



# Westbury Crier

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2015

## Westbury Homes Flooded in May

After weeks of rain, on May 25 during the Rockets game, the rain started again. It didn't end until the wee hours of the morning after approximately 11.5 inches of rain fell in Westbury. Homeowners woke up, if they had been able to sleep at all through the storms, to a world of water throughout the neighborhood. Brays Bayou left its banks flooding the neighborhoods adjacent to it, and in Westbury, the homes that line the Willow Waterhole Bayou and surrounding streets were inundated with rising water. WCC board members drove through the streets checking on residents and recording addresses of homes that had "structural" flooding. At last count, 267 homes in Westbury had flood waters inside them; some had a few inches, some had more than a foot. Dozens of cars were flooded in driveways.



The scenes and stories were both frightening and surreal as residents coped with the rising water and then the horrible aftermath of soggy wet carpets, ruined furniture and all those possessions that needed to be cleaned, boxed up and or thrown away. For many residents the hardships were just beginning as they tried to navigate the world of cleanup, insurance (if they were lucky enough to have flood insurance), contractors and alternate living arrangements. Parents scrambled to get their kids situated for the last week of school; adult children scrambled to help their elderly parents; neighbors pitched in to help neighbors.

Please know that the Westbury Civic Club has been working and will continue to work to bring an end to structural flooding in Westbury. Sadly, Harris County Flood Control is in the middle of a project to improve the flow of the Willow Waterhole Bayou and Braewick ditch, but it has not yet been completed. The City of Houston had inspectors out that toured with us; street and drainage crews were out; our CM Larry Green issued a press release about Project Brays needing completion; the 2020 CIP includes a portion of Westbury for new storm drains. All of that is a start. No one should have to worry that every thunderstorm could bring devastation. For more info about the May 2015 Flood and Westbury, see pages 8-10.

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## Westbury Wins Two Awards at NUSA

**\*Neighborhood of the Year—1st Place**

**\*National Newsletter Competition— 2nd Place**

**CONGRATULATIONS WCC &  
AND THE WESTBURY CRIER!!!**

For more information about this exciting conference and our awards, see pages 11-13.



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**HEAVY TRASH for  
JUNE is  
JUNK WASTE.  
Pick-up for ALL of  
Westbury is  
Thursday, JUNE 11**

*More info, see page 5*

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### Coffee With the Constables

Come out to Westbury Square to the PUCS Coffee Truck on Saturday, June 13 from 8-10AM to meet our constables. The first 50 people will receive a free small coffee. We look forward to seeing you there! Westbury Square is located next to Home Depot.

**June 13, 8-10AM**

## Westbury Civic Club Board of Directors

President	Becky Edmondson	wccpresident@westburycrier.com
Vice President	Marcia Hartman	wccvp@westburycrier.com
Secretary	VACANT	
Treasurer	David Cummins	westburytreasurer@gmail.com

## Directors at Large

Communications	Libby Mondello	
Community Relations	Cindy Chapman	wcccommunityrelations@westburycrier.com
Deed Restrictions	Jennifer Edmondson	wccoffice@westburycrier.com
Flood Control & Infrastructure	Jeff Benavides	
Greenspace Beautification	VACANT	
Membership	Kate Wilson	
Security	Leslee Cross	wccsecurity@westburycrier.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Stephanie Lester	westburystephanie@gmail.com

## Section Directors

Westbury 1	Meg Horner	
Westbury 2	Rocio Lara	
Westbury 3	Robert Montgomery	rmontgomery002@comcast.net
Westbury 3	Charlsey Porcarello	charlsey@swbell.net
Westbury 4	Eugene Sirls	
Westbury 4	Amanda Bess	
Westbury 5	Virginia Livingston	Westbury5E@westburycrier.com
Westbury 5	VACANT	
Westbury South	Robert Capps	
Parkwest 1	William Grimsinger	
Parkwest 2	Jeffrey Weiss	jhweiss@yahoo.com
Parkwest 3	Joe Niles	Parkwest3@westburycrier.com

## Westbury Civic Club Office

**Office Hours:** Monday—Thursday 9:30AM-1:30PM\*, Closed Fridays

**Address:** 5322 W Bellfort Ste. 107 Houston, TX 77035

**Phone:** 713-723-5437 **Office Manager:** Jennifer Edmondson

**Email:** Westburycc@sbcglobal.net

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

**NOTARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WESTBURY RESIDENTS during office hours or by appointment**

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

**Westbury Area Patrol Constable Dispatch**  
**281-463-6666**

HPD Non-Emergency  
713-884-3131

Power Outages (Centerpoint)  
713-207-2222

Westbury HPD Storefront  
713-726-7126

Platou Community Center  
713-726-7107

Poison Control  
1-800-764-7661

Street Light Repairs (Give pole number)  
713-207-2222

**District K Councilmember Larry Green**  
**832-393-3016**

District C Councilmember Ellen Cohen  
832-393-3004

County Commissioner El Franco Lee  
713-755-6111

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

Report Graffiti—Brays Oaks Management District (BOMD) [www.braysoaksmid.org](http://www.braysoaksmid.org)  
Use "Report A Problem"

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

Forestry Department, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Heavy Trash Violations and Questions, Neighborhood Nuisances, Parking Management, Solid Waste - Trash and Recycling, School Crossing Light Repairs, Water Main Break, and Sewer Repair, etc.

## Stay connected!

Are you one of the 1,328 likes on our Facebook page, Westbury Houston?

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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# President's Message

As I sat down to finish my president's message I kept thinking of Charles Dickens' famous opening sentence in "A Tale of Two Cities". *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."* The same could be said of May 2015. The "best of times" happened at the Neighborhoods USA conference. This national organization hosted its 40<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Houston this year. The Westbury Civic Club took first place in the physical revitalization category for Neighborhood of the Year for the "Saving of the Westbury Community Garden". The *Westbury Crier* took Second place for Newsletter of the year! There is more on pages 11-13 on NUSA and our awards. We have graciously and gratefully accepted these awards that we share with the WAIC and the Westbury Super Neighborhood. **Go Westbury!**

Just days after this wonderful conference the worst of times occurred for many Southwest Houston residents. For the majority of Westbury homeowners, a big rain event means the inconvenience of flooded streets and a delay getting home or to work. However, for over 300 of your Westbury neighbors the rains of May 25/26 meant flood waters entering their homes. Thousands of homes in the Brays watershed were flooded when Brays Bayou left its banks and the tributary ditches could not take the water from the streets fast enough. Sadly, lives were lost. You will read on page 8 more on this devastating event along with a letter we are sending to the City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control. The flooding in Westbury is not related to Brays Bayou leaving its banks. Westbury had structural flooding along the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) and on adjacent streets due, many feel, to the City's old, inadequate storm sewer system and lack

of maintenance and repair on the Willow Waterhole Bayou. When homes flooded in June of 1975 the WCC lobbied to get the WWB dredged and the flow improved. Forty years later the WWB needed maintenance again as flooding was worsening in that area. We began raising our concerns several years ago and in January of 2015 County Commissioners Court approved a large project to de-silt our ditches to improve the flow. The project began in January and is not complete.

Our 60 year old inadequately sized city storm sewers are also a problem. At this year's Capital Improvement meeting with the City of Houston, Westbury was told that they will be getting new storm water drainage in some areas. Two years ago Westbury was included in a pre-engineering study to see what work was needed. We are awaiting the final map as we want to ensure that the areas that have drainage issues are the areas that are done first. These CIP projects are slated for 2020 as that is when the monies to complete them will be available. With this current extensive flooding we don't want to wait until 2020. A few inches of increased drainage capacity could have saved many homes from getting water inside them.

The City says this May rain event was a historic rain event. What is historic about the May flood is the number of homes in this area with water in them. Hopefully dredging the WWB and putting in new storm drains will go a long way towards stopping history from repeating itself for many of these residents.

The majority of Westbury homes do not flood. There are just under 5,000 homes in

Westbury and over 4,600 remained dry. That is little consolation to those who flooded, but it does mean that our neighbors, who might need our help, have thousands of neighbors who could pitch in and help. And that is what happened!

I have to give a big thank you first to the hard working Westbury Civic Club Board. I am so humbled to work side by side with so many wonderful volunteers. Board members worked with Precinct 5 to have additional constable coverage in the flooded areas. Directors surveyed the neighborhood to record addresses that flooded. They met with residents. They posted on social media sites. They worked to get assistance to the people who were affected. They walked the streets and handed out flyers. They arranged refreshments and food. They met with city officials.

Thanks go out to the hundreds of Westbury residents and friends who donated and worked to help their flooded neighbors clean up. Individuals came together, churches pitched in, groups pitched in, families pitched in, and I saw people smile through their tears. One resident said of all the volunteers "When you feel the Love, you know that you are not alone".

As I watched neighbors out helping one another with the flood devastation and groups coming together to provide meals and other services to those who were affected by the flood, I was reminded, as I am time and time again, Westbury is a great area in which to live because we have the best neighbors ever!

Becky Edmondson

## Board Notes : May 2015

- Motion approved: Contribute \$1,000 to non-profit Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy (WWGC) for legal expenses to contest an environmental permit application by Southern Crushed Concrete, which adjoins Willow Waterhole Park. The WWGC is representing persons who live within ¼ mile of the proposed plant
- Motion approved: "The WCC has concerns that an asphalt overlay on Willowbend will exacerbate drainage issues and requests that the overlay project be postponed until a thorough engineering evaluation has been completed."
- Motion approved: "We support the 261 West Loop Park and Ride as an important non-stop transit service to downtown Houston" – letter to be sent to Metro
- Thank you to Jackie Murray of Weichert Realtors for providing cookies and water

**WCC Board  
Meeting  
Wednesday,  
June 17  
7PM-9PM  
Westbury Baptist**

# Platou Community Center

11655 Chimney Rock / Hours: Mon-Thurs 12PM—8PM; Fri 11AM-7PM  
Supervisor: Dan Reilly, [Daniel.reilly@houstontx.gov](mailto:Daniel.reilly@houstontx.gov) or 713-726-7107

## Summer Enrichment Program

Youths, ages 6 through 13, can register for Summer Enrichment Program at the Platou Center NOW. This is a full day program full of activities including swimming, tennis, nature walks, etc.  
Call Dan Reilly at 713-726-7107 for info.



## Health and Fitness Workshop

June 22

6:30-7:45PM

A good informative session, hosted by Fitness Instructor, Louis Moore. This workshop would nicely compliment the water fitness class at the Westbury Pool, see page 7.

## STRETCHING EXERCISE CLASS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
from 9-9:45AM

*Improve your flexibility by joining this non-strenuous exercise class.  
No registration required.  
Wear comfy clothes.*



**\*\*\*MOVED TO ST. THOMAS MORE SCOUT HOUSE FOR THE SUMMER, WILL RETURN TO PLATOU ONCE SCHOOL STARTS IN THE FALL\*\*\***

## TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

A Weight Loss Support Group

Tuesdays 5:45-7PM

*Drop in to preview the program or call Dorothy at 713-723-4441 or Naomi at 713-988-2233*

ALL REGULAR SCHEDULED PROGRAMS AT THE PLATOU CENTER ARE SUSUPENDED FOR THE SUMMER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ABOVE.  
ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME IN LATE AUGUST WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN.  
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO IN FUTURE *CRIERS*.

# Meyer Neighborhood Library

5005 W. Bellfort

Phone: 832-393-1840 / [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org)

## New & Improved Story Times!

**Baby Story-time:** Every Tuesday, 10:30-11:15am

**Toddler Story-time:** Every Wed. & Saturday at 10:30 AM

## Adult Mystery Book Club

Call the Meyer Library for more information.

## Youth Arts & Crafts

Thursdays, 4:30 –5:30PM

Come by after school and enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts. Explore making collages, stencil art, painting, origami, making jewelry and much more. All ages welcome.


## HOURS

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 10AM-6PM  
Wednesday: 10AM-6PM  
Thursday: 12PM-8PM  
Friday: 1PM-5PM  
Saturday: 10AM-5PM  
Sunday: Closed

DICK N SONS

# What's Happening in Westbury

## Events & Meetings Calendar June 2015

	SCHOOL IS OUT FOR THE SUMMER. 
Sat 6	Tomato Tasting at Westbury Community Garden 10-11:30AM 12581 Dunlap—WCG Pavilion see page 21 for more info
Tues 9	Westbury Pool Opens for weekday use 1-8PM 10605 Mullins More information, see page 7
Sat 13	Coffee with the Constables— 8-10AM PUCS Coffee Truck at Westbury Square See page 1 for more information
Mon 15	Westbury Community Garden Meeting 6:30PM Westbury Community Garden Pavilion - 12500 Dunlap
Mon 15	Brays Bayou Association Meeting 7:30PM The Gathering Place—5310 S. Willow
Tues 16	Water Fitness Classes start at the Westbury Pool 10605 Mullins More information, see page 7
Wed 17	WAIC/Super Neighborhood #37 Meeting 8:30AM Salem Lutheran Church— 4930 W. Bellfort
Wed 17	Westbury Civic Club Board Meeting 7PM Westbury Baptist Church—10425 Hillcroft
Sat 20	Audubon Society Bird Survey 7AM Meet at The Gathering Place parking lot—5310 S. Willow
Mon 22	Health and Fitness Workshop— 6:0-7:45PM Platou Center—11655 Chimney Rock
Tues 23	SW PIP (Police Positive Interaction Program) Meeting 7PM Aramco Building by Hobby Lobby
Sat 27	Family Fun Day at the Platou Center

**ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS**  
**HURRICAN SEASON STARTS JUNE 1**  
**KEEP STORM DRAINS CLEAR OF DEBRIS.**  
**HAVE YOUR TREES TRIMMED NOW AND**  
**LOOK INTO FLOOD INSURANCE!**  
**(30 DAY WAIT)**

## Planning Calendar

July 3—WCC Office Closed  
 No WAIC Meeting in July



## RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH CALENDAR



June 2015	
Thurs 11	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 11	Heavy Trash— <b>JUNK WASTE ALL OF WESTBURY</b>
Thurs 25	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

July 2015	
Thurs 9	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury
Thurs 9	Heavy Trash- <b>TREE WASTE ONLY ALL OF WESTBURY</b>
Thurs 23	Curbside Recycling All of Westbury

## Important Trash and Recycling Info

- Trash cans need to be on curb by 7AM each Thursday
- Trash cans must be removed by 10PM each Thursday
- Trash cans must be placed at least 3 feet apart
- Trash cans must be stored out of sight.
- Yard waste MUST be in correct biodegradable bags
- Heavy trash can be placed starting at 6PM the Friday before pick-up
- YARD WASTE is not considered tree waste. It is collected on regular Thursday trash day
- Call 311 for all trash questions and complaints
- Nearby Trash Depositories and Recycling Centers: **SW Trash Depository/Recycling Ctr**  
**10785 SW Frwy** / Hours: Wed.—Sun. 9AM to 6PM;  
 Accepts Junk Waste, Tree Waste & Recyclables.
- Environmental Service Center** - **11500 S. Post Oak**  
 Hours: Tues/Wed 9AM-3PM; 2nd Sat 9AM-1PM.  
 Accepts Hazardous Household & Electronic Waste.
- Refer to [www.westburycrier.com](http://www.westburycrier.com) or  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov) for more trash and recycling information

## City of Houston Heavy Trash Schedule

May	Tree Waste	August	Junk Waste
June	Junk Waste	Sept	Tree Waste
July	Tree Waste	October	Junk Waste

# City News

## Neighborhood 101 by District K

District K Council Member Larry Green and his able staff conducted a very informative workshop on May 2. The well-attended Neighborhood 101 Workshop, entitled "In's and Out's of Neighborhood Protection," provided information on resources provided by City of Houston. Eight city services have been organized into one newly created Department of Neighborhoods (DON) as a "one-stop shop" for resident issues. They are:

Anti-Gang Office, Office for People with Disabilities, Citizens' Assistance Office, Office of International Communities, Office of Education Initiatives, Volunteer Initiatives Program, Signs Code Enforcement (Bandit Signs), City of Houston Inspections & Public Services (formerly Neighborhood Protection Crops).

Currently, DON has 43 inspectors compared to 150 in the past. Consequently, resident reports to 311 are all the more important to finding the issues needing attention. Reports are prioritized and investigated as soon as possible.

Topics addressed during the workshop included nuisance violations, such as weeds in excess of 9 inches; junk motor vehicles; address posting; graffiti; heavy trash violations; trash can in view; Multi-Family Habitability Program, which deals with inspections, and Chapter 10 violations (fencing, vacant buildings, swimming pools).

Photo:  
DON Mayra  
Hypolite, Becky  
Edmondson,  
Director of DON,  
Katie Tipton, &  
WCC Office Man-  
ager, Jennifer  
Edmondson



## WCC Board Changes and Vacancies

It is with regret that we say goodbye to three outstanding board members. Heath Campbell of Westbury Section 5 director; Mark Knoblauch, Secretary; and Carlos Mata, Director of Greenspace Beautification. We thank them for their service! Westbury is a better place because they chose to serve.

If you are interested in filling one of these vacancies, please come to the next WCC Board Meeting on June 17 at Westbury Baptist.

## Street Improvements in Westbury

Many thanks to Jeff Benavides, WCC Director of Infrastructure, and to Jennifer Edmondson, WCC Office Manager, for their work submitting Capital Improvement Plan item requests this year. Rather than asking for complete street replacement on our major thoroughfares in Westbury, their successful strategy instead requested panel replacements on specific road segments. That strategy yields faster results and is more cost-effective to the city. Road repair work is ongoing on West Bellfort and Hillcroft.



**Memorial Herman SW**

# Westbury Pool

## Westbury City Pool Summer 2015 Schedule

**June 9– August 16:** Pool OPEN

Normal Summer Hours

Tuesday—Sunday

1-8PM; Closed Monday

**July 4:** Pool OPEN, 1-5PM

**August 22 - September 6:** Pool open on

Saturday and Sunday only, 1-8PM

**September 7 (Labor Day):** Last day for the pool to be open! 1-6PM

**Questions? Call pool at 713-723-2192**

Address: 10605 Mullins (near Parker Elem.)

## FREE Water Fitness Classes

Stay in shape this summer and cool off at the same time! The city will once again offer **FREE** water fitness classes for adults at Westbury Pool this summer. These classes are very popular. There will be 2 classes this year. See below for class descriptions and times.

Online registration (<https://apm.activecommunities.com/houstonparks/Home>) begins on May 26, or you can register with the instructor on class days, shortly before each class starts. The first day of class will be Tuesday, June 16, and the last day of class will be Thursday, August 7, at the Westbury Pool. If you have questions, call the city Adult Sports Office at (832) 395-7274.

Water fitness is a great exercise for any age, any fitness level and any body type. Wear appropriate swimwear, aquatic shoes are advised, and always bring a bottle of water for hydration.

*NOTE: Westbury Pool will be closed for general swimming use during fitness classes*

## Adult Water Fitness Class Schedule & Descriptions

### Adult Hydro-Fit Power Training:

**Tuesday 6:30PM - 7:45PM**

Louis Moore will teach his highly popular *Hydro Fit Power Training* class again for the 9<sup>th</sup> year at Westbury Pool. This class is an athletic approach to water fitness training with sports-specific drills, intense cardiovascular work, intervals, balance/core training, martial arts, and plyometrics. This is a great way to improve your cardiovascular conditioning and muscular strength and endurance with minimal stress on your joints. Loud, rocking music is a part of the workout. Intensity: moderate to hard.

### NEW Adult Aqua Zumba:

**Tuesday and Thursday 9-10AM**

**Thursday 6:30PM - 7:30PM**

The city will be offering *Aqua Zumba* to help meet the needs of Westbury residents who prefer morning classes. This class combines high energy and Latin music with movement in the water, a combination that helps participants dance away their worries while staying in shape.

## FREE Swim Lessons for Kids

The City of Houston will be offering a Learn To Swim program called *H2OSAFE* for youth ages 6 – 13 at the Westbury Pool. This class will consist of 3 instructional levels. More information is available at the city aquatic department's website:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/aquatics>



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# Westbury Flood—May 2015

## A Letter to Harris County Flood Control and the City of Houston

**Why is there flooding along the Willow Waterhole Bayou in some sections of Westbury?** Is the answer that no one cares enough to fix it? It is amazing to me just how much the city and county expect residents to endure year after year. We must have a solution to the flooding issues along the Willow Waterhole Bayou and the Braewick ditch. And no, the Project Brays Willow Waterhole detention project will not alleviate the structural flooding occurring along and near the Willow Waterhole Bayou west of Chimney Rock.

**Subject:** The Willow Waterhole Bayou and the City of Houston street drainage system do not function properly in Westbury from the Braewick ditch to Chimney Rock resulting in structural flooding regularly.

**Dear City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control District,**

First let me say how saddened we are that again homes in Westbury were flooded. At last tally, the May 26th rain event put water into 267 homes in Westbury along and near the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) and the Braewick ditch (D140-05-02). Some of these homes flooded for the second time to 25 months. Some for the tenth time since 1975. All of them are on streets adjacent to the Willow Waterhole Bayou and the Braewick ditch. Something has to be done.

In June of 1975 many homes were flooded in Westbury in this same area. The Westbury Civic Club assembled a Flood committee who came up with specific proposals including the "Dredging the bottom and shape the side of the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) from Braewick to Loop 610 to achieve maximum flow capacity and Installing a barrier to flow in the WWB east of the Fondren ditch to prevent floods in Westbury from rainstorms to the west". The City storm sewers were also a culprit in the flooding in 1975. The City inspected the storm sewers in 1975 and "many problems were found" including faulty construction and obstruction from residents depositing grass clippings and leaves into the sewers.

Flash forward 40 years and these very same problems have come to exist again today. We are appealing to both the COH and HCFCD. Something has to be done. Almost every Westbury home along or

near the Willow Waterhole Bayou and the (Braewick ditch south of West Bellfort) on Lattimer, Cartagena, Braewick, Beaudry and Ludington experienced structural flooding. Not only did these homes flood but the surrounding streets as far away as 5 blocks away (Warm Springs, Arboles, McKnight, Dunlap, Dellfern, Mullins, Renwick, Atwell, Dawnridge, Ashcroft, Belrose, Hillcroft Chimney Rock, Cerritos and West Bellfort) that connect to these streets had water enter their homes.

The HCFCD Willow Waterhole Bayou and the City of Houston street drainage system do not function properly.

**To the City of Houston:** The City of Houston must address the aged, inadequate storm drainage system that plagues the 4 areas of Westbury that experience home flooding regularly. This is the area bounded by W Belfort to the north; Dawnridge to the south; west to the Braewick ditch and east to Chimney Rock. The 60 year old infrastructure that is of insufficient size needs to be replaced. Water accumulates on the streets as it heads toward the WWB and often the houses are not flooding from the bayou overflowing, but from the street side. Houses on Ludington near Chimney Rock have flooded 3 times in the last 5 years and 10 times since 1975. We have been attending CIP meetings for years carrying the story of inadequate street drainage throughout this area.

**To the Harris County Flood Control district:** The Harris County Flood Control district has contracted to improve the channel flow on the WWB and that work unfortunately has not been completed so we do not know if that would have saved our homes and after looking at the map I am afraid it will be an incomplete job.

The WWB does not function properly from the Braewick ditch to Chimney Rock. According to residents, the houses on Cartagena did experience flooding from both the street side and the bayou during this May event. The WWB as it flowed east across Chimney Rock did not leave its banks and the sections of Westbury that are east of Chimney Rock did not flood. Everyone west of Chimney Rock along the WWB did flood. We appreciate the HCFCD project Z100-00-00-X170 to remove sediment and repair erosion and

outfall pipes in 4 Brays tributaries three of which are in Westbury. The work on D139-04-00 appears to be complete and it functioned well and there was no flooding in this section. Sadly the work on Braewick (D140-05-02) and the WWB (D112-00-00) have not been completed. I am looking at the map provided by HCFCD for this work and it does not appear to extend to Chimney Rock. I cannot imagine why you would not be working in the area where the structural flooding has been the worst. 10 times since 1975 seems excessive! The channel has flow impediments east of Chimney Rock also. Why would you have not contracted to completely dredge the WWB down to the area where the concrete begins? It has been 40 years since HCFCD last worked on these tributaries and that work alleviated the flooding for about 25 years.

This flooding will not be alleviated by Project Brays. Project Brays does not include work on the WWB itself. The people of Westbury that live along the Willow Waterhole Bayou are highly distressed that after so much hype about the Willow Waterhole detention project that structural flooding is worse than ever in Westbury. It has been rumored that it was not "cost effective" to alleviate the flooding on the mid section of the WWB as it travels through Westbury. I seriously hope that is untrue.

Many of our residents affected are older residents who have lived in their homes for the last 40 to 50 years. Many do not have flood insurance. We must have relief from this continuous flooding. It's been 60 years since the city invested in its storm water infrastructure in this area and 40 years for HCFCD on the WWB itself. We sure could use some attention! We need some serious engineering work done.

Thank you for your assistance in researching these areas of concern and moving forward with a speedy solution.

Respectfully,

Becky Edmondson  
Westbury Civic Club, President

# Westbury Flood—2015



Top: 11400 Blk Braewick, 5900 Beaudry; Right: Homeowner on Beaudry standing in living room of water. Below: 5900 Beaudry



**DID YOU EXPERIENCE  
FLOODING  
IN YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS?**  
SUBMIT A REPORT AT [HOUSTON311.ORG](http://HOUSTON311.ORG)

## Report Flooding to 3-1-1

The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management asks that all residents who experienced flooding inside their home or business to report "structural flooding" to the Houston 311 Help & Information Line. Call 311, or send an email to [311@houstontx.gov](mailto:311@houstontx.gov), or use the mobile app Houston311.

The City of Houston and regional response agencies are assessing the structural damage sustained as a result of flooding. This information helps with federal emergency funding and also helps the city and county define where to fund future projects to reduce the potential for flooding.

Pictured below: Mayra Hypolite, Becky Edmondson, Director Tipton (DON) and Jennifer Edmondson



**ZEHL**

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As soon as the amount of flooding throughout Westbury and our adjacent neighborhoods throughout the Meyerland area was realized people began to spring into action.

Immediately the Westbury Civic Club board and the office manager were out canvassing the streets and recording the addresses that flooded. We were in contact with the City and soon the Dept. of Neighborhoods and our City council reps were on the ground assessing the situation. Stephanie Lester, our Director of Volunteers, now known as the Angel of the Neighborhood, rallied volunteers for a weekend event that made supplies, ice, drinks and advice available to flooded residents. Stephanie's friend, Dennis Wolford of Bottomless Pit Cookers, wanted to do something so he and his crew brought their team out and served 500 hot lunches to those in the affected area. Volunteers canvassed the area knocking on doors and visiting with residents to find



those that needed help and matched them to volunteers. Our Precinct 5 deputies have been on the job since the rain stopped falling. Extra deputies have been added and overtime approved to patrol these areas to keep people and property safe.

Our area churches were everywhere; working in homes; making sandwiches; delivering food and collecting donations. Westbury may have recently won an award as Neighborhood of the Year, but this past week has shown why we are truly a winner.



## Methodist Hospital

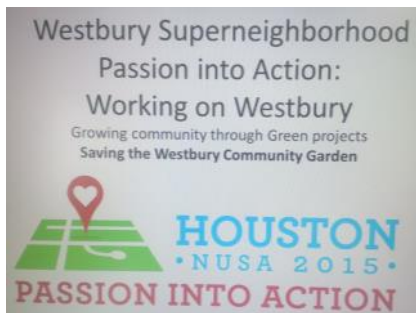
# Westbury Wins Neighborhood of the Year Award

## 1st Place Award for Westbury

In May of 2015, a national organization, Neighborhoods USA (NUSA), honored Westbury with a FIRST PLACE award at its 40th annual conference held in Houston. The Neighborhood of the Year Award recognizes exceptional accomplishments by neighborhood organizations. Awards are given in three categories, and Westbury was awarded FIRST Place in the category of "Physical Revitalization / Beautification in a Single Neighborhood". The project which won the award for Westbury was "Saving the Westbury Community Garden and Creating Seven Acres of Park Space". Becky Edmondson made a presentation to the panel of judges that told the story of the garden, and the process used to rescue the garden from being paved over for a federal housing project. There were 4 projects selected to participate in our category in front of the judges.

We share this First Place award with so many of our Westbury residents! Every person who supported the garden by signing our petition, writing letters, donating money, leading tours, providing education outreach and continuing to garden through the uncertainty shares in this award. I could literally thank probably 2,000 people who have contributed in some way to the garden. Thank you, each and every one of you, for your part in making the Westbury Community Garden what it is today!

Neighborhoods USA is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood. The organizational mission of NUSA has been, since its inception, to build and strengthen neighborhood associations and to promote productive communications and collaborations among those associations with both the public and private sectors.



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**WANG**

# NUSA—Westbury Neighborhood Pride Tour

Westbury was chosen as one of the 16 Neighborhood Pride Tours for the NUSA conference. Putting together this tour took a lot of work from many volunteers. There was a committee that worked on all aspects of this event. We created a special Westbury pin to exchange with other conference goers. Jennifer Edmondson designed a "Westbury Proud" t-shirt for volunteers to wear and these are now available for sale to Westbury residents at the WCC office. The Brays Oaks management district offered financial support and created a pamphlet for tour goers. Guests were given green bandanas to kick off the Western and green themed tour. Donald Perkins, Chief of Staff for District K CM Larry Green, accompanied Cindy Chapman and Becky Edmondson on the Metro bus that served as our transportation. We had guests from Memphis, Birmingham, Omaha, Houston, South Carolina and California.

Our first stop was the Westbury Community Garden where members led by President Virginia Livingston greeted the tour with a beautiful spread of snacks including delicious WCG grown tomatoes and fruit infused water. Many thanks to Betsy Longoria, Debbie Gordon, Marcia Hartman, Bert & Diana Gonzales, Candice Salmon, Nancy Ehrlich, H. Newcomb and Wayne Slaikeu. Needless to say the tour group LOVED the garden and the friendly docents who showed them around. The

garden looked wonderful thanks to so much hard work put in by many volunteers. And of course the guests didn't leave empty handed. Guests received seed packets that included bluebonnet seeds fresh from the garden.



The next stop was the Willow Waterhole where Westbury resident Emily Smith entertained the crowd with her bagpipe. Howard Sacks and Ralph Rieger from the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy (WWGC) talked about the Willow Waterhole and the upcoming Levitt Pavilion. Guests enjoyed seeing and learning about the Willow Waterhole. Westbury residents Laura and Hailey Falk were on hand with Jennifer and Connor Edmondson to greet

and provide that "family" feel with their children. Guests received fun promotional WWGC items.

The last stop of the tour was dinner at Salem Lutheran. Pastor David Roschke made his church available to host the dinner. Edith Smith and Van Austell were in charge of decorating Salem Lutheran. With the help of Jane Falk and Kerry Goelzer, they created a beautiful venue. Demeris Barbecue catered the event and the western theme impressed our guests. Jackie and Wayne Murray of Weichert Realty provided bottled water and underwrote a portion of the event as well as helped serve the food. It was truly a community event!



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# Westbury Crier Wins Award

## Westbury Crier Wins 2nd Place

The Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Newsletter Competition acknowledges excellence in neighborhood newsletters — a vital communication tool that can often determine a neighborhood's success. Each entry was evaluated by a jury panel using a list of criteria including content, lay-out, and overall appearance. We are pleased to announce that the Westbury Civic Club was awarded SECOND PLACE in the competition, in the category of Printed Newsletter issued more than 7 times a Year.



We thank and acknowledge the wonderful hard work of our Publication Committee. WCC Office Manager Jennifer Edmondson organizes, edits, handles ads, and does the graphic design each month. Other members of the Publication Committee write and edit articles and participate in the monthly review meetings with Jennifer: Becky Edmondson, Cindy Chapman, Barbara Haverkamp, and Marcia Hartman. We also thank residents of Westbury who submit content for the newsletter on various topics.

**Congratulations to the *Westbury Crier* publication committee for their hard work and dedication each and every month!**



## Westbury Attends NUSA

What a wonderful experience participating in the Neighborhoods USA conference! We all met many wonderful neighborhood leaders from across the country and participated in workshops. Attending for Westbury were Becky Edmondson, Cindy Chapman, Marcia Hartman, Virginia Livingston, and Priscilla Bloomquist. We ran into two Westbury residents; Mary Lowrey, who was working a table for Rice University and Kerry Goelzer, who was working a table for Houston Mod and ended up volunteering on our tour.

We attended interesting workshops presenting ideas to strengthen our neighborhoods, and we all look forward to sharing that information with you in future articles. Topics ranged from Keeping Communities Safe around Railroads; Seniors; Civic engagement; Art; Grants; Wildlife, and more.

Angela Blanchard from Neighborhood Centers was the inspirational speaker for the opening breakfast. Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell was an entertaining and inspirational speaker for the Friday lunch. After lunch on Friday it was time for the Neighborhood Pride tours. Westbury was one of the 16 neighborhood tours offered to conference attendees.

**St. Thomas More**

# Crime/Security

## Crime Statistics for Westbury Super Neighborhood 37\* 30 days May 20, 2015

	Single-Family Home	Apt/Condo	Commercial Property	Public Areas	Totals
<b>Burglary</b>	16	5	2	0	23
<b>Theft</b>	18	9	10	2	39
<b>Auto Theft</b>	3	2	0	0	5
<b>Robbery</b>	0	4	1	0	5
<b>Assault</b>	2	2	0	0	4
<b>Rape</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Murder</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	39	22	13	2	76

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

## Vacation Watch

If you had to vacate your home after it flooded, be sure and call in a vacation watch so the deputies can watch your home.

Are you going out of town this summer? Don't forget to fill out a Vacation Watch form for the Constables. The form is available online at <http://www.constablepct5.com/vacation-watch> or call dispatch at 281-463-6666.

We encourage you to use the online form to submit your Vacation Watch Request. If you prefer, you may call the Communication Division at 281-463-6666 and have a Deputy dispatched to your residence to take the request in person.

Please allow 5 days for the Deputies that patrol your area to receive information submitted online. If you will be leaving before this time you will need to call and have a Deputy come to your residence so the request is sent out to other Deputies immediately.

Before leaving remember to check all doors and windows to make sure they are locked. If you decide to lock the gates to your backyard consider providing information to deputies that would allow them access, i.e. lock combination or location of key.

For extended periods away from your residence Precinct 5 recommends stopping your mail, or asking a neighbor to collect it for you while you are gone.

## Flooded Home Security & News

FEMA declared a disaster for Harris County. Individuals who sustained losses can begin applying for assistance by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (local time) seven days a week. In addition to FEMA many groups have reached out to Westbury residents offering assistance, please visit our website, [www.westburycrimer.com](http://www.westburycrimer.com) or [www.westburycrimer.com](http://www.westburycrimer.com) for additional information.

## Cookies With the Constables Recap

The WCC hosted Cookies with the Constables before our May board meeting. We had a great turnout and residents got to have one on one time with the Constables and ask any questions they wanted!

In June, the WCC outreach event will be Coffee with the Constables. It will be held on Saturday, June 13 at the PUCS truck at Westbury Square. We look forward to seeing you there!

## COFFEE WITH THE CONSTABLES

Join us from 8AM to 10AM  
at the PUCS Coffee Truck at  
Westbury Square to  
meet our Westbury  
Constables. First 50 coffees free.  
**Sat., June 13, 6PM**



Block #	Street	Crime
5700	Arboles	Theft
10900	Ashcroft	Theft
5700	Bankside	Burglary
11700	Braewick	Burglary
12200	Braewick	Burglary
5500	Burlinghall	Burglary
5700	Capello	Burglary
5700	Creekbend	Theft
5500	Dawnridge	Theft
10600	Doud	Burglary
5800	Dryad	Theft
10600	Dunlap	Burglary
11900	Dunlap	Burglary
5600	Duxbury	Theft
5800	Firenza	Auto Theft
5800	Firenza	Burglary
5700	Greencraig	Assault
5700	Greencraig	Theft
10900	Hillcroft	Assault
11600	Hillcroft	Burglary
6000	Hummingbird	Theft
6000	Hummingbird	Burglary
12300	Mullins	Burglary
5500	Redstart	Burglary
5700	Southminster	Burglary
5800	Southminster	Auto Theft
5700	Spellman	Burglary
5400	Stillbrooke	Theft
5700	Stillbrooke	Theft
5100	Torchlight	Theft

### Single Family Residential Crime

*Locations by block number, not exact address.*

*Stats for 30 days preceding May 20, 2015*

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACTS

**Westbury Area Patrol / Constables**  
281-463-6666

**Westbury HPD Storefront**  
713-726-7126

**HPD Non-Emergency**  
713-884-3131

**Brays Oak Management District (BOMD)**  
[www.braysoakmd.org](http://www.braysoakmd.org)  
(report graffiti)

Block #	Street	Crime
6000	Vickijohn	Theft
5700	Warm Springs	Auto Theft
5300	W Bellfort	Theft
5000	Willowbend	Theft
5100	Willowbend	Theft
5700	Willowbend	Theft
5900	Willowbend	Burglary
6000	Willowbend	Theft
6000	Willowbend	Theft

# 2015 Dues/Assessments

## ATTENTION: PARKWEST 1&2

Homes purchased in Parkwest 1 after Jan. 1, 1993 and Parkwest 2 after Jan 1, 1994 have mandatory assessments.

**The amount of the 2015 Mandatory Assessments is \$230.**

**The 2015 Mandatory Assessments were due by February 1, 2015.**

If you have any questions or did not get your invoice, please contact the WCC office at 713-723-5437 or email westburycc@sbcglobal.net

## Why do my dues go to Dallas? Is this correct?

Yes, this is correct! We have you mail your payments directly to our bank's processing center. This allows your payments to be processed immediately.

## Mission of the WCC

*The purposes of the Westbury Civic Club, Inc. (the "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 (collectively, the "Community").*

## 2015 Westbury Civic Club Dues

**\*Please send this form in with your payment**

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

**Make checks payable to:  
Westbury Civic Club, Inc.  
Mail to:  
P.O. Box 975182  
Dallas, TX 75397-5182  
Online payment:  
paypal.com—Send Money to  
westburycc@sbcglobal.net  
Make sure to include your  
address or account number**

Sending multiple payments?  
Circle your payment choice  
2 payment of \$147.50  
3 payments of 98.34  
\*\*Call the office for more payment  
options or questions

Westbury Civic Club Membership	\$40	\$
Greenspace Beautification	\$25	\$
Westbury Area Patrol	\$230	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$295</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Additional Contributions:</b>		
Westbury Civic Club		\$
Greenspace Beautification		\$
Westbury Area Patrol		\$
Westbury HPD Storefront		\$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$</b>

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## Commercial Property Update

"**Westbury Centerette**" at corner of W. Bellfort and Chimney Rock – In March 2015, the new property owner demolished the vacant buildings at "Westbury Centerette", which have been a long-standing blight at this visible intersection. Originally, the property owner planned to construct a facility for LA Fitness; however, we regret to announce that this plan will not proceed. The property owner continues to evaluate options for the site.

A new **McDonald's** fast food restaurant opened a few weeks ago on S. Post Oak near West Bellfort.

**Burlington Coat Factory** has announced construction of a retail store to be located on S. Post Oak next to Kohl's Department Store.

**Texas Iron Works (TIW)** has obtained permits to add a warehouse/office on Gasmer near Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve.

The **Pines of Westbury Apartments** (or Plaza Apartments) located at 12500 Dunlap are scheduled to be sold to a new owner. These are the apartments surrounding the Westbury Community Garden.

## Westbury Volunteer Corps

Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? Do you need to fulfill volunteer hours for your school or Scout group? The WCC's Volunteer Corps needs you! Please email Stephanie Lester at westburystephanie@gmail.com to join this team of neighborhood volunteers.

## Westbury Trading Group - Facebook

The Westbury/Meyerland/Bellaire Trading Group is a Facebook group that has over 3,000 members. It allows area residents to sell, trade, or buy items from other area residents.

## METRO 90A Rail Line Back in the News

METRO leaders and U.S. Rep. John Culberson on Monday announced details of a new agreement to help the agency move forward with transit projects. Culberson, has agreed to help Metro obtain funds for a proposed commuter rail line on U.S. 90A and other projects.

"Above all, what today symbolizes is a new era of cooperation between Metro, under Gilbert Garcia's leadership, and the Houston area congressional delegation," Culberson said. "We will all be working arm in arm to make sure that metro and the elected officials in the region solve our transportation problems by looking to every kind of transit and transportation available, beginning with commuter rail out 90A."

## Links for Lost & Found Pets

- ☑ Nextdoor Westbury - [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)
  - ☑ Westbury Lost and Found Pets Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/westburyhoustontexas?fref=nf>
  - ☑ CARE- Contact at westburycare@gmail.com
- Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts is located in Westbury) or at [www.westburycare.com](http://www.westburycare.com)

## Fencing Camp

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# Westbury School News

## Local School Rankings

Congratulations to several local schools which have zoned students living in Westbury. These schools received high marks from “Children at Risk” this year. Scores are based on reading and math performance on state tests, annual student progress, and how well schools helped low-income students succeed academically. A grade of “A” means the campus was at or above 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Anderson Elementary	A-
Elrod Elementary	A-
Kolter Elementary	A+
Parker Elementary	A
Johnston Middle	B
Pin Oak Middle	A+

## Anderson Elementary Dual Language Program Honored

Anderson Elementary School, located in the heart of Westbury next to Hager Park, successfully concluded its first year offering a Dual Language program. Anderson Elementary was recognized by HISD for having the **BEST** new Dual

Language program among the schools which started Dual Language this year. Observers from across HISD and Texas have visited the new Dual Language program at Anderson.

## Anderson Boundary Changing

At the May 2015 HISD Board of Trustees meeting, the board approved revising the attendance boundary maps for Anderson and Tinsley Elementary Schools and Halpin Pre-K school. Those Parkwest and Westbury homes which are west of Hillcroft and located between West Bellfort and West Airport will now be zoned to Anderson again. We see this as a positive change for our neighborhood. Right now our students are spread among 6 different elementary schools. The revised attendance boundary will cluster more of our homes into the attendance boundaries for Parker and Anderson elementary schools.

## Parker Elementary Community Meeting

On May 5, Parker Elementary held a community meeting regarding the proposed new building. Demo and preparation of the site will be occurring throughout the summer. Construction work will begin in the Fall.

Traffic and parking concerns are still being evaluated and we hope to have answers in future *Criers*. HISD is investigating off-site parking as a solution.

During construction, the playground will be along Atwell in a fenced area. All temporary buildings and the scout house will be removed for construction. They are trying to save as many trees as possible. A bus lane will be added in between the school and Westbury Park.

Look at future *Criers* for more information.



Congratulations to **Fondren Middle School** for being selected as the inaugural HISD “Blue Star Award” recipient. Fondren was selected for its culture of customer service and community involvement.

## JML Remodeling

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# Westbury Area News

## JMS at the HISD Special Olympics Field Day

Ten Johnston Middle School students from the Skills for Learning and Living and Structured Learning Class represented Johnston proudly at the HISD Middle School Special Olympics Field Day on April 29. The students trained for their events in their PE class with Coach Lisa Chilivets for several weeks and were excited to get out and compete.

It was a wonderful day and all the teachers, especially Coach Chilivets, were super proud of the JMS athletes. The students gave it their all and had a blast doing it. There is no doubt that the JMS Greyhounds WON the day!



## Esplanade Improvements on Hillcroft

Thanks to a matching City Grant program, the Westbury Civic Club added irrigation to the Westbury sign marker on Hillcroft just south of Willowbend. We appreciate the efforts by Hazel Potvin in obtaining this grant. This is the second esplanade in Westbury to receive irrigation, which allows for more successful planting of color plants at high visibility esplanades. The water will be provided for free by the city, but the WCC will now be responsible for all upkeep on that esplanade.



## Westbury High School

The May Crier had an op-ed piece from then Principal Jason Catchings about the good things happening at WHS.

Unfortunately there was not enough good to offset the bad. WHS principal Jason Catchings, in whom we had such great hopes for turning around Westbury, was fired by HISD. We were deeply saddened by this abrupt end to his time at WHS.

There is currently an interim principal, Jason Fuentes, who is the HISD High School Support Officer. A community meeting to address the change in

leadership and allow attendees to share input regarding the search for the school's next principal was postponed due to the May 26 flooding.

The topic of leadership at WHS is vital. WHS was ranked "F" by Children at Risk again this year and was ranked as "Needs Improvement" by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) last year, according to the the most recent data published by TEA. When school starts in the fall, WHS will have its 3<sup>rd</sup> Principal in 3 years. WHS needs a strong leader and needs to keep a strong leader in place long enough to fix

the many problems facing WHS. WHS also needs to receive appropriate support and resources from HISD. We have discovered the 4 well-regarded Advanced Placement teachers are leaving WHS to go to Sharpstown High next year. WHS needs great teachers and to eliminate long-term substitute teachers.

The Project Advisory Team will have it's first publiccommunity meeting in the fall around the start of the school year. Look in future *Criers* for more information.

# Urgent Care

# Trees, Trees, Trees

## Trees along Property Lines

The WCC office gets many calls about tree disputes between neighbors. If you have a tree that grows into your neighbor's yard or over their house; it is well within their right to prune it away from their property. It would be advisable to speak to your neighbor beforehand as they may want to trim it themselves. They might not even realize it has encroached onto your property.

Do you have a dangerous tree on your property? Please have it removed before it damages your property or someone else's. We recommend that if your neighbor has a tree that you feel could endanger your property to put them on written notice if they are unwilling to take care of the problem. Please be a good neighbor!

## Street Trees

All the trees located on City Easements are protected. Did you know all the trees located in front of your sidewalk belong to the City of Houston? Most Westbury property lines begin behind the sidewalk. If you witness the removal of a city tree from a street easement, please call 832-395-7200 immediately to report it so the City can minimize tree loss. This phone line is monitored 24 hours a day.

## What to Know About Tree Vendors

by Westbury resident, Tom Hayden

Pruning of large tree branches and tree removal are big jobs for the homeowner. Generally, we can do the smaller jobs ourselves. But to cut a tree down, or have major pruning more than ten feet of the ground, we call on a professional. Work like this is a lot like getting a new roof. You do not do it very often. So you have to be careful of who you choose to do the work.

There are some simple guidelines the homeowner should use when choosing a tree vendor. If you have a referral from a friend or neighbor that is always a good start.

Always check for insurance. Anyone doing this work should be insured and provide you with the Acord Certificate prior to doing the work. Acord Certificates are like your proof of auto liability. Most vendors carry a \$2 million policy, which will cost the vendor about \$1500 per year. Check the certificate on a weekday so you can call the agent to verify. If someone gets hurt on your property and they are not insured, it can have a long lasting impact on you.

Never let a vendor start work without your written approval on a quote. The quote should also have a "Not to Exceed" sum, initialed by both parties. It is incredibly risky for the homeowner to let a vendor give them a verbal quote only. The vendor can change their mind and decide to charge you more, months down the road, and claim they gave you "time" to pay the balance.

Never pre-pay for this work, and don't fall for the "discount for pre-pay" line. Make sure the vendor has done the work, cleaned up and not damaged any property before paying them.

If you hire a contractor, they must haul away the debris. The City's heavy trash is for personal use only not commercial. You CANNOT place it on the curb for trash pickup. It is city ordinance violation and you may be fined.

These simple guidelines should help protect you, and keep you out of the woods. Pun intended.



## Tree Stump Grinding

Has the City removed a tree from the right of way in between the sidewalk and street in front of your home? Call 311 to request tree stump grinding.

We will be offering free trees to homeowners in the fall to replace these trees. Please plant for the future!



# CALL 3-1-1

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# Green News in Westbury

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tomato Tasting

It's Tomato Time again! Westbury Community Garden is hosting its 2nd Annual Tomato Tasting on Saturday, June 6 from 10-11:30AM. Last year we had 30 varieties of slicers, salad tomatoes and cherries. For a \$5 donation, you get a scorecard for this blind taste test.



## Neighborhood Trails

A group of your neighbors have been meeting to see what, if anything, we can do to provide linear parks (walking/biking trails) in our areas. This group is composed of Meyerland, Maplewood, Maplewood North and South, Marilyn Estates, and Westbury. We now call our group the "Brays Bayou Neighborhood Trails." These trails are areas of concern for each of our communities (there are possibilities of connecting each neighborhood). What we think is important in Westbury is the esplanade along Hillcroft, from Willowbend to South Main. Since Willow Waterhole will become an area of importance, as a proposed city park, it cannot be left out of the equation. Many communities will access this park through Westbury. Wouldn't it be great to have walking/biking trails along our streets and bayous to get to this area and also as a venue for leisure strolls, etc. To date, ideas are only being formulated and the means to make this occur are being addressed.

## Farm Share Program

Plant It Forward Farms has started registration for the next Farm Share Season, starting in July 2015. The WCG Pavilion is a pick up location.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST\*?

25-week season, July 2015-

Jan 2016: \$625

50-week season, July 2015-

June 2015: \$1200

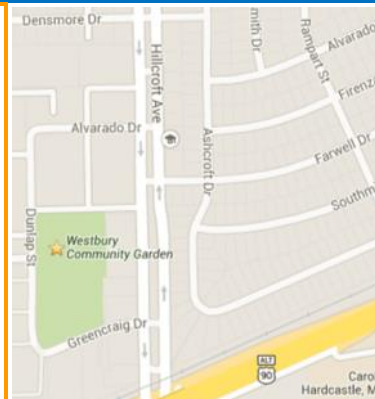
\*3% discount for paying in full

\*additional fee applies if paying by credit card

\*additional delivery fee applies at some locations

**Learn more about about PIF**

**Farm Shares at the Plant-It-Forward.org website.**



## 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.

## Farm Stand at the Westbury Community Garden



A farm share program is also available with pick up at the Garden. Visit [www.plant-it-forward.org](http://www.plant-it-forward.org) for info.

A farm stand run by Plant It Forward Farms is open at the garden

**Saturday,  
9AM-5PM  
Sundays,  
10AM—6PM.**



**Susan Brock**

# METRO Park & Ride 261 Update

## METRO 261 Park and Ride

METRO has had the grand idea that it will discontinue the 261 Park & Ride to use our buses on other routes. This would force people to take the 68 cross-town bus to the Texas Medical Center Transit Center to then transfer from the bus to the train to continue downtown. METRO says it would extend the trip by 5 minutes. In fact, any number of people have traveled this route and, regardless of the time you catch the 68/train combo, it is 1.5 hours. That says nothing about the congestion on the train.

A Westbury resident wrote, "The 261 Park & Ride (P&R) at the West Loop has been and still is a big part of life for those of us that work downtown. Many of us live in Westbury, Parkwest and Meyerland. On a good day your trip downtown is 20 minutes. On a bad day it is an hour. The 261 is like a little 'space ship.' You get on at the P&R and exit downtown. Most people disembark within 10 blocks of each other. The bus is quiet. People sleep, read, play on their devices or work on their computers."

We were shocked to discover that METRO was thinking of discontinuing the Park and Ride service (261 bus) from the West Loop to downtown, without any notice to the Westbury Civic Club or the Westbury Super Neighborhood. Both Cindy Chapman and Becky Edmondson travelled to the METRO meeting on April 29 by the suggested route (bus from West Loop to Texas Medical Center transit center to light rail train to downtown). It was a long process, and we arrived late for the start of the METRO meeting, which proved the point that the "suggested route" was not a good alternative to nonstop, direct bus service to downtown. At least 100

riders were in attendance at this meeting and many spoke eloquently of their many years of riding this nonstop bus service to downtown. Cindy and Becky also spoke about the importance of this route to our residents. We believe it is important that METRO provide services to taxpayers who contribute to METRO and who live in the METRO service area, which describes the 261 users.

On May 20, the boards of the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation, the Westbury Civic Club, and the Westbury Super Neighborhood each APPROVED the following resolution: **"We support the 261 West Loop Park and Ride as an important non-stop transit service to downtown Houston."**

We are now pleased to announce that the METRO staff has, "made a recommendation at the METRO Board of Directors Customer Service Committee meeting to retain the 261 West Loop, which includes changing the frequency from every 15 minutes to every 20 minutes, changing the equipment from 55-seat 45 foot buses to 37-seat 40 foot buses, and increasing



the FY2016 budget to cover the operating cost of the route".

The formal public hearings for the August service changes will be held on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6PM and Friday, June 5 at noon at METRO Headquarters located at 1900 Main Street in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Board Room. The staff recommendation to continue the 261 will need to be formally adopted by the METRO Board of Directors after these public hearings, which should take place at the June Board of Directors meeting. At that time, METRO will send notification to the database of customers that have expressed interest in this route and/or joined us for the April 29 customer information meeting. The changes to the route would be effective with the implementation of the New Bus Network in August."



## Legacy Roofing

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# Spring White Elephant Sale

## White Elephant Sale Spring 2015



Hundreds of shoppers descended upon the May 9<sup>th</sup> Westbury Civic Club semi-annual White Elephant Sale and many treasures found new homes. By the time the doors opened, at 8 AM, there were over 200 shoppers in line. The weather was perfect and it was a very successful event.

A new addition this year was the PUCS coffee truck. I think many of us who started our morning at 5AM would not have been still standing at 1PM without sustenance and coffee from PUCS.

The volunteers of Westbury Civic Club Board and the WCC Office Manager, Jennifer Edmondson, work hard to make this twice a year event successful. Thanks to everyone who participated as a seller, buyer or volunteer!

Remember, it is against deed restrictions to have individual garage and estate sales in Westbury. The White Elephant Sale is a fun way to safely sell used items in a group setting. There is security present. The sale has an excellent reputation; sellers get results! The next White Elephant Sale will be in October. Stay tuned for more info!



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