halls Parade December 14 @ 5PM

The 14th Annual Deck the Halls Parade will be on Saturday, December 14th, at 5PM. The parade is sponsored by the Mandell family. While this parade is not a WCC sponsored event, we are happy to advertise it and participate in it. The parade was mentioned specifically by *Houstonia* magazine when it ranked Westbury in the top 25 neighborhoods in Houston this summer!

This year's theme is "Super Heroes". The Grand Marshall, Wonder Woman, will lead heroes and villains along the route through Westbury, plus there will be the traditional parade favorites like Santa, Hanukkah Harry, and Pancho Claus. As always, the parade organizers are collecting toys for under-privileged children for the holidays, so please drop off toy donations in bins at Cue's Burgers (Post Oak just south of Bellfort).

The parade organizers hope residents on the route will light up their homes and yards for the parade and wear their favorite Super Hero costumes. If you or your group would like to participate in the parade, please contact Ember Mandell at 713-367-3787, or visit them at www.deckthehallsparade.org

Parade Route: The parade lines up at 5505 Belrose in front of the old post office, marches down Burlinghall, then right on Ashcroft, around to and down Warm Springs, right on Atwell, and back to Belrose. If you are coming to watch, pick a spot at one of the intersections for the best view.

SECURITY ALERT

Thieves are stealing packages off front porches. This is occurring in **ALL** sections of Westbury. Please be alert and call the WAP Constables at 281-463-6666 to report suspicious vehicles and people.

YARD OF THE MONTH HOLIDAY DECORATION JUDGING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
& SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.



WCC OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed: December 23- January 1
More information on page 5.



MUST READ ARTICLES

- *Westbury Square Update
Page 15
- *Donate Now
Page 9
- *Westbury Park DONE!
Pages 20-23



**City Run-Off
Election
December 14**
see pg 12

Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

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

Directors at Large

Communications	VACANT	wcccommunications@westburycrier.com
Community Relations	Cindy Chapman	wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com
Deed Restrictions	Jennifer Edmondson	wccoffice@westburycrier.com
Flood Control & Infrastructure	VACANT	wccflood@westburycrier.com
Greenspace Beautification	Carlos Mata	wccmaintenance@westburycrier.com
Membership	VACANT	wccmembership@westburycrier.com
Security	Leslee Cross	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	Robert Montgomery	Westbury3E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 3	Charlsey Porcarello	Westbury3W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	Eugene Sirls	Westbury4E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 4	Vicki Eldridge	Westbury4W@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	Genie Mitchell	Westbury5W@westburycrier.com
Westbury South	Robert Capps	Westburysouth@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	Parkwest1@westburycrier.com
Parkwest 2	VACANT	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

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

City of Houston 311 Hotline (for all Non-Emergency Issues)

Forestry Department
Graffiti

Hazardous Waste Disposal
Heavy Trash

Neighborhood Protection

Parking Management

Recycling

School Crossing Light Repairs

Water and Sewer Repair

Stay connected!

**Are you one of the 787
likes on our Facebook
page, Westbury Houston?**

WWW.WESTBURYCRIER.COM

President's Message

I love this time of year between Thanksgiving and New Year's. There is so much to be thankful for and to celebrate. The Westbury Park celebration was a great success and you will see it highlighted throughout this month's Crier as it exemplified so much of what makes not only Westbury, but Houston such a great place to live. Bill Burhans envisioned the grand opening as a community celebration to celebrate all the many aspects of our community.

To have a good neighborhood you have to have a strong civic association and for 57 years the Westbury Civic Club, with members and volunteers like you, has been supporting and advocating for Westbury. Neighborhoods need programs and the Westbury Community Garden and Westbury Soccer Club were on hand to share their missions. Scouts from Troop 99 helped set up the event and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Having a safe community is of paramount importance and representing our partners in neighborhood security were HPD's mounted patrol and officers, our HFD's station 48, with a fire truck to the delight of many children, and three Precinct 5 deputies. Having quality education for our children is invaluable and Parker Elementary and Westbury High School were visible

proof. The Parker and Westbury High School bands entertained the crowd. The WHS ROTC color guard presented the colors. The Westbury High School honor society students entertained children all afternoon with their craft booth. In this issue, you will read about our efforts to help WHS remain a magnet school. Westbury High has so many great students and I hope many of you have had a chance to meet them as they perform community service throughout Westbury, from delivering the Crier, to working at the community garden and beyond.

Living in the best city in the USA is a real plus to our community. On hand from City departments were the Mayor's Assistance office and the Dept. of Neighborhoods, the Mayor's Special Event office, the Director of Houston Parks Dept, Joe Turner, and Trent Rondot from the Houston Parks Board. Our elected officials were on hand too: City Council members Melissa Noreiga, Jack Christie, Larry Green and Andrew Burks. But it didn't end there as State Rep. Borris Miles sent his constituent representative Mary Seymour and State Senator Rodney Ellis sent Jeremy Brown and Ashley San Miguel.

And maybe the most important ingredient of a great neighborhood is great residents. Westbury is blessed

to have those in great abundance!

In addition to volunteers, it takes money to get things done. We appreciate the City's investing in Westbury and we appreciate all who donated to the Westbury Park fund. On page 22 you will see the list of donors who helped make the Westbury Park transformation even more remarkable. Thank our corporate sponsors when you shop with them.

Thanks to all of you who have donated to the Save the Community Garden fund. Our efforts are continuing and I can't wait to host the celebration when we have successfully saved seven acres of greenspace from becoming an unneeded housing project. The end of the year is the perfect time to make a tax deductible donation. A donation website has been setup and a link is available on the WCC website and the WCG website, see page 9 for more information.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Crier celebrating all the things that come together to make Westbury such a wonderful neighborhood. Wishing you all the joys of the holiday season.

Becky Edmondson



Board Notes

- The board approved motion to donate \$100 to the WHS Arts Dept
- The board approved a motion by Security Director Leslee Cross to add a 4th deputy to the WAP Constable contract beginning in March of 2014
- The board approved 5 policies to be filed on behalf of the WCC. The 5 new policies are Record Retention, Document Production, Payment Plan, Open Board Meetings, and Prohibited Yard Parking.
- No December WCC Board Meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 15

"Like" us on
Facebook

Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock

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

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

"Like" us on
Facebook

Stretching Exercise Class

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



Line Dancing Class

Mondays, 1:45-2:45 PM
For more information about this fun, unique workout class. Call 713-726-7107

Nike Aerobic Hybrid Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:30-7:30PM with Stacia
To register, call Dan 713-726-7107



TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Weight loss support group

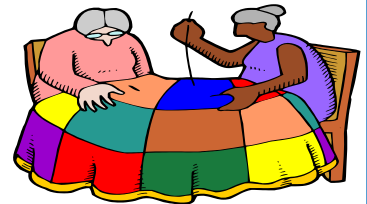
Tues, 5:45-7PM
Drop in to preview the program or call Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or Naomi at 713-988-2233

Portable Projects

Thursday, 9:30AM to 11:30AM.
For more information, call Genie Mitchell at 713-470-7969

MsBeeHaven Quilters

Tuesday, 10AM to 2PM
Call Janie at 713-721-5526 for more information



Games

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

Ballroom Dance Class

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

After School Enrichment

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.

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



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jackiem@waynemurray.net



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11027 Hillcroft St.
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\$128,500



Your Home Could Be Here!!!




5519 Cartagena
\$214,900



6103 Queensloch
Sold in 9 days!!

What's Happening in Westbury

Events & Meetings Calendar December 2013

Thurs 5	Annual Holiday Potluck @ Platou Center 11AM to 1PM
Mon 9	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Platou Community Center— Chimney Rock
Sat 14	Deck the Halls Parade, 5PM For more information, see page 1
Sat 14	Yard of the Month Holiday Judging 
Mon 16	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
X	NO WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting in December
X	NO WCC Board Meeting in December
X	No Audubon Society Bird Survey 8AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
X	NO SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting in December
23- Jan 1	WCC Office CLOSED

WCC OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

December 23– January 1: WCC Office will be not be open during its normal hours. Please call before coming to the office to make sure someone is there.

Voicemail and email will be checked periodically.
Phone: 713-723-5437

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Happy Holidays from the WCC Office!

City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

Dec.	Junk Waste	January	Tree Waste
February	Junk Waste	March	Tree Waste
April	Junk Waste	May	Tree Waste
June	Junk Waste	July	Tree Waste

Happy Holidays from the
Westbury Civic Club!



Heavy Trash & Recycling Calendar

December 2013

Thurs 12	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 12	Heavy Trash— JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 26	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

January 2014

Thurs 9	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash— TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY
Thurs 22	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ 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
- ♻️ Heavy trash can go out at 6PM the Friday before pick-up
- ♻️ YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste. It is collected on regular Thursday trash day
- ♻️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ♻️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:
SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr - 10785 SW Frwy
 Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables. Current utility bill needed.
Environmental Service Center - 11500 S. Post Oak
 Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM. Accepts Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com or www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

White Elephant Sale + Trick or Tree



Fall 2013 White Elephant Sale Was a Success!

Hundreds of shoppers came out to the Fall 2013 White Elephant Sale on October 26. The weather was beautiful and the goods were plentiful. One long-time Westbury resident was heard saying "This is the best sale in a long time! The junk is good, the weather is amazing and everyone is just so nice." Westbury Little League, the Westbury Community Garden, and a Boy Scout Troop had booths at the sale. The next White Elephant Sale will be in the Spring of 2014. Look in future *Criers* for more info.

250 Trees Given Away

The WCC hosted its 3rd Trick or Tree event on Oct 26 at the Fall White Elephant Sale. Over 100 Westbury residents picked up trees to plant. An eagle scout selected 10 trees to plant for his eagle project. Westbury Little League and the Westbury Community Garden received trees to plant on their sites. Thank you to Trees for Houston, Bill & Karen Schubert, Carlos Mata and Becky Edmondson. Since the WCC adopted the Westbury Tree Print proposal in 2005, we have given away or planted over 5,000 trees.



WARNING

**The Holiday Season is fast approaching
and you're running out of time to get
the house spruced up!**

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Keep Westbury Beautiful

Community Garden Awareness

"Roadshow" Crew Raises Awareness of Community Garden at local events

An outgoing and energetic team from the Westbury Community Garden led by Virginia Livingston has created a traveling Roadshow to spread the word about the Westbury Community Garden. These garden ambassadors have photo displays and bring samples of flowers, herbs, or plants from the garden.

The Garden Roadshow crew staffed a booth at the October White Elephant Sale and also at the Westbury Park Grand-Opening Celebration. In November, they had samples of 14 herbs which had been harvested that morning and challenged people to see if they could figure out each herb from a list. The Roadshow team also sold plants at the two events, either from the garden or from their own yards, to raise money to purchase the 7-acre site. Plant sales and donations from the two events have generated about \$1,500. If you would like the Westbury Community Garden Roadshow crew to visit your group, **please contact the garden at 713-723-5437.**



Award for *Keep Westbury Beautiful*

The Westbury Civic Club, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, and the Westbury Super Neighborhood were joint recipients of a "Mayor's Proud Partner Award" at the 29th annual Keep Houston Beautiful luncheon on October 28th. This important honor was awarded for our *Keep Westbury Beautiful* project. This was Westbury's fifth award in seven years - an indication of how much work has been ongoing to improve the appearance of our public places. Join us in 2014 for more exciting green projects and become part of Westbury's award-winning beautification team!



Here are just a handful of the hardworking folks that help *Keep Westbury Beautiful!* Front row from the left: Becky Edmondson, Karen Schubert, Kathy Elder, Virginia Livingston, our former Council Member Anne Clutterbuck, and Carlos Mata. Second row from the left: Bill Burhans, Cindy Chapman, Marcia Hartman, Council Member Larry Green. Thanks to all of you for your commitment!



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WHS Paints Mural at Community Garden

WHS Art Club Paints Mural for Westbury Community Garden

Two storage sheds at the Westbury Community Garden, serviceable yet unattractive, have been transformed into a large, colorful mural. Students **Frank Rojas, Aide Ajostadero, Maurilio Perez, and Imari Johnson** from the Art Club at Westbury High School devoted hours painting the vibrant mural on Saturday, November 16. Art teacher **Shelby Lenderman** supervised the work and helped with the painting. A talented member of the community garden, **Sara Lyons**, helped paint the mural and crafted the lettering which says "Westbury Community Garden" in a bold, purple script. **Ross and Dawn Asher**, members of the garden, cleaned and primed the surfaces several days before the mural was started.

The Art Club at WHS had been inactive for several years, but resumed this school year. They meet during lunch several times each week. Art teacher Shelby



Lenderman asked Art Club members to submit designs for consideration for the mural, which were then consolidated into the final mural design. Other projects which the Art Club has participated in this year include: creating banners for homecoming and face-painting for the school fall festival. Club members will also do face-painting for upcoming school events.

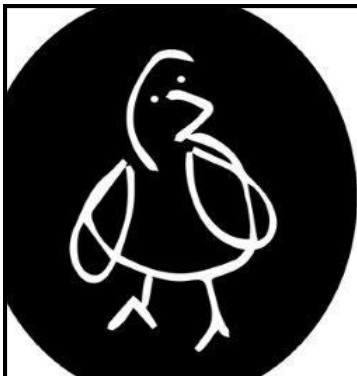
The WHS Visual Art program has three teachers and about 200 students. If you would like to see examples of award-winning designs from the WHS Visual Art department, then visit website <http://westburyhsfineartsdept.weebly.com/art.html>



The Westbury Civic Club, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, and the Westbury Community Garden greatly appreciate the creativity and beauty which these high school art students have contributed to our Westbury neighborhood.

This year the WHS Visual Arts program received about \$1,500 dollars to spend on art supplies for 200 students. This is \$7.50 per student to spend on art supplies. Unfortunately, paints and chalks and pencils and other art supplies are consumable products and cannot be re-used.

The WCC and the WAIC each will donate a modest sum to the WHS Visual Art program in recognition of the positive contribution these students have made to Westbury. If you would like to help the WHS Visual Art Department with a tax-deductible donation, please send your donation to the WCC office with a check made out to "WAIC". Write "donation to WHS Visual Arts Dept" on the check memo line.



Are you looking for a reliable dog walker or pet sitter for while you are at work or on vacation??

Boon Pet Care
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As Westbury residents, we are committed to taking the very best care of our neighbors' loved ones.

Check out our website for pricing and details: www.booncare.com
Or contact us today: booncare@gmail.com or 713.936.2623

Year-End Tax Deductible Donation

Looking for a Good Cause for Year End Tax-Deductible Donations?

Stop New Apartment Complex: Protect Westbury Community Garden Land for Public Greenspace

Negotiations have progressed favorably for us to purchase the 7-acre site of the Westbury Community Garden, but we have to raise the money to buy the land. This land has been leased for public use for more than 30 years. What future do you prefer for these seven acres – build apartments on it next to an existing huge apartment complex with hundreds of vacancies **OR** rescue this flourishing land to keep it public and green forever? We think the choice is clear, and we are working to raise the money to buy the land from the Houston Housing Authority. We know that folks in Westbury and in Houston care deeply about our youth and our public lands. **We ask for your help.** Families, scouts, schoolchildren, and people from across Houston come to the Westbury Community Garden land to learn about growing healthy veggies and orchard plants, see bees and butterflies, and learn how to build raised garden beds and compost bins. Our future vision is to expand the garden, create a tree farm to grow trees for planting here in Westbury, and hopefully have a farm stand where people can buy fresh food from our organic gardeners.

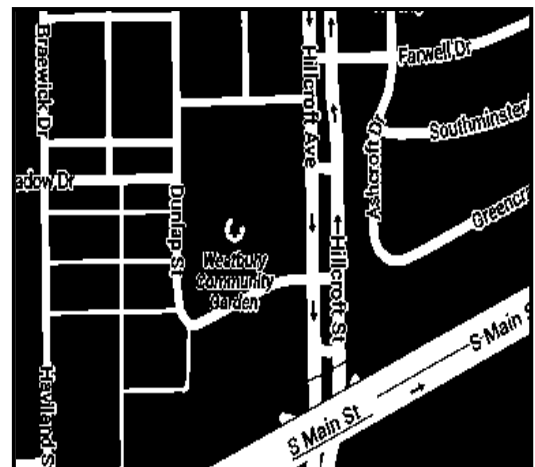
We would like to raise at least \$50,000 by the end of this year. Our goal is to raise \$500,000 in total.

We thank all the residents who have already contributed to this effort. To date we have raised \$15,000. Help us rescue this land from being paved over for an unnecessary apartment complex. Use our online donation website to donate by credit card or PayPal, or mail your tax deductible donation to the WAIC-Westbury Land Acquisition at 5322 W Belfort, Ste. 107 Houston, TX 77035 (Write: Westbury Land Acquisition in the memo line).



Help Save Our 7 Acre Greenspace		
Attached is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____	Donations of any amount (small or large) are welcomed and appreciated!	
Name:	GIVING CATEGORIES	
Address:	Contributor	\$100
Email:	Sustainer	\$250
Mailing Address for Donation receipt (if different)	Sponsor	\$500
	Steward	\$1000
	Benefactor	\$5000+
	Other	
<p>Checks should be made payable to WAIC – Westbury Land Acquisition</p> <p>Send donations to the Westbury Civic Club, 5322 W. Belfort St., Suite 107, Houston, TX 77035</p>		

WHERE IS THE GARDEN?



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WAIC Welcomes New Board Members

On November 20th, the non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation updated its bylaws and board of directors. Three new members have joined the Board. **Ralph Rieger** is the President of the non-profit Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and owns and operates an accounting business in Westbury. **Marcia Hartman** is the leader of the Westbury Community Garden and is Vice President of the Westbury Civic Club. Marcia and her husband have retired from their local insurance business. **Wayne Murray** is a resident of Westbury and runs a local realty business with his wife Jackie. Wayne was instrumental in the formation of WAIC in its early years and we are pleased that he is rejoining the board. All three of the new WAIC board members are active in the community and bring valuable connections and business expertise to the WAIC board.

WAIC Officers are: President - Cindy Chapman, Vice President – David Roschke, Secretary - Edith Smith, Treasurer - Margaret Greene, and Past-President – Dabney Kennedy.

The WAIC is working to increase its visibility in the community and online. We hope to build a website soon, but in the meantime, you can learn more about us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Westbury37WAIC

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- *Website Design and Development
- *Fundraising Expertise—Help assist with \$500,000 to purchase the 7 acre land

WAIC & SN #37 MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

*Francis Brooks, Asst Principal at WHS, spoke about the magnet program cancellation at WHS.

*A committee was formed to work on WHS and HISD issues, specifically the Magnet Program cancelation at WHS

*Motion was made to donate \$100 to the WHS Art Club in recognition of the student’s hard work at the Westbury Community Garden

*Lori Frodine spoke about Parker’s new building and the planning committee. The architect chosen for the project has expertise in musical programs and acoustic designs. *Look in upcoming Criers for more information regarding the rebuilding of Parker Elementary.*

The WAIC will not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Jan. 15.

Remodeling your home? Adding On?

Remember, please let the Westbury Civic Club office look over your proposed plans before you start construction. We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen, and without a doubt **you** would like to find out before wasting money on construction that later has to be modified or demolished. Obtaining a city construction permit requires your written acknowledgment that the plans comply with your deed restrictions.

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Crime/Security

DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR

No matter how many times we hear this advice, it always bears repeating. Cars at parks have always been targets for thieves and our Westbury parks are no exception. Don't leave your purse, diaper bag, computer bag, etc. in the car. It only takes seconds for a thief to smash your car window, steal your stuff, and be gone. And surprisingly, it doesn't make much noise. More than one Westbury park visitor has found a car window broken and valuables stolen. Don't let it happen to you.

DO NOT HAVE PACKAGES LEFT ON YOUR FRONT PORCH

Thieves have been plaguing our neighborhood as well as surrounding neighborhoods by driving around and looking for packages left on front porches. One resident reports that they felt that the thieves were actually following the delivery trucks. We reported last month that one resident watched in disbelief as a thief jumped out of his car, ran to a front porch facing Willowbend, grabbed a package, and was back to the getaway car before observer even had a chance to get the license number.

Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37*

30 days preceding November 17, 2013

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
Burglary	6	2	1	0	9
Theft	8	6	4	3	21
Auto Theft	3	1	3	0	7
Robbery	1	2	3	1	7
Assault	3	2	2	0	7
Rape	0	1	0	0	1
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	14	13	4	52

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

WAP Constable Dispatch 281-463-6666



Block	Street	Crime
11100	Ashcroft	Burglary
11600	Ashcroft	Theft
12100	Atwell	Auto Theft
12300	Atwell	Robbery
11100	Braewick	Assault
11700	Braewick	Burglary
5600	Cerritos	Burglary
5800	Creekbend	Burglary

Single Family Residential Crime Locations (30 days preceding 11/17/13)

Block	Street	Crime
11000	Doud	Theft
5400	Dryad	Auto Theft
5800	Duxbury	Theft
5800	Firenza	Theft
5200	Kingfisher	Theft
12000	Landsdowne	Theft
12100	Landsdowne	Theft
5900	Lattimer	Assault

Block	Street	Crime
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5000	Redstart	Burglary
6100	W Airport	Assault
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Run-off Election: December 14

VOTE—Election Run-off for Two At-Large Council Seats

The City run-off election is December 14th. Polling locations will be announced.

Westbury residents can be proud that we had some of the highest voter participation in the city. **According to a recent study, Texas ranks last or close to last in civic participation, but that's not true for Westbury!** An amazing 87% of Harris county residents did not vote. Of the 1076 precincts, only 45 had turnout above 30% and another 146 precincts had turnout in the 20 to 29% range.

The highest voter turnout percentage was 39.11% and that was in precinct #403, which Westbury voters share with Maplewood South.

Westbury residents voted in numbers far greater than the 13.21% countywide vote, as can be seen in the chart below.

What this means to Westbury residents is that our votes do count. The Westbury community is

respected by politicians because our residents are aware of civic issues and we vote. We urge all eligible Westbury residents to vote in the December 14 runoff. If eligible, you can vote in December even if you did not vote during the November general city election. There are 2 at-large positions city council positions in the election. The League of Women Voters is a great resource to evaluate candidates. These at-large council positions DO matter because the successful candidates will represent all residents of Houston. Let's show them Westbury cares!

Many thanks to the hardworking poll workers and precinct judges who put in

long hours during the early voting and Election Day proceedings. Westbury appreciates you all!



VOTE DECEMBER 14

PRECINCT	REGISTERED VOTERS	ACTUAL VOTERS	% WHO VOTED	RANK IN VOTING AMONG PRECINCTS
14: Parker Elementary	1850	627	34	Top 5%
146: Platou Community Center	1957	607	31	Top 5%
291: Houston Christian Fellowship	1225	382	31	Top 5%
293: Anderson	1738	519	30	Top 5%
281: Kolter Elementary	2607	1000	38	Top 5%
403: Westbury Baptist Church	1690	661	39	Top 5%
693: Braeswood Assembly of God	655	156	24	Top 20%
453: Spanish United Pentecostal	1896	232	12	Average
22: Foerster Elementary	2425	308	13	Average

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2014 Westbury Civic Club Dues		*Please send this form in with your payment		
Name(s)	_____			
Address	_____			
Home Phone	Work	Cell		
_____	_____	_____		
E-mail	_____			
Make checks payable to: Westbury Civic Club, Inc. Mail to: P.O. Box 975182 Dallas, TX 75397-5182 Online payment: paypal.com—Send Money to westburycc@sbcglobal.net Make sure to include your address or account number	Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$40	\$	
	Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$	
	Westbury Area Patrol	\$230	\$	
	Subtotal	\$295	\$	
	Additional Contributions:			
	Westbury Civic Club		\$	
	Greenspace Beautification		\$	
	Westbury Area Patrol		\$	
	Westbury HPD Storefront		\$	
	Total		\$	
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Remodeling your home? Adding On?

Remember, please let the Westbury Civic Club office look over your proposed plans before you start construction.

We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen. Did you know that Westbury 2 and Westbury 3 have a 25 foot rear setback for the main structure? Did you know that there is a minimum percentage of brick that must be on your home? Did you know that you can't build in front of your building line? We want to help you! We want you to find out about possible violations before it costs you money and time. Several homeowners in the past couple years have had to tear down and/or modify their construction due to deed restriction violations. Obtaining a city construction permit requires your written acknowledgment that the plans comply with your deed restrictions.

NextDoor.com

NextDoor is a private social network where Westbury neighbors pass along crime and security information, neighbor to neighbor, and other community information. Although this site is not maintained or operated by the Westbury Civic Club, more and more Westbury residents are signing up for the service. Note that each member of NextDoor must verify their address to join. HPD has recently announced that it will be posting on Nextdoor.

If interested, Sign up at <https://westburytx.nextdoor.com>

WESTBURY SQUARE STATUS

The City's litigation over the Westbury Square dilapidated buildings is now at an end. The Texas Supreme Court ruled that the City's Building to Standard Commission orders against the dilapidated buildings remaining within Westbury Square are final and can be demolished. The current owner of the decayed buildings has until November 25 to suspicious vehicles and people obtain demolition permits and begin demolition of those buildings.

However, the owner has until February 10, 2014, to completely demolish both buildings. Even though the owner will seek an extension of the repair order entered against the theatre building, once an extension is granted, an inspector from the City's Public Works and Engineering Dept. will perform the requisite inspections to determine what repairs are needed. After all repairs are made, the owner can request a Certificate of Compliance to have the repair order released. The City Legal Dept. will check for permits and continue to monitor progress to ensure demolition progresses relative to the timetable discussed with the owner.

The Department of Neighborhoods, which heads the Neighborhood Protection Division, has been alerted and given a "heads up" that, if satisfactory progress has not been made in November, the Dept. will need to find an available funding source and process these buildings for demolition. The District K office will continue to keep us posted on this evolving development.

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WHS Magnet Program Cancelled

The Magnet program at Westbury High School has been cancelled by HISD.

This situation about the WHS Magnet Program affects the Westbury community, regardless of whether you have a school-aged child or which school your child currently attends. It is vital to the Westbury Community that the high school, which shares our name, continues on its path to become a school of choice with a stellar reputation.

For many years, Westbury residents and community leaders begged HISD to create a Fine Arts Magnet program at WHS to allow local students who have participated in the excellent Music Magnet program at Parker Elementary (or nearby Lovett Elementary) and the excellent Fine Arts Magnet program at Johnston Middle School to be able to continue with an outstanding Fine Arts Magnet program at WHS. HISD finally agreed to allow a Fine Arts Magnet at WHS just a few short years ago and the program has been growing.

We see the WHS Fine Arts Magnet program as vital to attracting both ZONED and NON-ZONED students to WHS; however, HISD has cancelled the WHS Fine Arts program. Next year (2014-2015 school year) HISD will eliminate magnet bus transportation to WHS. HISD eliminated all magnet funding for WHS. Why? Because HISD is only looking at how many NON-ZONED students participate in the program. We believe that HISD has not considered the full picture of the situation.

1. The WHS Fine Arts Magnet program is young and growing. WHS has not yet hired a Strings instructor, despite the well-known Strings programs at Parker and Johnston. We believe there is room for significant growth of student enrollment in the WHS Fine Arts Magnet program.

2. HISD has not considered that it is reasonable and desirable for a Fine Arts magnet program to be available for local high students who have been enrolled in high quality Fine Arts programs since they were in elementary school and who prefer to attend a local comprehensive high school rather than a specialized high school devoted to the Fine Arts.

3. Furthermore, we believe that HISD was not aware that the Westbury community will be the location of a new Levitt Pavilion (see page 18), a new outdoor venue for the performing arts, because the Levitt Pavilion formal announcement was made on November 12, 2013 – **AFTER HISD had made its magnet decision.** The selection of the Westbury area / Willow Waterhole Nature Reserve by the national Levitt Pavilion Foundation was partly based on its proximity to Westbury High School.

4. The Levitt Pavilion will be bringing 50 free, high quality outdoor performances each year to the Westbury area. It makes sense to us that having a Fine Arts Magnet program at WHS is a natural fit with the new Levitt Pavilion. WHS will be the closest public school to the Levitt Pavilion.

Although fine arts at WHS will continue even if the magnet program is discontinued, the lack of transportation and the decrease in funding will be detrimental to the fine arts programs at WHS and also be detrimental to general funding of WHS if school enrollment drops. A loss of enrollment could cause the school to lay-off teachers in the Fine Arts Department.

We believe that a strong Magnet Program at WHS is vital. We are continuing dialogue with WHS and HISD. We are hopeful that our new HISD Trustee, Wanda Adams, will be helpful in this effort when she takes office in 2014. We will have more information about how you can help Westbury High School and the status of programming at WHS in future editions of the *Crier*.

Becky Edmondson, President of the Westbury Civic Club
Cindy Chapman, President of the Westbury Area Improvement Corp.



HISD Board Votes to Expand WHS Property

Great News! On November 14, the Trustees of the Houston Independent School District (HISD) voted to give "Authority to finalize negotiations for purchase and approval of resolutions for the initiation of eminent domain procedures, if necessary, for the acquisition of property to expand the **Westbury High School site**".

The property is to be used for a public purpose, including "additional grounds for public school building(s) and appurtenances or additions thereto, playgrounds, athletic fields, green space, and/or parks in connection therewith".

Westbury High School Sponsors Band Night

The Parker Advanced Band performed at Butler Stadium on October 25, 2013, at the invitation of the Westbury High School Band. Bands from Welch MS and Fondren MS were also invited to perform. The performance was at half time during the WHS football game. Parker band students, wearing Band Night t-shirts given to them by WHS, reprised their pieces from Parker's recent FunFest (on October 19) and also performed several songs with the WHS Band. Band students performed from the stands. Performing in the open air is so different from a closed space. The music soared into the sky to glorious heights!

Parker and WHS Jazz Band director Al Campbell said, "We (Parker musicians) watched the performance from the field to give them a view of how a performance looks from standing on the field. We wanted to give them the total experience of a marching band in the stands and on the field. It was a great night for all schools that attended."



Westbury Power Of One

The Power of One 2013

Last December I had an article "the Power of One" about what a difference one person can make. So many people work tirelessly on behalf of Westbury with their only compensation being the satisfaction of doing what needed to be done. I am pleased to announce the 2nd annual "Power of One" award winner. I could think of no more fitting candidate than Rita Woodward.

Rita Woodward is a power house of energy packed into a small package. She is a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother. All three of her daughters attended WHS in the 1970s. She joined the PTO while her granddaughter attended WHS in the 1990s and saw the incredible amount of work that needed to be done to bring WHS back to the school she remembered from the 1970s. To that end in 1992 she founded the all-volunteer Friends of Westbury High School Foundation. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation funded by the generous support of Westbury alumni, friends and business partners. The Foundation has raised over \$200,000 and awarded 180+ scholarships to Westbury High students from 1994 through 2013. Not only was she the founder, but 21 years later at the

age of 86 she was still the powerhouse behind the 2013 gala.

Another goal and objective of the Friends group is the "enhancement and expansion" of the WHS campus. When the new Hollingsworth Science Center was built nearby, Rita lobbied to have the old "frog farm" building torn down. In its place sits the beautiful Rita Woodward Environmental Park, which was dedicated in April of 2008. She would also like to see the campus expanded from 25 to 50 acres. To that end she lobbied to have the apartment complex adjacent to the school torn down and HISDs first ninth grade academy was housed there. She also dreams of a permanent ninth grade academy to replace the portable buildings and an athletic complex complete with a natatorium. She dreams of the rest of the dilapidated apartments being torn down to make way for her dream. The difference is that when Rita dreams she backs it up with tenacity, fortitude, volunteerism and a can do spirit that is indefatigable. Her passion to reform the school, and the area, is clear.

But her passion isn't just confined to this one area; Rita is a long time board member of the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation; she was the chair of SW



Houston 2000s annual band concert; she works with the Brays Oaks Management District and over the years has held many positions in educational, environmental, police and civic organizations. I can't imagine what Westbury High School would be like without Rita Woodward's strong advocacy all these years. As principals and school boards changed, one constant voice could be heard: Rita's sweet voice. Perhaps even more remarkable than her many accomplishments is the fact that Rita is just one terrific person who always has a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. Rita, we thank you for your years of service and for showing us all what can be done.

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Levitt Pavilion Coming to Westbury

Levitt Pavilion Houston – What is It?

Levitt Pavilions exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. We partner with cities to transform neglected outdoor spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of FREE, live music brings people together and invigorates community life. The six current Levitt locations are: Westport, CT; Los Angeles, CA; Pasadena, CA; Arlington, TX; Memphis, TN; and Bethlehem, PA. A seventh location is being developed in Denver. More than half a million people experience the joy of Levitt each year. Levitt Pavilion venues feature open lawn seating, state-of-the-art lighting and sound, and a family-friendly vibe. To learn more about the Levitt program, please visit www.levittpavilions.org.

Levitt Pavilion Houston will present 50 free, family-friendly concerts every year in a welcoming, outdoor setting for Greater Houston, home to a population of over six million people. When the sustainably designed venue opens in 2017, it will be able to accommodate up to 5,000 nightly concertgoers for a broad range of high quality concerts featuring acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning performers.

This is such an exciting development for many reasons. When Levitt Pavilion

Houston opens, it will be the second Levitt venue in Texas after Levitt Pavilion Arlington, which opened in 2008 and has experienced phenomenal success. It will also be the first Levitt venue to be part of a site dedicated to natural resource conservation. While Willow Waterhole provides needed green space for the neighborhood, it also helps Houston reduce flood damage via stormwater detention basins in the park. This means that Levitt Pavilion Houston will be providing free, live music for all Houstonians AND contributing to a safer, greener and more resilient community! The Levitt Pavilion stage will be built near the corner of Gasmer and S. Post Oak, down the road from Westbury High School.

The Levitt Pavilions Foundation is



honored to partner with the City of Houston and the community of Southwest Houston to create a new, vibrant destination for all to enjoy. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements in the



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Levitt Pavilion Coming to Westbury

Levitt Pavilion Announced

On Tuesday November 12, 2013, a formal announcement was made that a Levitt Pavilion is coming to Houston - and better yet, to Westbury! The breakfast event "Levitt Pavilions:

Transforming America's Cities Through Music" was jointly sponsored by Southwest Houston 2000 and the Brays Oaks



Management District. Houston Baptist University was the event host.

Guest speaker at the breakfast was Sharon Yazowski, Executive Director of Levitt Pavilions. The event emcee was Andy Cerota of KPRC. A highlight of the breakfast was a short video featuring the national Levitt Pavilions Foundation and the proposed location in Houston. Following the presentation, Vincent Stasio made a contribution to the Houston Levitt Pavilion on behalf of the Knights of Columbus - Council 3910, based at St. Thomas More Catholic Church on Hillcroft.

Westbury Welcomes Levitt Pavilion Houston!

(Reprinted from the brochure printed by the Brays Oaks Management District to introduce Levitt Pavilion Houston)

A bustling center for civic and environmental activism, the Westbury neighborhood was recently described "as one of Houston's most impressive comebacks" by *Houstonia* magazine in its 2013 list of Houston's "25 Hottest Neighborhoods". The Westbury Civic Club (WCC) represents the 5,000 single-family homes. The Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC), a non-profit corporation, represents the businesses, schools, churches and the approximately 3,500 multi-family residences. Together these two organizations form the Westbury SuperNeighborhood Council.

Looking to build community and to hopefully create a climate for economic growth, the Westbury Super Neighborhood started a program, Working on Westbury (WOW), in 2004. The WCC received an award this year from Neighborhoods USA for its monthly newsletter *The Westbury Crier*. For more information, go to www.WestburyCrier.com. The WCC sponsors an annual "Trick or Tree" tree give-away and has given away more than 3,500 trees since 2006 and has won several awards from Trees for Houston. Started in 2010, the Westbury Community Garden has received awards from both Keep Houston Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful, and the garden continues to "Build Community through Gardening". Westbury volunteers or projects have also earned awards from Keep Houston Beautiful in 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2013. Current Westbury SuperNeighborhood projects include: raising funds to purchase the leased 7-acre site of the Westbury Community Garden, ongoing efforts to improve city parks and beautify public greenspaces, and advocacy on behalf of local schools.

Westbury has been involved since the conceptual planning phases for the stormwater detention site located in Westbury that has become the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve. The WCC, WAIC, Westbury schools, and residents of the Westbury SuperNeighborhood continue to work in partnership to support programs and events at Willow Waterhole. Parker Elementary, Johnston Middle School, Westbury Christian School, and Westbury High School serve the Westbury area and have acclaimed music and performing arts

programs which have been featured in concerts at Willow Waterhole.

The Levitt Pavilion is the culmination of Westbury's dreams to bring together these civic and environmental pieces to create this incredible venue. Creating community through music in this beautiful greenspace will be a transforming asset to not only Westbury but to the surrounding communities of Southwest Houston and beyond. Westbury and Southwest Houston have long needed an economic boost. With 50 free professional music events annually, the Levitt Pavilion is just the economic incubator that the community needs.



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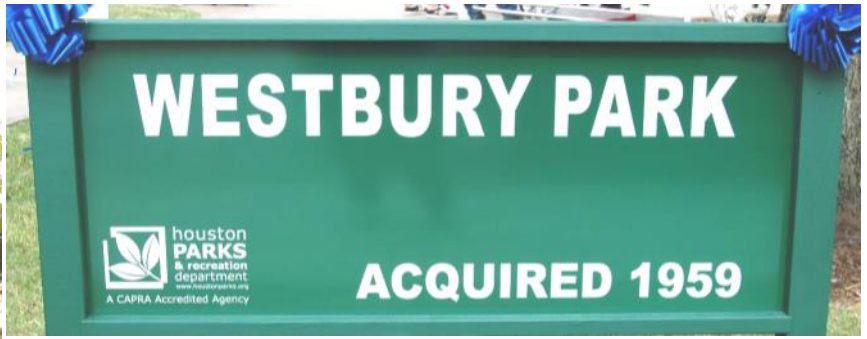
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On November 9, the Westbury Civic Club sponsored the Grand Opening Celebration of the Westbury Park playground near Parker Elementary. Over 1,000 people attended the 3 hour celebration! Outback Steakhouse sold out of hamburgers within an hour. It was a great event bringing out Westbury residents of all ages, young and old. Multiple generations came out to see the transformation of the park. The park renovation is complete! If you haven't been by to see the amazing changes, you are missing out! Come to the new Westbury Park Playground today. This was the first of many Community Days in the park.




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	Randy and Brenda Wright

Special Thanks to:

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Houston City Council Members	Mayor's Special Events Office
Houston Fire Department	Westbury Area Improvement Corp.
Houston Independent School District	Westbury Civic Club
Houston Parks and Recreation Dept	Westbury Community Volunteers

Thank You Westbury Volunteers!!!



Many people volunteered to make the celebration a great success. Bill Burhans, Melanie Rosen, Jennifer Edmondson, Joe and Marcie Nolan, John Keith, Kelley Burhans, Lach Mullen, Bruce Gilmour, Kelly Oswald, Christine Ellery, Jennifer Kuhleman & WHS Honor Society, Lily Burk, Westbury Soccer, Susan Brock, Chief Cindy Frank & the WHS Color Guard, Stella Perierra & the Mayors Special event office, Westbury community gardeners, The Westbury Civic Club directors: Becky Edmondson, Cindy Chapman, Carlos Mata, Marcia Hartman, Virginia Livingston and Charlsej Porcarello.



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