



Westbury Crier

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2019

Run-Off Election Saturday, DECEMBER 14 Make Your Voice Count!

The November election created a few winners, but most races are headed into a run-off election. Westbury, historically, has a high voter turnout. Let's continue this tradition with the Run Off Election on December 14. Early voting starts November 27. The Mayor and many City Council positions are still undecided. Get out and vote! Your voice will count!

For more information, see page 8.



Exciting News for Westbury City of Houston Purchased Property for Additional Detention and Levitt Pavilion

The City of Houston has officially purchased the 28-acre Shell Research facility property near the Willow Waterhole. This property will help mitigate flooding in the Westbury Community. On October 31, the City finalized the purchase and signed paperwork accepting the property on Gasmer Drive at the Willow Waterhole, alongside Mayor Turner and members of the Westbury community. For more information about this exciting purchase, see page 13.



RAILROAD QUIET ZONE IS BACK

After months of blaring train hours at all hours of the day, Westbury residents finally have their peace back. The Railroad Quiet Zone in Westbury is back into effect. The quiet zone was suspended due to safety issues that needed to be addressed and repaired by the City. The work was completed and the quiet zone was finally reinstated in late October. More about the quiet zone on page 14.



WESTBURY HOLIDAY EVENTS

Good Gifts Market

Saturday, December 7, 9AM-2PM

Westbury United Methodist, 5200 Willowbend

For more information, see page 11

"A Suessified Christmas Carol" - Dec. 7-21

"Scrooge Macbeth" - December 6-22

Company OnStage, 4930 W. Bellfort

For more information, see page 11



Houston Christmas Music Festival

Sunday, December 15, 7PM

Westbury United Methodist, 5200 Willowbend

For more information, go to www.houstonchristmasfest.com

Holiday Social Potluck

Wednesday, December 11, 11-1PM

Platou Community Center, 11655 Chimney Rock

For more information, see page 4

Deck the Halls Parade

Saturday, December 14, 5PM

Westbury 3—Burlinghall, Ashcroft, Warm Springs

Map of the Parade Route, page 11

YARD OF THE MONTH HOLIDAY JUDGING

Weekend of DECEMBER 14-15

WCC OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed: December 23-January 5

More info. on page 5

RECYCLING DATES

December 2019

Thursday, December 5

Thursday, December 19

January 2020

Thursday, January 2

Thursday, January 16

Thursday, January 30

HEAVY TRASH

December 2019

Thursday, December 12*

JUNK WASTE

January 2020

Thursday, January 9*

TREE WASTE ONLY

*These are the published scheduled dates by the City of Houston. We do not know if trash will actually be picked up on the scheduled date.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE *NEW ADDRESS

5322 W. Bellfort #100, Houston, TX 77035

Jennifer Edmondson.....WCC Office Manager

NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO DUES PAYING

WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appt.

CONTACT US

WCC Office Hours: Monday- Thursday, 9:30AM-1:30PM

Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

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, suspicious activity, and vacation watch

Emergency.....911

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

Southwest HPD Station832-394-0400

CITY OF HOUSTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Help & Information.....311

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

CENTERPOINT ENERGY

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

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

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

Make sure to give pole number

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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

Graffiti.....www.braysoaksmd.org

Shopping Cart Removal.....www.braysoaksmd.org

Brays Oaks Mgmt. District - Use “report a problem” link

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

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

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

2019-20 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Cindy Chapman

wccpresident@westburycrier.com

Vice President.....Marcia Hartman

Secretary.....Katherine Wingfield

Treasurer.....Becky Edmondson

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Communications.....VACANT

Community Relations.....Tony Robert

Deed Restrictions..... Ray Mora

Flood Control & Infrastructure.....Jennifer Edmondson

Greenspace Beautification.....Mat Funk

Membership.....Susan Brock

Security.....VACANT

Volunteer Coordinator.....Robert Ellis-Montgomery

SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 1.....Franny Oxford

Westbury 2.....Lauren Figard

Westbury 3.....Jeff Benavides

Westbury 3.....VACANT

Westbury 4.....Eugene Sirls

Westbury 4.....VACANT

Westbury 5.....Virginia Livingston

Westbury 5.....Donna Strom

Westbury South.....Brandon Richard

Parkwest 1..... Angie Furnari

Parkwest 2.....Jeffrey Weiss

Parkwest 3.....Lisa Placke

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Editor-In-Chief..... Jennifer Edmondson

Edited by.....WCC Publication Committee

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



Westbury Civic Club , Inc.

A Message from the Westbury Civic Club President

As I am writing this article, Thanksgiving is coming soon and December will be here in a hurry. It is astonishing that I have already completed a full year as President of the Westbury Club and am into my second year. Sometimes civic clubs and homeowner's associations get criticized or mocked, or people assume that it must be awful to be the President of the Westbury Civic Club. These negative attitudes are far from the truth. In early November, most of the volunteers who serve on the WCC board were available to participate in a training workshop at the WCC office. Your WCC board member volunteers listened carefully, asked good questions, looked at maps and historical photos about Westbury with interest and curiosity, and enjoyed spending a morning together. They left feeling positive about living in Westbury and being a board member of the Westbury Civic Club. We are #WestburyProud.

The Westbury Civic Club is a volunteer organization and most of our homes pay voluntary dues rather than mandatory assessments. We do not pay a property management company to run our affairs. We are self-managed (with the exception of paid professional services for payroll accounting, financial auditing / tax preparation, and legal advice), so we rely heavily on our volunteers. We owe all our volunteers a "thank you". Our one paid employee, Jennifer Edmondson, oversees all office functions while putting together our award-winning monthly newsletter and two White Elephant sales each year. It takes effort and time to serve 5,000 homes, so Westbury is fortunate that Jennifer has accumulated vast experience and knowledge over the years. The flooding in 2017 from Harvey and the ensuing problems with infrastructure plus

innumerable questions or complaints about city trash collection problems took a lot of office effort in 2017 and 2018 and into 2019. Luckily, these flood related problems have lessened, so the WCC plans to resume working on some long term projects which had been on hold since Harvey. The office and WCC volunteers continually advocate and work hard for the entire Westbury area on an array of issues.

There is a lot of exciting news for Westbury. First is that the railroad Quiet Zone in Westbury finally went back into effect and neighbors all over Westbury have been enjoying a good night's sleep free of incessant train whistles. Next is the great news that the City of Houston purchased the Shell Research Center land near the Willow Waterhole that will provide 28 acres of new public land for detention and park amenities. Read all about the land purchase on page 13.

December is always a special month in Westbury. There are many local events and activities for the whole family. Top of the list is the annual Deck the Halls Parade, which will be on Saturday, December 14. Look for the Westbury Civic Club in the parade! There are many local musical performances and plays listed on the front page and page 11. These local places and activities are part of what makes Westbury special.

Once again, Westbury voters voted at a higher rate for city elections in November than much of the city. Who represents us is important, so please make sure to vote in the run-off election on December 14. Early voting starts November 27 and continues through December 10. Read more about the Election on page 8.

Congratulations to District K Council Member Martha Castex-Tatum, who was one of the few city candidates who won outright in November and will not need a runoff. Most of Westbury is in District K and is represented by CM Castex-Tatum. Her office is very responsive to concerns. The District K office can be reached at 832-393-3016 or districtk@houston.tx.gov.

An important topic to pay attention to is the Houston Independent School District. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recently announced its decision to "take over" HISD. The TEA is selecting an appointed board that will be over the elected HISD trustees. Encourage good candidates to submit their names for consideration to this appointed board. Pay close attention to the process and goals established for this Advisory Board. The WCC will post updates in the Crier. The TEA held a meeting in Westbury about the selection process for the TEA appointed board. Read more about the TEA meeting on page 15.

As the year comes to a close, many of us celebrate the holidays. I wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah, or a simple Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

-Cindy Chapman



*CM Martha Castex-Tatum, WCC President
Cindy Chapman, Mayor Sylvester Turner, and
WAIC President Becky Edmondson at Shell Property
signing in October*

WCC Board Meeting Notes November 2019

- ◆ The Crier went to print before the November 20 WCC board meeting. The board notes from the November meeting will be in printed in the January edition of the Crier.
- ◆ The following positions are vacant on the WCC Board. If you are interested, please come to the next board meeting or contact the WCC Office.
2020 WCC Board Vacancies: Director of Communications, Director of Security, and Westbury 4 Section Director.
- ◆ There is NO WCC board meeting in December.
- ◆ The next WCC board meeting is on Wednesday, January 15 at 7PM at Westbury Baptist Church.

WCC Board Meeting Wed., January 15, 7PM Westbury Baptist Church 10425 Hillcroft



Platou Community Center at Chimney Rock Park

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



Weekly Classes/Groups

Stretching Exercise Class

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9-9:45AM
Improve flexibility in a non-strenuous exercise class.

Ms. BeeHaven Quilters

Tuesday, 10AM - 2PM
Contact Janie at 713-721-5526

Table Games

Wednesday, 10AM - 12:30PM
Take a chance at Dominoes, Card Games, and more!

Line Dancing

Monday, 1PM
Come for a fun and unique exercise alternative.

Table Tennis

Wednesday, 3-7PM
All ages and abilities welcome.

Evening Aerobics Exercise Class

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-7PM
Call the Platou Center at 713-726-7107 to register.

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Tuesdays 5:45PM-7PM
A Weight Loss Support Group. Drop in to preview or call Dorothy -713-723-4441 or Naomi -713-988-2233

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE PLATOU CENTER

You Too Can Make a Felted Creature

December 10, 10AM-1PM
Come learn to work with wool to make felted objects on Tuesday, December 10, from 10AM to 1PM. Materials are provided. Picture to the right is of felted owls. Call Platou at 713-726-7107 to register.



December Family Fun Day

December 14, 10AM-2PM
Bring the whole family out and make bird feeders with pinecones and seeds. Please note: the Platou Center might be an Election site on this date so the event may be postponed.

Holiday Social Potluck

December 11, 11AM—1PM
Open to all, everyone is invited. It is a potluck lunch, so bring a dish to share! After lunch we will take a group picture and have a White Elephant Gift Exchange for fun. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped gift of something inexpensive, useful or edible. Joke gifts are okay, too.

Toys for Tots: Please bring a new unwrapped toy. For more information, please call 713-726-7107.

Meyer Library News

➔ **Meyer Library CLOSED Indefinitely**
The Meyer Library has long been on the City's replacement list and after minor flooding in Harvey, the decision was made to not re-open Meyer Library.

➔ **The City purchased land in Westbury for the new location of the library.**

The City purchased land in Westbury for a new Meyer Library. The new location will be at the site of the old Post Office in Westbury on Belrose. Stay tuned to future editions of the *Westbury Crier* for more information about the new library. We expect public meetings to be coming soon.



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Donna Strom

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donna@camelothouston.com

What's Happening in Westbury

December 2019 Calendar Events/Meetings

Sat 7	Good Gifts Market Westbury United Methodist, 5200 Willowbend See page 11 for more information	9AM-2PM
Wed 11	Holiday Social Potluck Platou Center, 11655 Chimney Rock See page 4 for more information	11AM-1PM
Sat 14	Deck the Halls Parade See page 11 for more information	5PM
Sat 14	Holiday Judging—Yard of the Month Get your decorations out!!!	
Sun 15	Houston Christmas Music Festival Westbury United Methodist, 5200 Willowbend See page 1 for more information	7PM
Mon 16	No Brays Bayou Association Meeting in December Next meeting is January 20	
Wed 18	No WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting in December Next meeting is January 15	
Wed 18	No WCC Board Meeting in December Next meeting is January 15	
Sat 21	No Audubon Society Bird Survey in December	
Tues 24	NO SW PIP Meeting in December	
Dec 23- Jan 5	WCC Office Closed	

All About Trash

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



Household Trash & Yard Waste

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

December 2019

January 2020

Thursday, December 5

Thursday, January 2

Thursday, December 19

Thursday, January 16

Thursday, January 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.

December 2019

January 2020

JUNK WASTE

TREE WASTE ONLY

Thursday, December 12

Thursday, January 9

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- ♻️ Regular trash pickup is every Thursday. Recycling is every other Thursday. Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- ♻️ Westbury is on Recycle Schedule A
- ♻️ NO 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
- ♻️ Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- ♻️ Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers: **SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr**
10785 SW Frwy / Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM; Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables.
- ♻️ **Environmental Service Center** - 11500 S. Post Oak
Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM. Accepts Hazardous Household & Electronic Waste.
- ♻️ GLASS: May be recycled at Westbury United Methodist, 5200 Willowbend, in the orange container near W. Bellfort.
- ♻️ Refer to www.westburycrier.com or www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information



WCC OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS



December 23– January 5: WCC Office will be not be open. Voicemail and email will be checked periodically.

Phone: 713-723-5437

Email: Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

Happy Holidays from the WCC Office!

Happy New Year!

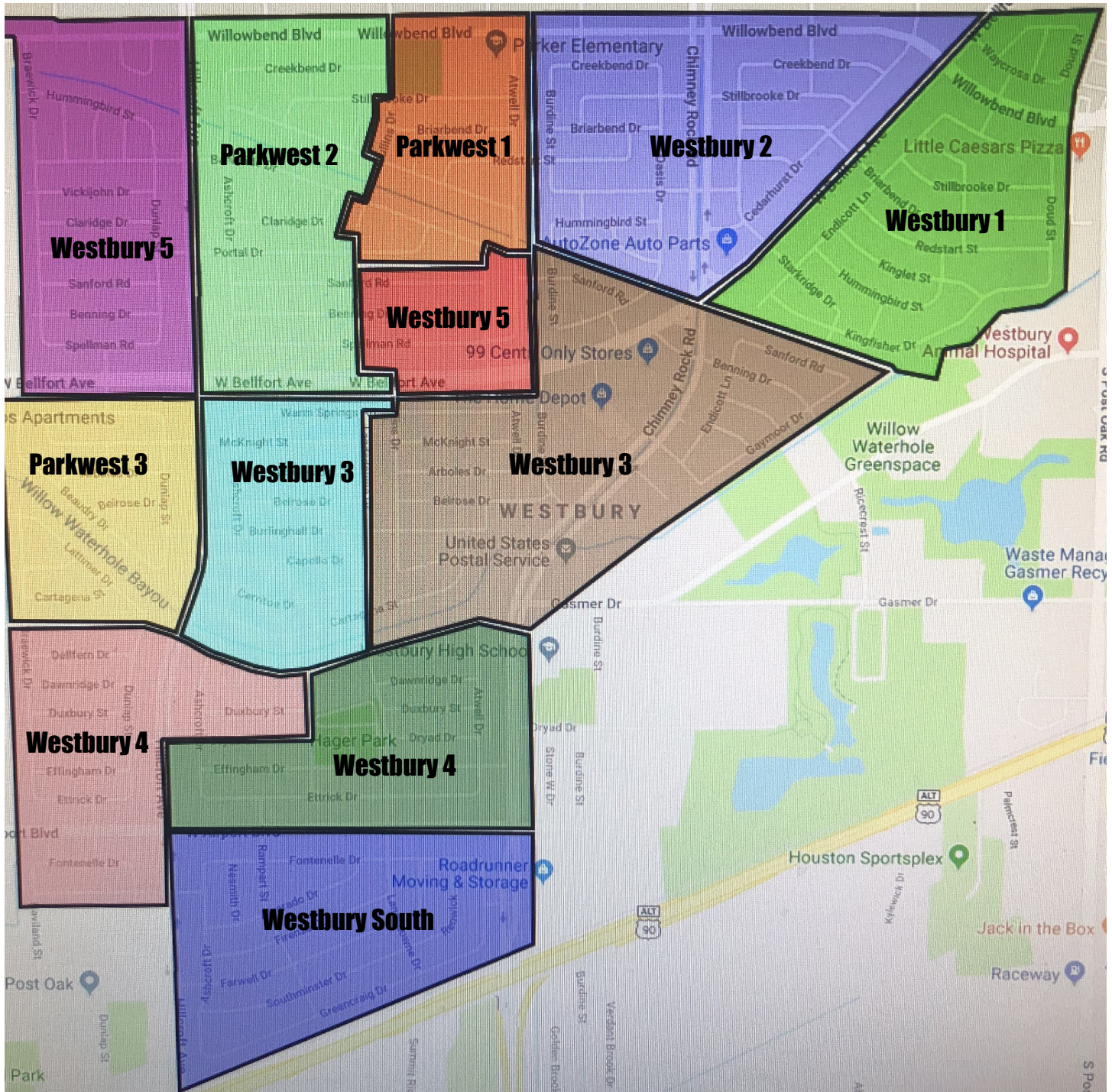
Planning Calendar

HISD Winter Break

Dec. 23, 2019-Jan. 5, 2020





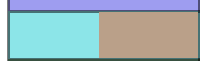






Map of Westbury by Section



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. This handy map can also be found on our website, www.westburycrier.com.

Westbury History
 Due to the Westbury deed restrictions stating that “no residential lot may be used for commercial purposes”; garage sales are not allowed. Faced with the dilemma of what to do about garage sales, the Westbury Civic Club came up with an alternative plan in July of 1964 to host twice a year Westbury White Elephant Sales making this the 55th year and our 110th sale! Come to the next White Elephant Sale!

	Parkwest 1	198 homes
	Parkwest 2	443 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

2020 Westbury Civic Club Dues, Assessments, & Westbury Area Patrol

Please send this form in with your payment **2020 Westbury Civic Club Dues**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Please support the Westbury Civic Club and our programs by paying your 2020 Dues and WAP. The majority of Westbury homes do not have mandatory assessments so the WCC relies on donations from residents to run the office, pay for the Constable program, and more. Please use the form to the left and send in your payment today! If you have any questions, please call the WCC office at 713-723-5437.

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

Westbury Civic Club Dues	\$50	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$285	\$
Subtotal	\$335	\$
Additional Contributions:		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Total		\$

Want to send your support in multiple payments?

You may choose any amount to pay in any increment throughout the year.

Here are a few examples:
 2 payments of \$167.50 is \$335/yr
 3 payments of \$111.67 is \$335/yr
 4 payments of \$83.75 is \$335/yr
 5 payments of \$67 is \$335/yr

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

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

Why do my dues go to Dallas? Is this correct?
 Yes, this is correct! Mailing your payments directly to our bank's processing center in Dallas, allows them to be processed immediately.
 You may also drop off the payment directly to the WCC Office.

Mission of the WCC

The purposes of the Westbury Civic Club are to improve the appearance of the Westbury area and promote the civic, cultural educational, health, and general welfare of the residents of the Westbury and Parkwest subdivisions in Harris County, Texas

- Why Should I Pay My Dues? What are the Benefits?**
- ➔ Protects your investment in your home by keeping Westbury a strong and vibrant neighborhood.
 - ➔ Keeps the doors of the Civic Club office open and staffed.
 - ➔ Protects your home and family with the Westbury Area Patrol, Constable Pct 5.
 - ➔ Improves the looks of our esplanades, parks, and green spaces.
 - ➔ Advocates for City services and infrastructure improvements
 - ➔ Hosts two White Elephant Community Garage Sale events each year
 - ➔ Organizes community get togethers such as National Night Out and Keep Westbury Beautiful

ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2 HOMEOWNERS
 Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments. **The 2020 Mandatory Assessments of \$246.75 are due 2/1/2020. Invoices will be sent in December.**

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 Patios • Decks • Fences



RUN-OFF ELECTION – SAT., DECEMBER 14

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

Voting locations may change up until Election Day.

For sample ballots, locations, go to www.harrisvotes.org

Sample Ballot for Run-Off Election

City of Houston Mayor

- Sylvester Turner
 Tony Buzbee

City Council Members

District C (for some Westbury residents)

- Abbie Kamin
 Shelley Kennedy

At-Large 1

- Mike Knox
 Raj Salhotra

At-Large 2

- David W. Robinson
 Willie R. Davis

At-Large 3

- Michael Kubosh
 Janaeya Carmouche

At-Large 4

- Anthony Dolcefino
 Letitia Plummer

At-Large 5

- Eric Dick
 Sally Alcorn

What is on the Ballot?

City of Houston Mayor
 Houston Council Member District C (for some Westbury residents)
 ALL five Houston City At-Large Council Members

What is Needed to Vote in Person?

The State of Texas requires voters to have an acceptable form of identification to be able to vote in person. There are 7 acceptable forms of Identification, including a Texas Driver's License and a US passport. Go to HarrisVotes.org for more information.

When is Early Voting?

Early voting starts November 27 and runs through December 10.
 November 27, 7AM-7PM
 December 2-7, 7AM-7PM
 December 8, 1-6PM
 December 9-10, 7AM-7PM

Where is Early Voting?

Locations were not available at the time of the Crier printing.
 Check harrisvotes.org for locations.

Where Do You Vote on Election Day?

Anywhere! A NEW program initiated by Harris County Clerk, Diane Trautman, will allow any eligible voter in Harris County to vote at ANY county polling place in Harris County, including at your local precincts. The priority is convenience for the voter. This means that on Election Day (Tuesday, November 5), voters can vote near where they work, live, or go to school in Harris County and not just at their local precinct.

BE A PART OF THE ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

For an application and/or more information about STM,
 please visit our website stthomasmore-school.org

Private tours can be arranged by calling the school office
 713.729.3434

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- ◇ Grades Pre-K through 8th Grade
- ◇ Full Day and Half Day Pre-K Programs
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5927 Wigton Dr. Houston 77096



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DID YOU VOTE?

Editorial by Becky Edmondson

I've been looking at the election numbers and they always make me a little sad. What does it say for the future of our city, our state, our country that almost 78% of registered Houstonians don't vote? That's a pathetically apathetic situation. I'm thinking about "No taxation without representation" in the eighteenth century; about Susan B. Anthony and the Women's Suffrage Movement that started in the 19th century; about the Civil Rights movement and the eradication of the poll tax in the 20th century. So now here in the 21st century, 75 % of the population can't be bothered to exercise this right that was so hard fought to win? My grandmother was born in 1892 and she relished her right to vote. My parents were proud voters.

I'm know I'm preaching to the choir here in Westbury, where traditionally we vote at about a 40% rate. But that still means more than half your neighbors that ARE registered to vote choose not to vote. Precinct 14 (Parker ES) again was the winner for Westbury precincts at 43%. Our others: 146 at 38%; 291 at 31%; and 293 at 33%. We share precincts with other neighborhoods and those ranged from 44% (281); 43% (403) 19% (453) and 19% (022).

For precincts that vote at twice the city rate that's like having your vote count twice. If you didn't vote in the first election, you can still vote in the runoff. This is an important election as the mayor and all five at-large council seats are on the ballot along with the District C council seat for those of you north of Willowbend.

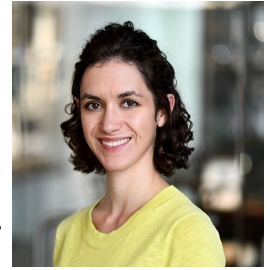
I would absolutely love to see a Westbury precinct vote at above 50%! Early voting starts November 27 and runs through December 10. Election day is December 14. Remember on Election Day you can vote ANYWHERE in Harris county. It is very easy to vote! Apply for a Ballot By Mail by December 3.

Westbury precincts have almost 7,000 registered voters and only 2,487 people voted. More than half of you stayed home. Won't you please consider joining me to exercise this very important right?

GET TO KNOW YOUR WCC BOARD Lauren Figard

Westbury 2 Section Director

After considering many neighborhoods all over Houston, Lauren and her husband, Dan, moved to Westbury in 2018 because they felt it was a good place to raise their family. They were attracted to the ranch-style homes, good schools and parks, close-knit community, and easy access to the rest of the city. Lauren's educational and professional background is in biomedical research. She completed her Ph.D. in Molecular and Biomedical Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine. Lauren currently stays at home with her two young children. She is very excited to get to know the neighbors and community better as a member of the WCC board.



Ray Mora

Parkwest 2 Section Director

Back in January 2007, Ray and his wife bought a house in Parkwest 2, to be closer to her work. It was not meant to be their retirement home, but as it turned out, it may now be for Ray. He has come to really like the neighborhood, people, and great location. Now that he is fully retired, Ray felt it was time to take a more active role in the welfare of our community. Ray is really thankful to have been selected to be on the WCC Board. Having served in other neighborhoods in the same capacity, he hopes to bring some experience. Ray says that he sees a lot of potential in our neighborhood, and hopes he can help to keep Westbury a good place to live.



WCC Board Learns About Westbury

In November, WCC board members met at the WCC office for a board training session. Board members got an office tour, viewed historic photos and maps, and learned about Westbury's decades of great history. Board members also learned about their responsibilities as representatives of the neighborhood and its residents. The WCC Board plans on holding several more board training sessions and further opportunities for residents to learn more about the neighborhood and the Civic Club.



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Licensed Realtors Angela Furnari & Lonnie Parker
Over 15 Yrs Combined Experience - Westbury Residents 10 Yrs



Parker Family Realty Team is a TREC registered team of the Champions RE Group brokerage, supervised by Brokers Adriana & Ignacio Osorio.



GIVING TUESDAY DECEMBER 3

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

What is “Giving Tuesday”? “Giving Tuesday” is a worldwide movement to encourage giving and celebrate generosity. Many Westbury residents are generous and are looking for ways to make our community better. There are many

fine non-profit organizations in our area, but we would like to point out two specific projects that we believe are worthwhile. These projects are both sponsored by our community partner, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC), a local 501C3 nonprofit.

If you are on Facebook, it will be very easy to make a donation on the “WAIC Houston” page. Please consider making a donation, no matter how small, and please help us share information about the WAIC Houston fundraiser to your Facebook friends.

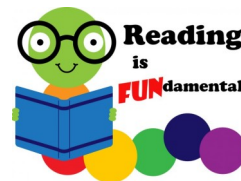
If you are not on Facebook and would like to donate by check, you can mail your donation to the WAIC at the address below (same street address as the Westbury Civic Club). Checks are payable to the WAIC. Please note which project you are donating to. Donations to the WAIC are tax-deductible.

Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC)
5322 West Bellfort, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77035



Anderson Elementary Library Project

Anderson Elementary, located in the heart of Westbury, is in the process of restoring its school library. If you are passionate about reading and its importance in educating young children, won't you consider a donation to Anderson? The school has a new principal this year and in our discussions with Dr. Everett, assisting the school to restore its library is a great community project. Let's help show some love for our young scholars at Anderson Elementary! Westbury resident Serena Perrilloux emailed us to say, *“I read the article in the October Westbury Crier about the state of the library at Anderson Elementary, and it broke my heart. As someone who learned to read at age 3, thanks to Sesame Street and a devoted mother who loved to read to me, I think it's just sad that children at Anderson Elementary don't have access to a fully functioning library at their school. I remember that going to the library in school was one of my favorite things!”*



Westbury Community Garden Master Plan

The Westbury Community Garden will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in March of 2020. As a community, we have saved this 7-acre site from being developed into housing (as long as the garden continues). Now it has garden beds, an orchard, a farm training refugees how to earn a living in agriculture, a prairie filled with grasses and native plants, and habitat for pollinators. The garden has a Master Plan created by Asakura-Robinson architects. A next step is to improve



site drainage to hold more rainwater, while improving the driveway for bulk deliveries, among other improvements.

If you are passionate about gardening, healthy food and living, or improving resilience to flooding, won't you consider a donation to the WCG? If you want to donate specifically to the Westbury Community Garden, they have a donation page on their website at <https://westburycommunitygarden.org/donate/>



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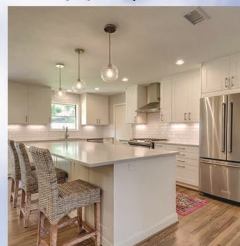
10727 Kirkside
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5734 Willowbend
3/2/2 • \$460's



5818 Willowbend
3/2/2 • \$290's



5231 Kinglet
3/2/2 • \$300's



5202 Hummingbird
4/2/2 • \$330's

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Deck the Halls Parade in Westbury

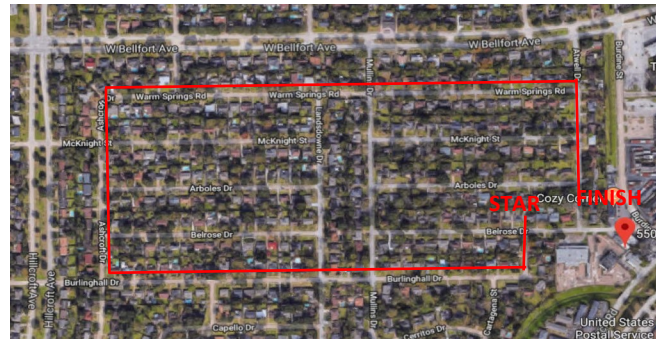
Yeeeeehaw! It's that time of year again. On December 14, join the 21st Annual Deck the Halls Parade and Toy Drive! This is a locally organized parade which winds its way through Westbury residential streets. The parade theme this year is: Texas! They will be celebrating all things Texan in this year's shindig. Bring out the whole family to enjoy this fun unique Westbury tradition.

The Houston Pride Band will lead the parade, and will be joined by community organizations including the Westbury Civic Club, local businesses, churches, schools, scouts, sports teams, and neighborhood favorites. Wave to neighborhood dignitaries, holiday favorites, and impersonators of famous Texans! The parade will be followed by an art car procession made up of cars from the Houston Art Car Klub.

A map of the parade route is to the right. The parade starts on Belrose (by the old Post Office) and turns onto Burlinghall heading West to Ashcroft. The parade will then travel North on Ashcroft until it turns to Warm Springs. The final turn is onto Atwell. The parade will end back at the old Post Office.

Please do NOT park in the streets on the parade route. You can park on the surrounding neighborhood streets or at Home Depot.

The parade organizers collect toys for children, who would otherwise receive no gifts. Donations can be picked up, if requested, or collected on the route. For more information, please contact parade organizer Ember Mandell at 713-367-3787 or visit www.deckthehallsparade.com or www.facebook.com/DecktheHallsParade/



Two Holiday Plays at Company OnStage



A Seussified Christmas Carol
Saturdays, December 7 – 21,
11AM and 1:30PM
Sunday, December 8, 2PM
By Peter Bloedel
Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

A whimsical reinvention of Dickens' most beloved Christmas story in wacky rhymed couplets. With zoot fruited juices, and binka bird geese, from Bed-Headed Fred, to Timmy Loo Hoo, this tale of glorious holiday cheer is similar to something Dr. Seuss might have come up with, if he ever had his way with the story.



Scrooge Macbeth
Fridays & Saturdays,
December 6 - 21, 8PM
Sunday, December 15, 2 PM
A holiday farce of Shakespearean proportions, by David MacGregor
Produced by Special Arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC of Cedar Rapids
 It's not another retelling of "A Christmas

Carol." Scrooge Macbeth takes the meaning of "the show must go on" to a whole new level. Bob, Sylvia, Victor, and Renee are the last four actors standing when a food poisoning outbreak sidelines most of the cast on the opening night of the Hartland Community Theatre's holiday production of Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale. Thanks to the ensuing violent collision between everything Christmas and everything Shakespeare, you will never think of Shakespeare or Christmas in quite the same way again.

The Company OnStage is located at 4930 W. Belfort at Salem Lutheran Church. Tickets can be purchased online at www.companionstage.org.





Annual Gift Market

December 7, 9AM-2PM
 Westbury United Methodist Church, located at 5200 Willowbend, is hosting its annual Good Gifts Market on Saturday, December 7, 9am-2pm. The market features nonprofits/businesses that sell fair trade items or whose business model focuses on helping people in need (e.g., victims of human trafficking, people in poverty, etc.). Vendors to date include Westbury UMC Piecemaker Quilters, Free the Captives, Paper for Water, Haitian Artisans for Peace International, FAM Houston, Passion Lilie and SERRV. PUCS will also be there. Come and shop for a cause!

Holiday Do NOT Recycle List

Here are some of the holiday items that should NOT be placed in your recycle bins. Either they are not processed at our city recycle centers, or they wrap around the machinery and create processing problems.

- ⇒ **No Holiday lights** 
- ⇒ **No gift wrap paper, ribbons, trim, and bows**
- ⇒ **No Yard inflatables**
- ⇒ **No Clothing** 
- ⇒ **No Batteries. (Note. Put alkaline batteries in the trash. Take rechargeable batteries to the local Environmental Service Centers at either S. Post Oak or Westpark)**

Harris County Pct. 1 Meeting

Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, Rodney Ellis, held a local County meeting on November 16 to “make sure we are connected to Harris County services, programs, and projects that matter to us”.



Commissioner Ellis spoke, as did a select panel from several major County departments. John Tyler, Harris County Tollroad Authority, discussed the history of the Fort Bend Tollway and its potential for being extended through Westbury. Matt Zeve, of Harris County Flood Control, talked about the 110 million dollars being spent on Sims and Brays bayous. Niki Foster from Harris County Engineering talked about projects in the area. Judge Tonya Jones explained the new laws and reasoning behind not holding people for misdemeanors when they can't pay a jail bond. Tables were also set up for many Harris County departments such as: the Sheriff's Office, the Health Dept., the Census 2020, and more.

Commissioner Ellis explained what the county does vs what the city does. The County is mostly about unincorporated areas, except where services require otherwise. The City moves rainwater from the streets and through the storm sewers, but once it reaches the ditches or bayous, then that's the County. The County handles our Public Health system that treats the one million plus people without health insurance in the County. The County handles the jail and the Sheriffs dept. The County runs the Appraisal District and handles the elections for the City.

He talked about equity and the importance of opportunity for everyone. He talked about the importance of PreK education. He talked about his 30 years in politics and public service. He has seen a lot since he first served as US Congressman Mickey Leland's chief of staff and then was elected in 1983 to the Houston City Council at the age of 29, representing District D.

Flood Advocacy in Westbury

The Westbury Civic Club has championed flood relief since the first house in Westbury had water enter it back in the 1960s. The 1970s brought more flooding and Harris County Commissioners Court had a bond referendum that brought some improvements to the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB). Where the Braewick ditch, both north and south, connects at the intersection of the Willow Waterhole, improvements were made to force the bayou flow both east and west at that point. When we were in a period of drought through the 90s and early 00s, this design seemed to function. Now it has created a choke point, inundating Westbury with flood water from the Fondren area.

According to HCFCD's own website, the WWB can barely contain a 10 year rain event, which we know to be true, as homes flooded in 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. Improvements are desperately needed. But without new detention to offset these improvements, work could not be done. That is why the acquisition of the 28 acre Shell property is so important. That is why the pending acquisition of land adjacent to the Fondren Diversion channel is important.

After flooding in 1983, Westbury resident Russell Shexnayder conceived the idea of the Willow Waterhole detention area. During the City's revitalization plans for Westbury in the 90s, the idea of a joint detention and greenspace was successfully championed. The WCC and WAIC will continue to champion ideas that mitigate flooding in Westbury.

Brays Bayou Bridge Work Update

One of the final pieces of Project Brays is bridge replacement or modification of the existing bridges over Brays Bayou with new higher, wider and/or longer spans that will improve the conveyance of stormwater in Brays Bayou. The bridge work will increase flow in the bayou by 30%. The schedule for bridge work has continued to change and be pushed back. The current schedule is below.

➔ S. Rice— March 2020 - December 2020

The S. Rice bridge will be raised 5 feet, which entails rebuilding the intersection, especially the south side. To accomplish this, HCFCD will be purchasing the lots on both corners of the intersection. Additional drainage will be placed under the rises to help reduce back flow down the new embankments. Alternate routes will be Chimney Rock or S. Post Oak.



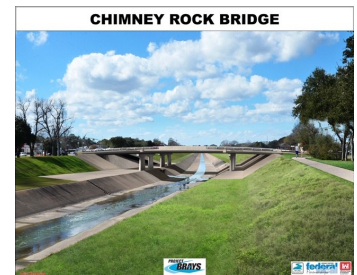
➔ Hillcroft— December 2020- March 2021

The Hillcroft bridge will be raised approximately 15 inches. Intersections on both sides will be affected as will traffic in all directions. Alternate routes include N/S Braeswood bridge and Chimney Rock.



➔ Chimney Rock— March 2021- December 2021

The Chimney Rock bridge will be the last bridge replaced in our area. This bridge work will be similar to S. Rice but no need to purchase property on the corners. However, egress onto the commercial properties may be affected.



Be prepared for major traffic inconveniences and problems for up to two years. HCFCD is working with the City of Houston so that fire/rescue will be directed from appropriate stations. Metro will also be adjusting their stops and schedules. We suggest finding alternate driving routes and lots of patience.

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Exciting News for Westbury

City of Houston Purchased Property for Additional Detention and Levitt Pavilion

October 31, 2019 was a great day in Westbury! The City of Houston officially acquired the 28-acre Shell Research facility property near the Willow Waterhole to help mitigate flooding in the Westbury Community. Mayor Sylvester Turner joined City Council Member Martha Castex-Tatum, a representative from Shell, State Rep. Shawn Thierry and Westbury residents to close the purchase and sign paperwork accepting the company's property on Gasmer Drive.

The land will add additional detention, reduce the potential for flooding to protect homes in the Westbury neighborhood along the Willow Waterhole channel and lower capital improvement costs in the reconstruction of Westbury street and drainage project being planned by Houston Public Works. When this detention is available, Houston Public Works can move forward with the Westbury street and drainage improvements, according to Public Works Director Carol Ellinger Haddock.

Mayor Turner signed the purchase agreement for the 28 acre Shell Research Center on Gasmer, adjacent to the Willow Waterhole Greenway. *"Today is a milestone on so many fronts,"* Mayor Turner said. *"Steps are being taken to make the area more resilient and sustainable. The city is committed to mitigate the risk of flooding in Westbury and throughout Houston."*



Councilmember Martha Castex-Tatum was all smiles as she said *"This is a great day in District K. This was a true community collaboration and I am so proud of the work we did to make this happen."*

State Rep. Shawn Thierry may have said it best, *"This is good government at work."*

Mayor Turner, after thanking Shell for their willingness to sell to the city, called this acquisition a collective effort and thanked PWE Director Carol Haddock and City Chief Operating Officer Harry Hayes, Chief Resiliency Officer Steve Costello, CM Castex-Tatum and State Rep. Shawn Thierry. He thanked community leaders like Howard Sacks, Chair of Levitt Pavilion Houston.

The Mayor thanked both Cindy Chapman, WCC President, and Becky Edmondson, WAIC president, as this was a project initiated by the community itself and said that it predated both himself and CM Castex-Tatum. He said that with these two women, going back to 2013, recognized the need and that a tremendous amount of credit goes not to elected officials and the city but to the community which originated and championed this project. He went on to quote Thoreau *"There is no greater force than an idea whose time has come."*

Becky Edmondson said, *"And thankfully our time has come. With this acquisition and the additional land being evaluated for purchase adjacent to the Fondren diversion channel, real mitigation of the flood threat along the Willow Waterhole can occur. There is*



much work to be done to create the detention, rework our streets and storm sewers. But this is a necessary first step".

Cindy Chapman spoke and stressed the importance of this being a City drainage project that helps get the water out of our neighborhoods and into the Harris County Flood Control drainage system.

David Roshke, former pastor of Salem Lutheran and Vice President of the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) had this to say: *"Today was historic in our neighborhood. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner signed documents acquiring 28 acres of Shell Oil property adjoining the Willow Waterhole Greenway. The greenway and its system of detention reservoirs was conceived during community planning meetings I chaired in the 1990s at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church. The greenway area is now the third largest park in Harris County. The greenway and detention basins will provide recreation and flood control for many generations."*

As a result of the property acquisition, the proposed Levitt Pavilion will be relocated from along South Post Oak Road to the Shell site, which will expand the existing detention area at South Post Oak Road.

A big thank you goes to Shell for being an excellent neighbor to the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and for their willingness to sell their property to the City of Houston.

And in the end, the residents of Westbury along the Willow Waterhole bayou are the ones who will be the most thankful once all this street drainage work is completed.

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Railroad Quiet Zone is BACK!

How do you spell RELIEF? That was the headline of the December 2011 Crier and here we are 8 years later reiterating this statement. The Westbury Railroad Quiet Zone is back into effect. The quiet zone had been suspended due to safety issues that needed to be addressed and repaired by the City. The quiet zone was finally reinstated in late October.

After 8 years of relative quiet, the jarring train horns were highly unsettling. A second train track and dozens of more trains pass through Westbury today than eight years ago. This makes the work of those early champions even more important, so a big thank you one more time to those who championed the Quiet Zone initially. 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.

Our thanks in 2019 go to CM Martha Castex-Tatum and her Chief of Staff, Janae Whitfield, for continually following up with Public Works and the Federal Railroad administration. Thanks to the WCC office manager Jennifer Edmondson, and all the residents who called to express their concerns.

Please know that the trains do blow their horns in some cases such as when two trains pass each other on the tracks.

Attention Westbury 2 Homeowners City Asphalt Overlay Project Ongoing

The City of Houston has started an asphalt overlay project in Westbury 2. The streets have been stripped of existing asphalt and new asphalt is being laid down. The City asks that no cars be parked on the streets Monday through Saturday from 7AM –4:30PM. Please observe all signs and warnings.

The Westbury Civic Club has received several concerns from Westbury 2 residents about the project. The WCC has reached out to the District K office.

Envisioning a Linear Park on Hillcroft

Thanks to Neighborhoods to Trails-Southwest (NTTSW) for orchestrating an exhilarating walk on the esplanades along Hillcroft on November 2, 2019. Thanks to Eugene Siris for hosting and leading the walk. For all of you who participated, we express our gratitude for committing your time on a very cold morning to join us. We wanted to showcase how wonderful it will be to build a trail of this type in our community. Thank you for your positive feedback which let us know that we are on the right path to making our communities more livable places to raise our families. There are very few streets in Houston, if any, that can attest to having 60 foot wide medians on which to place trails.

Back in 2005, the WCC installed a mulch trail from Willowbend to Portal and added a few park benches. Later that year we added benches between W. Bellfort and Ludington and built a rain-garden.

As you drive down Hillcroft, slow down and take a look at these nice wide medians and envision a linear park like on Heights Blvd. or Tanglewilde. In the very near future, we would like to invite our neighbors again to walk with us.



Hillcroft esplanade walk in November

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TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY TAKING OVER HISD TEA Meeting in Westbury

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner Mike Morath sent a letter to Houston ISD and gave two reasons for the decision to take over HISD: the school board's "failure of governance" and the seventh year of low academic performance of Wheatley High School. In addition to appointing a board of governance to oversee the elected school board, Morath will also appoint a superintendent to lead the district. The decision means the state will be taking over its largest public school district, which contains more than 270 schools and educates more than 200,000 students. The timeline of the takeover action is unclear.

The TEA was holding meetings to discuss the process. As there were none in District IX or District K, the Westbury Super Neighborhood asked for a meeting in our area for not only Westbury, but for the other area schools.

With just 24 hours notice over 50 people showed up for the meeting held at Westbury High School on November 12 to ask questions of A J Craybill, TEA Deputy Commissioner of Governance.



We wondered: What does this mean for our neighborhood schools? What are the implications for HISD short term and long term? Who will be on this management team? How long will this last? Will the TEA fix everything? Will this really happen?

As to the questions about the management team and the process, those answers can be found on their website: <https://tea.texas.gov/board-of-managers>. If YOU are interested in applying to be on this board, all applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by December 6, 2019 to ensure consideration. The application review process will begin December 6th, but applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until midnight on January 2, 2020. However, it is important to note that should the TEA identify the best candidates once the initial review process begins in December 2019, those applying later in the application window may not be reviewed.

IF, and there is still a slight if, the new board of managers takes over, the HISD current board will remain in place but stripped of power. The TEA will identify two to six items that the new board of managers needs to "fix" and once those are complete, then the elected board will be phased back in three board members at a time over a three year period.

There is no doubt that HISD has some issues. As taxpayers we should care as approximately half of that property tax bill we pay goes to HISD. As Houstonians, we should demand excellence in all our schools. Our children deserve no less.

"Wraparound Transformation Center" at Westbury HS

Westbury High School (WHS) continues to take it to the next level. November 4 was a special day at WHS as the school celebrated the grand opening of the "Wraparound Transformation Center" on campus with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Wraparound services are services provided for students who have non-academic needs that could interfere with being academically successful. Under the vision of specialist Craig Zeno and WHS Principal Susan Monaghan, and with the support of HISD Trustee Wanda Adams and Interim Supt. Grenita Lathan, this new center at Westbury High School will help students stay in school and be academically successful.

The center has a washer and dryer if a student has clothes that need to be cleaned. The center also has food, clothing, school uniforms, school supplies, and a variety of other supplies that students might need.

We applaud WHS and HISD for helping our students succeed in school, and also thank Kroger, WalMart, Home Depot, the Brays Oaks Management District, and Congressman Al Green for sponsoring this WrapAround Transformation Center at WHS. It is an inspirational and beautiful place on the WHS campus.

Mr. Zeno and WHS want students to feel comfortable using these services. A team of student "WrapAround Ambassadors" greeted guests and promoted the center at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Two WHS ambassadors appear in a video tour of the center created by WHS. This video is available on YouTube with the title of "Westbury Wraparound Transformation Center".



Wraparound grand opening celebration at WHS

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Keep Houston Beautiful Proud Partner Awards

At the 35th Mayors Proud Partner awards ceremony, our area received several honors from Keep Houston Beautiful on November 14, 2019. These are amazing achievements and reflects the great work that the WCC and our community partners are doing, and continue to do, to make our corner of Westbury and southwest Houston better places to live.

The Westbury Civic Club received a Certificate of Recognition Award for our Keep Westbury Beautiful efforts during April of 2019. Volunteers cleaned up Westbury Park and Hager Park, moved mountains of mulch, and hosted "Don't Mess with Texas".

The Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) received a prestigious Mayor's Proud Partner Award for their support of benches and tables added at the Willow Waterhole. The award was presented to Bruce Krewinghaus on behalf of the BOMD.

District K Councilmember Martha Castex-Tatum received the Community Champion Award, the new category of award that was created last year to honor the memory of the late Donald Perkins. The Award was for her Clean State of Mind Campaign. She started an innovative program with a crew to curtail illegal dumping and bandit signs in the district. On Keep Houston Beautiful Day she encouraged all the neighborhoods in District K to host beautification projects and brought Don't Mess with Texas out for the day.

Our own Becky Edmondson serves as a commissioner on the Houston Clean City board. The question being asked by Keep Houston Beautiful is this: Who keeps Houston beautiful? WE ALL DO!



WCC President Cindy Chapman and WAIC President Becky Edmondson at the Keep Houston Beautiful Awards



Brays Oaks Management District with their KHB award



WAIC board members with Mayor Turner



CM Castex-Tatum with her KHB award



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Fall White Elephant Sale

For over 50 years the Westbury Civic Club has hosted its twice-yearly White Elephant Sales, giving Westbury residents a chance to sell unwanted items in a controlled situation with security. Jennifer Edmondson, WCC Office Manager, organizes the booth sales, advertising and lining up security and porta potties. The day of the event brings the whole WCC board out for a morning of service to the community. Signs are placed strategically and then picked up after the event, volunteers show up at 5:30AM to get ready for the 50 or so booth sellers. It's a mad rush to get everyone checked in and for everyone to get set up before the gates open at 8am. The four hours pass quickly and soon it's noon and time to shut down.

The Fall 2019 Sale was held on October 26 with perfect weather, albeit a little chilly until the sun came out. Shoppers were lined up for the 8 AM opening and many treasures changed hands. There were clothes, shoes, books, furniture, toys, dinner ware, service ware, pans, statues, stuffed animals, tools, plants and more.

But beyond the selling, this is another fun community event that brings hundreds of Westbury residents together. It's a chance for neighbors to grab a cup of coffee from PUCS and catch up with one another while browsing for treasure.

There will be another White Elephant Sale in the Spring – another chance to buy most anything. The Crier will keep you informed.

**The NEXT White Elephant Sale
will be in the Spring 2019!**



Westbury Civic Club, Inc.





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Westbury CARE Animal Rescue has a New Name Houston Cares Animal Rescue

Westbury CARE began as a small group of neighbors, who were trying to help animals in the Westbury area. The organization quickly grew into a non-profit rescue because the need in Houston is so great. Recently, it decided to change its name to Houston Cares Animal Rescue.

Despite its growth, Houston Cares has aimed to keep its community feel and is built on the idea that it will take a community of Houstonians to make change.

Learn more about how you can help save animals in need. <https://houstoncaresrescue.org/>



Links for Lost & Found Pets

- Nextdoor Westbury - www.nextdoor.com
- Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook
- Houston Cares - Contact at <https://houstoncaresrescue.org/>

Air Bag Recall

Tens of millions of airbags are dangerously defective. Sixteen people have died and hundreds more have been severely injured. Even a minor collision can cause these airbags to explode, blasting sharp metal fragments at drivers or passengers.

In response, vehicle manufacturers are conducting the largest safety recall in US history. Authorized dealerships are repairing defective airbags for FREE. Parts are in good supply at local dealerships and many are offering free towing, loaner vehicles, or other accommodations for affected vehicle owners.

The website www.Airbagrecall.com has more information and can help you learn if your airbag has been recalled. Keep in mind that hot, humid climates like the Houston area have higher chance of air bags being a risk.

Houston residents will be receiving letters in the mail about the air bag recall in December.

Deadline For Actual Harvey Repairs

Houston homeowners have until **Dec. 31, 2019** to make home repairs that could be eligible for reimbursement under the federal Harvey Homeowner Assistance Program (HoAP).

The deadline is set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The deadline is for the actual repairs to be completed; homeowners can still apply for reimbursement after December 31 for work completed before that date. "If you've been putting off repairs of damage caused by Hurricane Harvey, now is the time to make them so that you may be eligible to have federal funds cover some of your costs," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.

The maximum amount of reimbursement depends on homeowners' income:

- ➔ Below 80% Area Median Income (AMI): 100% of eligible expenses, up to \$80,000
- ➔ 81 -120% AMI: 50% of eligible expenses, up to \$40,000
- ➔ Above 120% AMI: 25% of eligible expense, up to \$20,000

All homeowners impacted by Hurricane Harvey should take the Harvey Recovery Survey at recovery.houstontx.gov or by phone at 832-393-0550. Almost 20,000 residents have taken the Harvey Recovery Survey. As a result, about 5,000 homeowners have been invited to apply to HoAP and are working on an application or have completed their submission. Almost \$150 million is still available for reimbursements.



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Did You Know About Apartments?

The main speaker at the SWHouston 2000 breakfast event in November was Starla Turnbo, current President of the Houston Apartment Association. She noted that it is not uncommon to hear negative comments about apartments, but the good aspects about apartments are less frequently touted. Here are a few quick facts from the HAA.

Across the US, apartments generate 3.4 trillion dollars of business, which impacts 19% of the US economy. In the Houston area, more than 1.2 million people live in apartments, which generates over 50,000 local jobs. These jobs include apartment employees, but also workers who work for companies which provide services for apartments doing landscaping, maintenance, construction, or other types of jobs.

Many of the local apartments in the southwest area of Houston participate in a program called RCR (Rental Credit Reporting) which screens tenants for rental credit history, criminal background, federal background, or sex offender. In the Westbury area, the Brays Oaks Management District pays the expenses of the RCR program for apartments located in BOMD.

In addition to providing training and certifications to those who own or work at apartment complexes, the Houston Apartment Association has a service to

help tenants who contact them about tenant questions or problems. If you have a friend or family member who needs assistance resolving an apartment issue, encourage them to contact the Houston Apartment Association.

The HAA Resident Relations program assists renters by:

→ Speaking directly with renters by phone to answer lease-related questions. To contact the Resident Relations Department call (713) 595-0030
HAA speaks to residents on Wednesday from 9AM to 1PM and Thursday and Friday from 9AM to 1PM and 2PM to 4PM.

→ Helping renters understand their rights and responsibilities as a renter.
 → Permitting renters to file a complaint with HAA against the property owner/management company, which is then forwarded to the company for response.

→ Resolving move-out monetary disputes through a Resident Relations Committee if a renter and property owner/management company cannot come to an agreement.

At least 10,000 to 15,000 renters are assisted in this way each year. Complaints can be initiated online or by mail or fax. For more information, go to haaonline.org and look for information about the Resident Relations Complaint Form.

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

HPD has some tips to protect yourself, family and 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 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 if you leave during the dark.
- *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.

Vacation Watch with Pct. 5

Going on a vacation? Well, if you pay your Westbury Area Patrol dues, make sure you request a vacation watch by the Constables. This 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 nothing suspicious is going on. You can register for a vacation watch online at <https://constablepct5.com/index.php/vacation-watch/> or by calling 281-463-6666 and requesting a deputy come by your house.

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





Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood

October 23—November 20, 2019
Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W
5800	Alvarado	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	10/30	12AM	Westbury South
12000	Atwell	Theft from Motor Vehicle	10/23	4PM	Westbury 4
11700	Braewick	Theft from Motor Vehicle	11/15	6PM	Parkwest 3
5700	Creekbend	Theft from Motor Vehicle	11/5	12PM	Parkwest 2
5900	Dellfern	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	10/29	10PM	Westbury 4
5700	Greenraig	Vandalism, Damage, Destruction	11/9	2PM	Westbury South
11600	Hillcroft	Drugs, Narcotics	10/30	3PM	Westbury 3
5900	Lattimer	Simple Assault	10/29	10PM	Parkwest 3
10800	Oasis	Theft from Motor Vehicle	11/9	3AM	Westbury 2
5600	Sanford	Theft from Motor Vehicle	11/14	9PM	Westbury 5
5800	Willowbend	Auto Theft	10/31	8PM	Parkwest 2

KEY

-  Theft from Motor Vehicle
-  Auto Theft
-  Property Crime
-  Burglary
-  Simple Assault
-  Robbery



Westbury Area Patrol
281-463-6666
SW HPD Station
832-394-0400
HPD Non-Emergency
713-884-3131

Do you hear sirens?
Go to <http://cohweb.houstontx.gov/ActiveIncidents/search.aspx>

The crimes listed took place between October 23 thru November 20. They are in alphabetical order by street. The crimes are highlighted by type. Please see key above.

Crime by the Numbers

Crime Type	Homes	Apts./TH	Comm./Business	Park/School
Aggravated Assault	0	3	0	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	5	4	1	0
Burglary, Breaking & Entering	0	3	1	0
Robbery	0	1	0	0
Simple Assault	1	4	1	1
Shoplifting	0	0	1	0
Theft of Car Parts	2	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0	0
Drugs, Narcotics	1	1	0	0
Vandalism, Damage	1	5	1	0
Auto Theft	1	4	1	2
Theft from Building	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	11	25	7	3

Stay connected with what is happening in Westbury RIGHT NOW!
"Like" our Facebook page, Westbury Houston, to stay updated on neighborhood issues.
Visit our website, www.westburycrier.com

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

See Something. Say Something.

Report Suspicious Behavior to the Constables

Pct 5 Constables 281-463-6666 ★ **Pct 5 Constables 281-463-6666** ★ **Pct 5 Constables 281-463-6666**



Cub Scouts at the Willow Waterhole Science Badge Work

Cub Scout Pack 705 out of Westbury United Methodist met at the Willow Waterhole on Saturday November 9 for some badge work. The scouts worked on their science badge. The kids had a rocket day using water pressure for launching. It was a beautiful day and great to have kids outdoors learning about science and nature.



Eagle Scout Project Central

Eric Lopez, from Troop 99 at St. Thomas More, completed his Eagle Scout project at the Willow Waterhole on Nov. 2. Eric and his friends planted five Loblolly pines, four Sabal palmettos, and spread three cubic yards of crushed granite over 170 feet of the Bayou Trail. Additionally, he added a new sign at the Dabney Kennedy Scout Pavilion. His brother Andy had previously completed his Eagle project constructing amenities at the Pavilion.



The Conservancy wholeheartedly thanks the Lopez family for all the work completed over the last several months. Please check out their accomplishments!



Tree Planting

Cub Scouts from Troop 008 at Red Elementary came to the Willow Waterhole on Saturday, November 16. The scouts planted a Shumard Oak tree near the Schwartz Gazebo. The kids were so energetic and excited about their accomplishment.



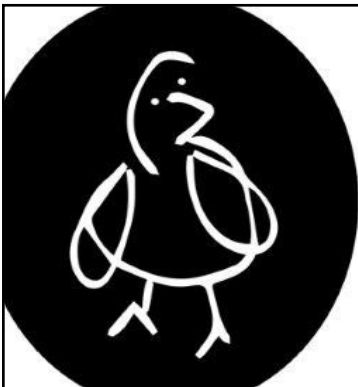
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Do you like wildflowers? Do you like gardening? We have a cluster of 8 gardens on S. Willow Drive at Willow Waterhole that we have planted with Texas wildflowers and grasses. Our goal is to show the wide variety of Texas wildflowers that grow on the prairie and their benefit to birds, pollinators and small mammals.

We need help. We meet usually every other Sunday afternoon from 3 - 5 to check the gardens for what is growing and to remove certain weeds that tend to take over. It is a great place to learn more about plants. If you can help, contact Hazel Potvin at 713-715-9610



Willow Waterhole Monthly Bird Surveys
The next bird survey will be held on **January 18 at 8AM.**
Meet in the parking lot of The Gathering Place at 5310 S. Willow.



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Westbury Community Garden News

DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED

The award winning Westbury Community Garden is a valuable asset to the Westbury Community. The garden will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary next year. The Garden relies on generous donations and volunteer time to continue its' reputation as a successful Garden. Please consider contributing to its continuing success. There are several ways to donate to the garden. You can read more about the Garden on page 10 as a Giving Tuesday local WAIC project. The Garden is participating in a fun online donation challenge by SeedMoney and launching their annual fundraising drive. Read more about these below.

#SeedMoneyChallenge

Westbury Community Garden is participating in the #SeedMoneyChallenge, a 30-day fundraising challenge and they could really use your support TODAY! In addition to keeping the funds they raised from organizations and individuals like you, the Garden will have a chance to win a challenge grant up to \$600 from SeedMoney based on how much they raise over the course of 30 days. The 30 day period ends December 15.

The Westbury Community Garden is raising money to rent several large waste bins for a big heavy trash cleanup effort across the 7 acre property.

Donate today at <https://donate.seedmoney.org/4318/westbury-community-garden-clean-and-green>. The Garden also has a link on their Facebook Page, Westbury Community Garden Houston.

WCG 2020 Fundraising Drive

Westbury Community Garden's fund-raising drive has begun. Watch the video presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpAgCkOLsY8>

It's super easy to make a donation by credit card or PayPal at www.westburycommunitygarden.org/donate.

To learn more about WCG or to make a donation by credit card or PayPal, visit the WCG website, www.westburycommunitygarden.org/donate. Or mail your donation by check to: Westbury Area Improvement Corp. (WAIC) at 5322 W. Bellfort, Suite 100, Houston, TX, 77035. Make checks payable to the WAIC with a memo line "Westbury Community Garden".



Like "Westbury Community Garden Houston" on Facebook



WHERE IS THE GARDEN?

12581 Dunlap (77035) is off Hillcroft between W. Airport and South Main. Heading south on Hillcroft, turn right onto Greencraig, follow it around the bend where it turns into Dunlap.

The large blue roof on the WCG Pavilion is readily visible. Street parking.

JOIN the garden TODAY at
www.westburycommunitygarden.org

Contact us today at
membership@westburycommunitygarden.org



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