

VOLUME 68, ISSUE 9

DECEMBER 2023

HOLIDAYS IN WESTBURY

Holiday Yard of the Month

TOP 3 YARDS & BEST STREETS

Saturday, December 16

The Yard of the Month judges will drive the neighborhood on Sat., December 16, to pick the top three winners in each section, along with the best streets. If you would like to nominate your house or a neighbor's home, please submit the nomination through our website, www.westburyhouston.com.

Online Holiday Decoration Contest

Submit Entries by December 15, 11:59PM
Online Voting — December 18—December 20

Join us in our 4th Annual Online Holiday Decoration Contest with 4 fun categories! Nominate and vote for your favorite Westbury homes on the Westbury Houston website, www.westburyhouston.com Details on deadlines and information about each category is available on page 9.

Westbury Award (Best in 2023)
The Shining (Most Lights/Brightest)
Overly Inflated (Unique/Best Inflatables)
Interactive Wonderland (Music/Animation)

Local School Holiday Concerts

Parker Elementary School will have multiple musical performances throughout December, see page 9 for the full schedule. Parker has a very popular fine arts—music magnet programs. Come out and see some of our local Westbury kids perform.

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Online Owner Portal

Have you joined the new owner portal? We have over 400 owners already registered. This portal isn't just about paying dues and assessments. It is a two-way communication. You can message us, submit house plans, ask questions and it will remain in your history. We can email you the Crier newsletter, security notices, surveys, etc.

Join your neighbors today and get connected!



City of Houston Run-Off Election Early Voting—Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Election Day—Sat., Dec. 9

The November election ended in several runoff races. The top two vote-getters in each of these races are in the runoff election because no one got more than 50% of the votes in the initial election. It is very important to get out and vote in the runoff election. Fewer people turn out for run-off elections, making your vote even more important. The City is voting for a new mayor and city controller. In Westbury, we are voting for 4 At-Large city council reps. Our District C and District K reps have already been re-elected. See page 10 for to see who is running for each position and where you can vote.



Westbury Library Preview saturday, December 16M

December 16th is our BIG day! Come preview the new library in Westbury, the Dr. Shannon Walker Neighborhood Library. The new library is located in the heart of Westbury at the site of the old post office on Belrose. Time to be determined. Check the Westbury Houston Facebook page for updates.



HEAVY TRASH

December 2023 Thursday, Dec. 14

JUNK WASTE

January 2024

Thursday, January 11
TREE WASTE ONLY

RECYCLING

December 2023

Thursday, Dec. 14 Thursday, Dec. 28

January 2024

Thursday, January 11 Thursday, January 25

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

WCC OFFICE

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

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

NOTARY SERVICES— available to paid WCC members

CONTACT US

WCC Office Telephone	713-723-5437
WCC Office Email	westburycc@sbcglobal.net
Deed Restrictions	westburycc@sbcglobal.net
WCC Presidentwccpi	resident@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	s activity, and vacation watch
Emergency	911
Houston Police Dept. Non-Eme	ergency 713-884-3131
Southwest HPD Station	832-394-0400

CITY OF HOUSTON

District K CM, Martha Castex-Tatum	832-393-3016
District C Council Member, Abbie Kamin	832-393-3004
Deed Restriction Enforcement (City Legal)	832-393-6333
Platou Community Center	713-726-7107
Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office	832-393-0955
Houston Help & Information	311

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

CENTERPOINT ENERGY

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

2023-2024 WCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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

SECTION DIRECTORS

Westbury 2	
Westbury 3	
Westbury 3	Jonathan Hansen
Westbury 4	VACANT
Westbury 4	Becky Pate
Westbury 5	VACANT
Westbury 5	Donna Strom
Westbury South	Ryan Crowley
Parkwest 1	VACANT
Parkwest 2	Bob Droubi
Parkwest 3	Alan Hirshman

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

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB PRESIDENT

As we approach the end of 2023, I want to details). The WCC promoted National express gratitude to the many people who help keep our Westbury neighborhood a wonderful place to live. First, I want to start with our WCC Office Manager, Jennifer Edmondson, who has a wealth of knowledge about our community and on so many topics. She provides her candid opinion when we discuss ideas and options, takes on challenges that are timeconsuming and detailed, and helped keep the WCC on track when I was undergoing months of medical treatments earlier this year. Thank you! Next, I want to thank the WCC Officers and Board of Directors, who are all volunteers and contribute their knowledge and time because they love living here in Westbury. Thank you! In particular, I want to thank the executive officers of the WCC, "the brain trust", who discuss ideas with me, attend many meetings, and often do work to make things happen since the WCC relies so heavily on volunteer effort: Vice-President Marcia Hartman, Treasurer Becky Edmondson, and the 2 Secretaries we had in 2023, Susan Brock and Lindsey Pollock.

This year had its ups and downs, but overall, I am feeling good about the WCC accomplishments of 2023 and think that next year will be even better. The WCC has a brand new interactive website that allows us to really improve communication. We finally have an online resident portal designed for self-managed civic clubs/homeowner associations that allows residents to view, make, and track payments and contact the WCC easily. The popular Yard of the Month program restarted just in in time for Halloween decorations and will be going strong for holiday decorations (see page 9 for more

Night Out block party events, held a Keep Westbury Beautiful Day cleanup, and more. One of the most important, unseen things we do is constantly and consistently advocate for the neighborhood, whether it is for safer road conditions along our major streets or for flood mitigation.

One of the most exciting upcoming new improvements to Westbury is the new Dr. Shannon Walker Library, which is located right here in Westbury! The new library comes after YEARS of advocacy by the WCC and area residents. The WCC played an integral role in this new library being located here in Westbury. The new library will have a special celebration preview on December 16 that will be attended by the Mayor and other dignitaries. I am not 100% certain that the library will be fully open on December 16, but this new library will definitely be a highlight for our community. I can't wait to see it in person! Check out our website or Facebook page for updated information on the library preview.

In 2024, we will have a new Mayor and a new City Council. District K will continue to represented by Martha Castex-Tatum. The WCC will continue to develop relationships with our existing city representatives and build relationships with our new ones. Elections matter. Several city positions are in runoffs, and I urge you to vote in these runoff elections. The WCC is a non-partisan organization, but we do encourage our residents to VOTE, because high voting rates in Westbury helps the WCC in our advocacy efforts. The last day to vote in the runoff election is on election day on December 9.

During the November meeting, the WCC board discussed the proposed 2024 budget (see page 11) and will vote on the budget in January. The WCC is predicted to have a loss of about \$30,000 for 2023. Luckily, we have had sufficient reserves for the past few years of losses, but we have had a loss every year since COVID. In 2024, it will be important to focus on raising sufficient income to pay for our expenses. All the hard work that was done in 2023 to transition to better tools to manage the WCC will make it easier to send letters and emails to our Westbury residents.

The mandatory invoices will be mailed in early December to our owners in Parkwest 1 and Parkwest 2, who have mandatory assessments. For those with mandatory assessments who are behind on their payments to the WCC, I urge you to contact the WCC to set up a payment plan. (Note, if you are a recent resident who has mandatory assessments, please be aware that your mortgage company typically does not collect funds to pay your mandatory assessment for you.) For residents who have voluntary dues, we plan to send letters to you in January. I plan to pay my voluntary dues early in 2024, and I ask you to join me.

I wish all of you a joyous holiday season with family and friends. I hope you have a Happy New Year and a wonderful 2024. Cindy Chapman



October 2023 WCC Board Notes

- → Guest Speaker District K CM Martha Castex-Tatum (see page 8 for more information)
- → Sgt. Derkowski with Constables Precinct 5. He has done 133 traffic stops since the September WCC meeting. Crime is down. Car break-ins continue to be a problem, especially contractor vehicles. Mental Health issues led to gunfire (no injuries) in Westbury.
- → Created two committees Budget Committee and Garage Sale Committee.
- → Board elected Travis McClelland to fill vacant board position for Westbury One.
- → Board voted to cancel December WCC board meeting, per tradition.

November 2023 WCC Board Notes

- → Guest Speaker Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg (see pg. 8 for more info). Brief comments by: Greg Norwood (Pct 1 - Ellis), Brian Pendleton (Pct 4 - Briones), Dwight Baxter (Rep Shawn Thierry), and Justice McCullum (At-Large 5 – Alcorn), and political candidates Twila Carter (At-Large 3) and Julian Ramirez (At-Large 1)
- → HPD gave away free gun safes to encourage responsible gun ownership. Sgt. Ortiz of HPD introduced his officers who were at the meeting; they handle issues such as Homeless, Game Rooms, and Code Enforcement.
- → Sgt. Derkowski of Precinct 5 Constables Constables trying to reduce speeding. They have done 134 traffic stops since the last meeting, and 72 in November.
- → Board approved Ryan Crowley as Westbury South Director. Board approved Andrew Jefferson to move to At Large Director.
- → Treasurer Becky Edmondson presented a proposed 2024 Budget. See page 11 for more info. The board will vote on the budget in January 2024.

Platou Community Center at Chimney Rock Park

nouston

PARKS

& recreation department

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

Supervisor— Dajai Tennard

Email—Dajai.Tennard@houstontx.gov

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

Exercise—M/W/F, 9:30-10:30AM
Quilting— Tuesday, 9:30AM –2PM
Games—Wednesday, 10AM—12PM
Line Dancing—Thursdays, 11AM-12PM
TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Weight loss group meets Tuesdays 5-6PM

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

What's Coming in January?

New Genealogy classes by Pat Melcalfe will be back in January. Look for more info in the January Crier.

NEW Class at the Platou Center TRY YOGA, CHAIR YOGA, THAT IS

Come try out this new yoga class at the platou center held on Thursdays in December.

December 7, 14, and 21 from 10-11 am

The class will be lead by Stan Pollans, a Westbury resident and long-time Yoga teacher. No mat needed, but wear socks in case you want to take off your shoes. Wear comfortable clothes.

PLATOU HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Wednesday, December 13, 11AM—1PM

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Social & Potluck on Wednesday, December 13, from 11AM to 1PM. Potluck, Toys for Tots collection, and a White Elephant Gift exchange.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUNDAY

Saturday, December 16, 10AM-2PMJoin us for Christmas family fun at the Platou C

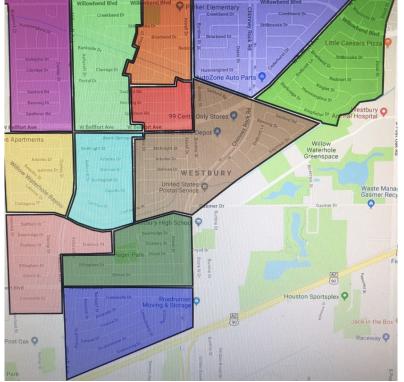
Join us for Christmas family fun at the Platou Center. There will be Christmas crafts, games, music, and delicious treats.

Toys for Tots

December 1—December 22

Drop off unwrapped, new toys for kids during Platou normal hours for Toys for Tots toy drive.

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.

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

What's Happening in Westbury

December 2023 Events & Meetings

Nov 27 – Dec 5	Early Voting for Run-Off Election See page 10 for more info
Sat 9	Run-off Election See page 10 for more info
Wed 13	Platou Holiday Social and Potluck Platou Community Center See page 4 for more information
Thurs 14	Heavy Trash - JUNK WASTE
Sat 16	Shannon Walker Library Preview TBD New Library in Westbury celebration! Check Westbury Facebook page and website for more info.
Sat 16	Family Fun Day at Platou Center Platou Community Center See page 4
Sat 16	Yard of the Month Holiday Judging See page 9
Dec 18-20	Online Voting for Holiday Contest See page 9
Wed 20	No WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting
Wed 20	No Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting
Dec 20 -Jan 5	WCC Office Closed Emails will be monitored

January 2024 Events & Meetings

Thurs 11	Heavy Trash - Tree Waste ONLY	
Wed 17	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting	10AM
Wed 17	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room	7PM



All About Trash

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

Regular Household Trash

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

Yard Waste

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



Recycling in Westbury

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

December 2023
Thursday, December 14

Thursday, December 28

January 2024 Thursday, January 11 Thursday, January 25

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 2023
JUNK WASTE
Thursday, December 14

January 2024
TREE WASTE ONLY
Thursday, January 11

Important Trash & Recycling Info

- Regular trash pickup is every Thursday.
- Recycling is every other Thursday.
- Heavy Trash is once a month, 2nd Thursday.
- Tard waste is picked up on Saturdays.
- Westbury is on Recycle Schedule A
- MO Plastic Bags in green recycling bins
- Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM each Thursday
- Trash cans must be removed by 10PM each Thursday
- Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- Mard waste MUST be in correct biodegradable bags with City logo
- Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- Mearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers:

<u>SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr</u> - **10785 SW Frwy** Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM;

Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables.

- Environmental Service Center 11500 S. Post Oak Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM. Accepts Hazardous Household & Electronic Waste.
- Refer to www.houstontx.gov for more trash and recycling information

Support the Westbury Civic ClubPay your 2024 Voluntary Dues TODAY!

Westbury is a unique neighborhood with the majority of the 5,000 homes having voluntary dues. Only about 450 homes in Parkwest 1 and Parkwest 2 have Mandatory Assessments. The active participation of volunteers and yearly dues contributions help the Westbury Civic Club achieve our goal and remain active in the City of Houston. The total voluntary dues requested for 2024 is \$385. This includes the WCC Dues and Westbury Area Patrol.

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

How To Pay Your Dues/Assessments

There are several pays to pay your dues or assessments.

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

Westbury Civic Club Voluntary Dues Form

Name
Address
Email
Phone
Included payment is for the following:
☐ WCC Voluntary Dues - \$60
☐ WAP Westbury Area Constable Patrol - \$325
☐ Mandatory Assessments - \$290 (2024)
☐ Extra Donation (please specify WCC or WAP)

Westbury Civic Club Dues - \$60

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

Westbury Area Constable Patrol - \$325

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

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

2024 MANDATORY ASSESSMENTS

2024 Mandatory Assessments - \$290

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

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

The Mandatory Assessments are due annually on February 1. The 2024 Mandatory Assessments are \$290. The WCC has launched our NEW online owner portal. This now makes it easy to view, track, and make payments online. The 2024 invoices for Mandatory homes will be mailed in December to the address on record. If you do not receive your invoice, please sign up for your new online owner portal (use the handy QR code to the left) to view a copy or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net. If you have past due assessments and would like to set up a payment plan, please email the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net.

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

Questions & Answers from the WCC Board Meetings

What is the status of revising deed restrictions for Parkwest 3 or other sections?

It has been paused for most of 2023, but we are restarting this effort in 2024.

How can I request speed bumps?

At this time, the City does not have any funding for speed bumps; it is very difficult to get speed bumps installed. Most of the existing speed bumps in our area are from over 20 years ago; they are not new. While the City does not currently have funding, you can still request speed bumps through 311. If the City starts again, we might be on a list. There are other traffic calming solutions that the City uses in lieu of speed bumps.

What can be done about problem properties that have noise violations, trash out too early, or high weeds?

Each issue is unique but almost everything needs to be reported to the City via 311. You can take photos and document the issues at a property is a persistent problem. Please email the WCC office of the address and the issues that exist. If the property is being used as a short term rental, you can also report the property through their website.

What is the best way to contact the WCC?

The best way to contact the WCC is via email, westburycc@sbcglobal.net. You can also send a message through your PayHOA portal. If immediate response is required, you can message us on Facebook, Westbury Houston. The slowest form of contact is via phone and voicemail.

What is the process for Planning/Architect/House Plans?

Submit a copy of the plans with the WCC house review form that can be found on our website, www.westburyhouston.com. The plans can either be emailed directly to the office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net or dropped off to the office (we have a drop slot in the bottom of the door).

What do I do if I have contacted the WCC and have not heard back?

If you have not gotten a response back from us in 7 to 10 days, then please contact us again. Please make sure that you have sent the information to the correct email address of westburycc@sbcglobal.net or have sent your request via the PayHOA portal. You can also try messaging us on Facebook at this point or emailing the wcc president.

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

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

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

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

Statement of Account - Email the WCC office at westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Account Balance - Set up your PayHOA account today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WCC Monthly Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM Westbury Baptist Church Game Room Next Meeting—Wednesday, January 17

Join the WCC Board?

Come to the next meeting and join this great group of volunteers maintaining and making our neighborhood a great place! We welcome any Westbury homeowner to join! We need YOU!

Open Board positions*

At Large directors (two positions)
Security director
Westbury 2 Section Director
Westbury 4 Section Director
Westbury 5 Section Director
Parkwest 1 Section Director
*You must be the listed owner of
record for your Westbury property in
order to be on the WCC board. Section
directors must live in their particular
section.

Join the WCC Green Team today!

Work on keeping Westbury Green! Help maintain our esplanades and Westbury sign gardens, and much more! Sign up today, www.westburyhouston.com

HOW TO CONTACT THE WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB

WCC Office-

westburycc@sbcglobal.net 713-723-5437

WCC President-

wccpresident@westburycrier.com

Social Media-

Facebook—Message Westbury Houston

SPEAKERS AT WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB BOARD MEETINGS

Westbury Civic Club board meetings are a good way to learn more about your neighborhood. Each month we try to have a featured speaker from the City, County, State or more. The Westbury Civic Club Board meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday (there is no December meeting). Read below to learn what our District K Councilmember and Harris County DA had to say. If you have any suggestions for speakers, please let us know.

District K CM Martha Castex-Tatum

The guest speaker at the October 2023 WCC board meeting was District K CM Martha Castex-Tatum, who spoke for more than 45 minutes providing a detailed update of issues relevant to Westbury and answering questions from the audience. CM Castex-Tatum was unopposed in the November election which is a testament to her reputation as an effective council member. We look forward to working closely with CM Castex-Tatum and her staff for another 4 years. Read below about several hot topics relevant to our area.

Drainage

- The city has a project to improve street drainage on West Airport between Hillcroft and Bob White by replacing the outfalls and making the stormwater drains bigger. The project is in design.
- Drainage in the area of Creekbend/Rampart/Ashcroft The project was split into 2 parts, the work north of Willowbend has already been completed. The work on the Westbury side is expected to start in 2024.
- Westbury Drainage Capital Improvement Project phase 1. Estimated cost is \$21 million dollars and will advertise for bids in 2024.
- Harris County Flood Control District purchased 7 lots along Willow Waterhole Bayou (on Ludington, Cartagena, and Beaudry) and those lots are being transferred to the City for future street and drainage projects. The city will then be responsible for lot maintenance.
- "Spellman Tract" detention new detention pond is to be added (6400 block of West Bellfort) by the City at a cost of \$14 million dollars. The construction contract is expected to be awarded in December 2023 and construction will start in 2024. This detention space will take overflow stormwater from the Fondren Diversion channel that might otherwise flow into the Westbury area.

Streets

Asphalt overlays were finished last week for Gasmer, Ricecrest, and Clematis (all near Willow Waterhole). Street panel replacements and sidewalks were worked on south of West Bellfort (primarily in Westbury 1). Concrete panels were replaced on Hillcroft between Willowbend and West Bellfort.

Sidewalks

CM Castex-Tatum got Public Works to agree to add ramps on sidewalks that were recently replaced in Westbury without the ramps. She noted that there are ongoing discussions at the City regarding sidewalk maintenance. Currently the homeowner is responsible for sidewalk maintenance, which has led to many sidewalks being impassable due to cracks. The City is considering taking back responsibility for sidewalks, similar to how the City recently decided to take back responsibility for maintenance of open ditches (in areas that don't have curb and drain). If you know a sidewalk that is a danger to a Senior or a Disabled person, then contact the Mayor's Office or District K for an evaluation for a possible upgrade per the American Disability Act.

Traffic

The "Willowbend Connectivity Study" evaluated issues for all users for the Willowbend corridor between Hillcroft and South Post Oak. After a presentation to the public before the August 2023 WCC Board meeting, public input placed the segment near Willowbend/West Bellfort as the highest priority. The estimated cost is \$32,000, to be funded by District K. Other segments will be more expensive and may need funding via the Public Works department.

Hager Park

Improvements planned for Fiscal Year 2026.

Harris County DA Kim Ogg

The Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg spoke for over 20 minutes at the November 2023 WCC board meeting. DA Ogg grew up in Westbury and

attended Anderson Elementary School. When she was a child, her mother was kidnapped and jumped out of a moving car to escape, which led her to be interested in a career working in the District Attorney's office.



The District Attorney is the top law enforcement official in Harris County, with about 350 lawyers who support 86 different law enforcement agencies in Harris County. The DA office handles about 100,000 cases each year. Law enforcement gathers information, which is then submitted to the District Attorney's Office (the prosecution). There continues to be a backlog, which has gotten somewhat better after a new state law went into effect in 2023 which allows prioritization of murder cases, but they also have to wait until lab results are available and courts/judges are available.

Reforms that DA Ogg has made: Added a Mental Health division, is "victim-centric", and has worked to fix the victim restitution system so that \$50 million dollars has been paid to victims in the past 7 years as a condition of plea bargains or trials.

Free Gun Safes from HPD

Houston Police Department officers attended the November 2023 WCC board meeting and gave away free gun safes to encourage responsible gun ownership. Sgt. Ortiz of HPD introduced his officers and explained how they handle issues such as Homeless, Game Rooms, and Code Enforcement.





Online Decoration Contest Multiple Categories & Winners

Back for the 4th year is the Westbury online holiday decoration contest with multiple categories and winners! The online winners will have special signs placed in their yards and receive a prize. All entries must be submitted online through the WCC website, www.westburyhouston.com or by emailing westburyholidaylights@gmail.com.

Entries must be submitted electronically by Friday, December 15, 11:59pm. Online voting on Westbury Houston website page will start Monday, December 18, 10am and end Wed., December 20, 10am. Winners will be announced by Wed., December 20, 6pm.

WESTBURY AWARD (BEST IN 2023)

Do you think your house is the best in Westbury? Are you ready to compete with the best of the best? Does your house have everything...lights, inflatables, themes, music, and more? Nominate your house today for this top award!

THE SHINING (MOST LIGHTS/BRIGHTEST)

Is your house lit? Do you have the brightest lights? Do you have the most lights in the neighborhood? Let us know!

OVERLY INFLATED (UNIQUE/BEST INFLATABLES)

Love inflatables? Is your entire yard covered in them? Do you have a super cool special inflatable? Send us your address.

INTERACTIVE WONDERLAND (MUSIC/ANIMATION)

Do your lights move to music? Do you have special effects in your yard? We want to see and hear! Send us your videos to westburyholidaylights@gmail.com.

Top Three & Best Blocks in Each Section

The yard of the month judges will be driving the neighborhood on Saturday, December 16, to pick the top three winners in each section along with the best blocks.

If you would like to nominate your house or a neighbor's home, go to www.westburyhouston.com and click on the Holidays in Westbury page.

Parker Elementary Holiday Concerts

December 5 —Strings Winter Concert at 1:30 & 6:00 pm in the Parker ES Auditorium

December 6 — Advanced Guitars at 11AM at Westbury HS

December 7 — Chorus Concerts at 1:30pm & 6:00 pm in the Parker ES Auditorium

December 11— Performing Strings to Methodist Hospital

December 14 — Advance Chorus from 10-1:30 at Rotary Luncheon

December 15 — Advanced Guitars & Piano from 9am-12pm at Belmont Village Senior Living West University

December 16 — Performing Strings at Grand Opening of New Westbury Library from 11am-2pm

December 18 — Rhythm & Pre-Band Concert at 1:30 pm in the Parker ES Auditorium

December 19 — Beginning & Advanced Band Concerts at 1:30pm & 4:30pm in Parker ES Auditorium

December 20 —Advanced Band Performs at 10am at Brookdale SeniorCenter

December 20 — Guitar Concert at 6pm in Parker Auditorium

December 21 — Strings Matinee at 3pm in Parker Auditorium



What is on the Ballot?

City of Houston - Mayor, City Controller, and 4 At-Large City Council Members

Who is on the Ballot?

(in alphabetical order)

Mayor of Houston

Sheila Jackson Lee John Whitmire

City Controller

Chris Hollins Orlando Sanchez

City Council, At-Large #1

Melanie Miles Julian Ramirez

City Council, At-Large #2

Willie Davis Nick Hellyar

City Council, At-Large #3

Richard Cantu Twila Carter

City Council, At-Large #4

Rov Morales Letitia Plummer

RUNOFF ELECTION 2023

The 2023 November election ended in several runoff races. The top two votegetters in each of these races are in the runoff election because no one got more than 50% of the votes in the initial election.

The Runoff election is on Saturday. December 9. Early voting starts on November 27, see box to the right for Early voting information.

If you are a registered voter, you can vote in the runoff election, even if you didn't vote in the first round.

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

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



EARLY VOTING

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 5

Early voting is open 7AM—7PM except for Sunday, December 3, when they are open 12pm-7pm.

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

VOTING FAQS

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

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JackieKendylTeam@WayneMurray.net









5510 Briarbend - 3/2/2 \$340's



10926 Endicott - 3/2/2 \$360's



10722 Kirkside - 3/2/2•\$310's



11022 Braewick - 3/2/2 \$320's



HOUSTON . KATY . SUGAR LAND . THE WOODLANDS

PROPOSED 2024 WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB BUDGET

General Income

		Proposed Budget	
	Mandatory Assessments	\$98,020	
	Voluntary WCC Dues	\$48,600	
	Westbury Area Patrol Voluntary (Restricted)	\$255,150	
	Total Dues & Assessments	\$401,770	
	Crier Advertising Fees	\$12,000	
	Refinancing Fees	\$1,000	
	Transfer Fees	\$16,750	
	Resale Certificates	\$2,500	
	Total General Income	\$434,020	
Pr	ogram Expenses		
	Crier Printing & Expenses	\$47,000	
	Programs and Hospitality	\$1,160	
	Harris County Constable Fee (3 Deputies)	\$279,360	
	Total Program Expenses	\$327,520	
General Expenses			
	Postage, Mailing Service	\$10,000	
	Bank and PayPal Fees	\$2,500	
	Computer and Software	\$10,500	
	Insurance	\$3,000	
	Payroll Expenses	\$55,000	
	Contract Services—Accounting/Legal	\$5,000	
	Facilities and Equipment (Rent)	\$17,500	
	Utilities (Electric, Phone)	\$3,000	
	Total General Expenses	<u>\$106,500</u>	
	TOTAL: Program + General Expense	s \$434,020	



Budget Discussion

The Budget Committee of the Westbury Civic Club is pleased to present our proposed budget for 2024. According to the WCC bylaws, the annual budget must be a balanced budget (where estimated income and estimated expenses are the same).

Last year our proposed total budget was \$421,000. The cost of the WAP Constable Patrol, our most expensive program, has increased to \$279,360. For 2024, we are estimating the income and expense at \$434,020, which is an increase of about \$13,000 compared to 2023.

Looking at our income categories for 2024, Crier advertising is down from past estimates and has not really rebounded since COVID. We will be working on attracting new advertisers. We've reduced our refinance and transfer fee estimates due to rising interest rates. We've increased our estimates for dues and assessment income, as it will be easier to both send out bills and for residents to pay with our new system. Our estimates are very conservative and we hope that our dues and assessment payments get back to the pre-COVID levels. It is still our hope to get collections up to the point that we can add an additional deputy to our Constable Patrol Program, which means we would like to be able to increase from our current 3 officers to 4 officers. The dues for the WAP patrol are increasing by \$10 for 2024 to \$325 to cover the increase in the contract cost this year. Commissioner's Court is considering another increase in 2024 when our contract renews October 1, 2024.

Our expenses generally do not change much from year to year. We expect our banking charges to go down in 2024 as our new bank does not charge as much as our preview bank lockbox. Our new database and payment system costs \$875 a month, but we will no longer have to pay \$400 for a lockbox to receive check payments. We've allocated a bit more for postage expenses as the new system makes it easy to generate letters and invoices at a charge of just \$1.00 each, which includes the postage. Our proposed budget amounts for wages, rent, electricity, and utilities remains the same as 2023.

Many thanks to the budget committee of Becky Edmondson (Committee Chair), Lindsey Pollock, Jonathan Hansen, Marcia Hartman, and Cindy Chapman.



MAJOR TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Speeding continues to be a prevalent problem, as does running red lights. There was a bad wreck at West Bellfort and Burdine on November 4, and a 14 year-old girl was killed. Our Pct. 5 Constable patrols have been focusing on traffic stops. In the last 30 days, 124 traffic stops were made by the Precinct 5 Constables. A speed of 60MPH on Willowbend was recorded this month by our Constables, twice the speed limit. HPD has placed 2 of its speed indicator trailers on West Bellfort in an effort to remind drivers to slow down.

The Westbury Civic Club and our non-profit partner, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC), are looking into the feasibility and cost of adding permanent speed indicators along our major throughfares. Too many lives have been lost on Westbury streets from accidents caused by speeding.

The WCC continues to advocate for a traffic signal on West Bellfort at Burdine.

Westbury Fire Station Repainted

Several Westbury residents along with the firefighters at Station 48 asked District K City Councilman Martha Castex-Tatum for help in getting the station a fresh coat of paint. Thank you City of Houston for the fresh coat of paint at the Westbury Fire Station 48.



New Sidewalks and Ramps Along Mullins

Westbury residents along Mullins Dr from Sanford to Briarbend will soon have improved sidewalks and new wheelchair ramps. Construction started in October and should wrap up by the end of the year.

Status of Spring Village Apts.

The Spring Village Apartments are located at 11810 Chimney Rock, near Gasmer. The City purchased this property a while back for the purpose of greenspace and possible future detention. The apartment complex has flooded several times in the past. The city has been relocating all the tenants who were living at the apartment complex. As of October 2023, there were still 8 tenants remaining.

The site will be used as open greenspace. We hope in the future that water detention can be incorporated into the site as the property abuts Willow Waterhole Bayou. We would also love to see trails and bridge connecting to the new library on the other side of the bayou. CM Martha Castex-Tatum says that the site will not be allowed to have any buildings on it in the future.

WESTBURY AREA IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

The November meeting of the non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) and the Westbury Super Neighborhood Council was hosted in the WCC office. And, what an exciting meeting it was!

Salem Gives Back to WAIC

Carol Kehlenbrink, representing the former Salem Lutheran Church congregation, presented a legacy gift of \$50,000 to the non-profit WAIC. Wow, we are so blessed and grateful! In 2017, Hurricane Harvey flooded the campus of Salem Lutheran at 4930 W Bellfort. Finding themselves without flood insurance, the cost to repair was too great and they made



the tough decision to sell the property and close as a congregation. Due to the sale, they had excess funds and decided to distribute them to community groups with which they had worked over the years.

Salem Lutheran had been a part of the fabric of Westbury for over 50 years. The WAIC used to meet monthly at Salem. When the Neighborhoods USA convention was in town in 2015 and Westbury was a featured neighborhood, Salem rolled out the welcome carpet and hosted a dinner for the people on the tour. When the local theater group, Company on Stage, needed a home, Salem Lutheran was there. With this legacy gift, we will be able to honor the commitment that Salem Lutheran always had for its people and its community.

General Meeting Updates

The WAIC Officers for 2024 were elected: President - Becky Edmondson, Vice-president - David Roschke, Secretary - Susan Shafer, Treasurer - Marcia Hartman. WAIC VP David Roschke talked about Board development in 2024. If you are a business owner and interested in working toward making Westbury the best it can be, please let us know if you are interested in joining the WAIC. The WAIC board voted to change the monthly meeting time to 10AM next year.

The WAIC board voted to contribute \$300 to Anderson Elementary for their teacher appreciation luncheon. The Board voted to spend up to \$3,000 to clean local Westbury neighborhood marker signs, trim and weed, and apply protective coating on the signs.

The WAIC board discussed the issues at the Heights of Post Oak apartment complex with the Mayor's Assistance Office representative,

Another focus for 2024 is traffic, especially speeding traffic. We talked about possibly installing permanent speed indicators on major roads in Westbury. Sgt. Derkowski has been working traffic and has made 70 traffic stops since the first of November. 124 since our last meeting! He has clocked cars going 60mph on Willowbend and 66mph on West Bellfort.



November 2023 WAIC Board Meeting at the WCC office

Crime Statistics for Westbury SuperNeighborhood

October 15—November 15, 2023 Crime in Westbury Single Family Homes

KEY

Block	Street	Crime	Date	Time	Section of W	Theft from Motor Vehicle
12100	Braewick	Auto Theft	11/15	9pm	Westbury 4	
5300	Briarbend	Burglary, Breaking & Entering	10/18	4pm	Westbury 2	Auto Theft
10900	Cedarhurst	Theft from Motor Vehicle	11/6	11am	Westbury 2	Vandalism
10900	Cedarhurst	Simple Assault	11/8	6pm	Westbury 2	
10700	Hillcroft	Theft—Other	11/3	12pm	Westbury 5	Aggravated Assault
11400	Hillcroft	Auto Theft	10/29	10am	Parkwest 3	
11400	Hillcroft	Theft—Other	11/5	6pm	Parkwest 3	Burglary
6000	McKnight	Aggravated Assault	11/8	5am	Parkwest 3	Simple Assault
12300	Renwick	Theft—Other	11/3	11am	Westbury South	Theft—other
5700	Warm Springs	Theft—Other	10/26	10am	Westbury 3	mert—other
6000	W. Airport	Simple Assault	11/2	8pm	Westbury 4	
6000	W. Bellfort	Theft of Motor Vehicle parts	10/21	10am	Westbury 5	

The crimes listed took place between October 15 and November 15. 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/ Public
Aggravated Assault	1	7	2	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1	5	2	2
Burglary	1	1	3	0
Robbery	0	0	2	0
Simple Assault	2	14	3	2
Shoplifting	0	0	7	0
Drugs, Narcotics	0	2	3	0
Vandalism, Damage	0	4	1	1
Auto Theft	2	5	0	0
Theft of Vehicle Parts	1	0	1	0
Theft—Other	4	3	2	1
Arson	0	0	0	0
DUI	0	0	0	1
Disorderly Conduct	0	1	0	0
Sexual Assault	0	1	0	0
Obscene Material	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	12	43	26	7

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

SW HPD Station

832-394-0400

HPD Non-Emergency

713-884-3131

VACATION WATCH

Are you going on vacation over the winter break? If you pay your Westbury Area Patrol dues, make sure you request a vacation watch by the Constables. Vacation Watch is a great service that is included in our contract.

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

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

More Constables Needed Pay Your 2024 WAP Dues

The WCC board discussed the importance of getting the WCC finances to the point where we can afford to hire another Constable to our Westbury security patrol. Westbury used to have 4 Constables in our Westbury patrol contract with Precinct 5 Constables, but we had to drop one deputy because we could not afford it. It is recommended that a neighborhood our size have 8-10 deputies, we currently have three.

The Constables with Precinct 5 are licensed law enforcement officers. This means that they are real police officers, not security guards. They can do traffic stops when drivers are speeding or appear to be under the influence. The Constables can arrest criminals. They can take fingerprint evidence and file crime information into the Houston police system. The Constables are in contact with our local HPD officers and often check the HPD database for information.

The Constables on patrol in Westbury provide a valuable service to the neighborhood. The visibility and knowledge of patrol often keeps our crime numbers lower than other areas that do not have supplemental patrol. Please consider paying your WAP dues for 2024! See page 6 on how to pay your dues.



WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN 12581 DUNLAP

WCG Year End SeedMoney Fundraiser

For four years running, WCG has conducted a year-end fundraiser to support capital improvements found in the Master Plan through a crowd-sourcing program called the SeedMoney Challenge. During 2021-22 the garden began converting a row of gardens to sitting/standing height for seniors and others who have difficulty kneeling, squatting, and reaching. The Gardening Within Reach program now includes a new segment of driveway and close parking for the individuals who use the higher garden beds.

Your donation will bring us closer to achieving the dream of accessible gardening and close parking for gardeners who need it most.

Visit our SeedMoney page website for more info and to make your donation. We thank you!

https://donate.seedmoney.org/9380/westbury-community-garden

EDIBLE FLOWERS WORKSHOP

Flower lovers gathered at the Westbury Community Garden on November 11 to learn and get inspired about adding edible flowers to their culinary repertoire. Participants got to taste a colorful salad with flower confetti, squash blossom fritters, two compound butters with herbs and flowers, and cake topped with candied violets.

Afterward, there were flowers to purchase and plant at home. The pansies, violas, dianthus and snapdragons were beautiful! Some participants even got to purchase their own native Woodland Violets to tuck away in a shady spot. Thanks to all who came out to support the Westbury Community Garden at this fun event!

Salem Gives Back To Garden

Salem Lutheran Evangelical Church volunteers had often worked in the Westbury Community Garden (WCG) during "Salem Serving Days" (community days of service). When the congregation made the very tough decision to sell their Harvey flood-damaged property on West Bellfort, they decided to take those excess funds and give legacy gifts to groups that make a positive impact within the community they served. The WCG was the very blessed recipient of one of these gifts. Thank you Salem Lutheran Evangelical Church.

The WCG is working on implementing the "Gardening within Reach" portion of their master plan, which improves access by adding a driveway, parking, and creating more raised accessible beds. The congregation's gift was a wonderful start to the fundraising effort.





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.







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Willow Waterhole

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



Photo-Mark Mulligan, Houston Chronicle

Salem Gives to Levitt Pavilion

Levitt Pavilion Houston received a legacy gift of \$100,000 from the Salem Lutheran congregation during the MusicFest event at Willow Waterhole in October. What an incredible blessing!

Levitt Pavilion will be built on the former Shell property adjacent to the Willow Waterhole, with a targeted opening in 2025. Just imagine our very own permanent music venue right here in the Westbury Super Neighborhood! Through the Levitt Foundation, 40 free concerts will be offered each season.

To learn more and become a part of the Levitt Houston family, visit levitthouston.org.





Audubon Society Monthly Bird Survey @ the Willow Waterhole

Saturday, December 16, 7AM Meet at the Gathering Place, 5310 S. Willow For more info., visit the Houston Audubon website. houstonaudubon.org/



Goats at Prairie Lake

Hardworking goats will be assisting with chomping down vegetation over at Willow Waterhole. The goats will be working in the Native Prairie management area at Prairie Lake, located on the east side of South Post Oak. The goats will be enclosed in fencing and will be monitored. This project will utilize a herd of approximately 300 goats to graze down vegetation in 17-acre section of the Prairie Lake over 25-35 days.

Please do NOT touch the fence.
Please do NOT feed the goats.
Please do NOT pet or touch the goats.

NEW ART SCULPTURES AT WILLOW WATERHOLE

There are beautiful new sculptures at the Willow Waterhole. "Flowers of a Lady" was created by internationally renowned artist Rosalinda Toro. The sculptures honor Kathleen Tinsley Ownby to recognize her legacy of creating additional parkland for Houstonians through the SPARK School Park Program. Kathleen grew up nearby in Willow Meadows, graduated from Westbury High School (WHS), has been active supporting WHS via the Friends of WHS Foundation, and has been an influential advocate on behalf of Willow Waterhole.

The artwork recognizes her legacy to Houston parks and schools as longtime executive director of the School Park (SPARK) program. As a result of her efforts, there are now over 200 SPARK parks at schools in the greater Houston area. The artwork is a grouping of 3 pillars, topped with butterflies in flight to represent the transformation of parks in the city, and wrapped in colorful mosaics representing Ms. Ownby's love of flowers and nature.

The colorful sculptures are located at 5300 Dryad Drive. Come out to take a look, walk on the new trails in the area, and enjoy the cool seasonal weather.



HOLIDAYS IN WESTBURY

Yard of the Month Judging—December 16
Online Decoration Contest— Voting December 18-20

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