



P. O. Box 20411 Houston, TX 77225-0411

Babbler

What's trending, Westwood happenings

Westwood

A Deed Restricted Community

Website:

westwoodcivicclub.com

E-mail:

westwoodcc@outlook.com

Trash Pick-up

Friends, Happy Days are here again! Our Heavy Trash and Tree Waste are scheduled to resume as follows:

HEAVY TRASH

resumes: Monday, April 2,
Pick-up Days:
Apr 17, Jun 19, Aug 21

TREE WASTE

resumes: Thursday, March 1
Pick-up Days:
Mar 20, May 15, July 17

In the Loop:

The Department of Neighborhoods inspectors will begin patrolling and citing violators for illegal placement of heavy debris on March 1. Spread the message! (Ed: you've been warned!)

Contractors dumping onto vacant lots and/or unoccupied residential property? Report it by calling the SW HPD Substation at 832-394-0400.

(Above Information from office of Larry Green, District K.)

- Wednesday, March 7th – WCC Board Meeting to discuss website. Any web folks out there who might want to take this on?
- Sunday, March 11th – Daylight Savings Time begins. Remember to Spring forward or you will be an hour late for church. How do I know this...
- Thursday, March 15th – “The Ides of March” on the Roman calendar corresponds to March 15. Marked by several religious observances, it was notable for the Romans as *a deadline for settling debts*. In 44 BC, it became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar. (Ed: Outstanding debt, possibly?)
- Tuesday, March 20th – Spring (Vernal) Equinox – The sun crosses the plane of the Earth's equator and day and night are of equal length. Get out your stopwatches and check me on this.

Get Connected with Westwood!

Visit our **Website**: <http://westwoodcivicclub.com/>

Like us on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/westwoodcivicclub/>

Join our Neighborhood on **NextDoor**: <https://westwoodalbiontx.nextdoor.com/login>



From the Westwood Civic Club President: Paul talks trash...!

Yesterday (Feb 25), I received several e-mails saying that the heavy trash was being picked up on streets in the south side of Westwood. Hallelujah! Finally! By the end of the day, it was all gone.

If you'll remember, monthly heavy trash pick-up was suspended back in September due to the need to pick up Harvey debris. As long as FEMA is providing funds for hurricane clean up, heavy trash has to wait. FEMA money is scheduled to run out at the end of February so at the end of January, the City of Houston asked all civic clubs in the city to take a survey of addresses with heavy trash and submit it to them for pick up. This could be Harvey debris or other stuff but there would be one pickup in February before the regular service resumes in March. I submitted a list of addresses to COH twice, and finally was told that it would be picked up on Monday, February 26th. Leave it to the city to show up a day early but it's done, and we are all happy, except of course, those who didn't put things out and now have to wait to the 3rd week of the month.

Remember, the **regular schedule starts March 1**. Westwood pick up is the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Yard stuff: trees, etc. is picked up every month. (COH is following the old rules now and logs must be cut to size and bundled, bags of clipping must be in city approved bags.) Other stuff is picked up every other month: April, June, August, October, December.

If you haven't noticed, the city is working down Stella Link trimming trees and planting new crepe myrtles at some intersections. Once this is finished, it should look much better as well as make it easier to see crossing traffic. Thanks to the City of Houston!

Lastly, our new Westwood year begins on March 1st. Elections were held on February 15 and we have a new board of officers willing to work. Please send in your dues. Whether you are a home owner or a renter, your support helps us keep Westwood looking good, feeling safe and the best neighborhood in the city. Thanks for hearing me out! Paul Sobieski. (Ed: The best time to put out your trash is *before* the truck arrives. Some of our residents have been putting trash out *after* the truck has come.)

About Project Brays Bayou: Reduce the Risk. Rediscover the Beauty.

Designed to reduce the risk of flooding, the Brays Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Project, today known as Project Brays, is a cooperative effort between the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) that also incorporates local initiatives. Benefiting thousands of residents and businesses along Brays Bayou, Project Brays is the largest, most significant flood damage reduction initiative ever to be managed by HCFCD. (Continued on next page...)

Project Brays consists of more than 75 individual projects throughout the entire 31 miles of Brays Bayou. The majority of these projects are part of the federal project and primarily aimed at reducing flood risks. However, a few projects are strictly local initiatives with the purpose of enhancing environmental and recreational elements along Brays Bayou.

Project benefits:

Neighborhoods within the Cities of Bellaire, Houston, Southside Place, West University Place, Meadows Place, Missouri City and unincorporated areas of Harris County, as well as the Texas Medical Center, Rice University, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Hermann Park and the Houston Zoo will see advantages from Project Brays.

In addition to reducing flood risks, Project Brays will also work to bring much needed greenspace and recreational amenities to the communities along Brays Bayou through local initiatives led by strategic partners. (Ed: Okay, tell me more about this.)

Encompassing more than 75 individual projects, Project Brays uses a collaborative approach with multiple techniques to address flood risks. The three major techniques being used are channel modifications, bridge modifications and the construction of regional stormwater detention basins. Each component contributes to reducing flood levels and the risk of flooding; together they form the strategy for Project Brays.

- 1) Channel Modifications** - As part of Project Brays, approximately 21 miles of the channel will be modified. Approximately 18 continuous miles of channel widening, beginning at the mouth of Brays and moving west to Fondren Road, will increase the amount of storm water the bayou is able to carry. Additionally, over three miles of channel deepening will be constructed, beginning at Old Westheimer Road and extending upstream to Highway 6.
- 2) Bridge Modifications** - In order to accommodate channel widening, Project Brays will also require modifications to approximately 30 bridges along Brays Bayou. These bridges will be replaced or modified to allow for increased flow capacity. The modifications will reduce obstructions and allow additional stormwater flow. (Ed note: I thought about this. Do you really want to be sitting on a bridge in rush hour traffic and watching a raging torrent just a few feet under your car? Sometimes water can look just plain angry.)
- 3) Stormwater Detention Basins** - Four storm water detention basins are being created that will hold approximately 3.5 billion gallons of storm water and cover about 900 acres when completed. A storm water detention basin is an area where excess storm water is stored or held temporarily until the water level in the adjacent channel recedes and the storm water can safely flow away. When full, detention basins often resemble lakes. When not holding storm water, detention basins are large, excavated open spaces. Some basins are designed to have a permanent water level in their bottoms, and vegetation is planted to provide habitat, as well as improved water quality.

The Harvey trash load made simple:



The total debris collected so far would fill **13,439 buses**. (Okay, this one just didn't speak to me. Who puts trash in a school bus?)

Editor: Folks, I've had it with flood reporting. I feel like I'm trying to kick a field goal with a deflated football. Going to leave this subject until we get some information that is actionable, or at least *complainable*. We're still stuck in an extended recovery phase – as designated by heavy trash in front yards and the on-going repairs to flood-damaged homes. I'm so distressed by hearing the word "flood" that I've decided to remove all words beginning with "F" from my vocabulary. I appear to be saying very little these days. Who knew?

Westwood Sound Off:

Since folks quit sending me car photos (I'm bummed!), I was thinking that maybe we should let them send in a short article or maybe submit a picture or a short description of Westwood neighbors in action. For example; I helped a neighbor take some trash to the dump. Not a big deal, but it was not *our* trash. Get it? We all do these kinds of things and if you tell me about them I will give you a shout-out and an all-expenses paid vacation to Sunnys. (While not yet a five star destination, they are on the rise) Sit back, pour yourself an iced tea (or whatever) and take a read.

"It's the little things that make the big difference" By Linford Herschberger

I loved listening to the late Zig Ziglar. He was a motivational speaker and writer who always had profound things to say about life in general. I remember hearing him talk about horse racing. I don't know much about horse racing, but one thing everybody knows is that there is big money to be made. (and lost!) He talked about the fact that one horse could be a million dollar horse and another perfectly good horse could be worth one tenth that much. As I recall, he asked, "What is the difference between the million dollar horse and the hundred thousand dollar horse?" I think the answer was about 10 inches. That horse won by only 10 inches! I don't remember for sure. I think it might have been a half inch. (Continued...)

It's the little things that made the big difference. Was it the proper mix of feed that the horse owner gave? Was it the fact that he brushed his horse extra carefully that morning? I don't know. But I can guarantee that horse owner never said, "Awe, it's just a few thorns in Trixie's pen. She won't scratch her leg against those." That owner paid attention to *every little thing*. And all those little things made a big difference.

Here at the Westwood Civic Club, we pay attention to the little things in the hopes that they will make a very big difference in the long run. There are hundreds of us living in this neighborhood. If every one of us said to ourselves, "I don't need to pay attention to the heavy trash dates," what would happen? I think we all know.

There are a lot of little things we all do every day in our neighborhood. We can enhance the beauty or mar it. If we just stop to think about it, it's really worth it to pay attention to the little things. We all know that the little things can turn out to be not so little after all.

Who the heck was Zig Ziglar?



Zig Ziglar was born in Coffee County in southeastern Alabama, to John Silas Ziglar and Lila Wescott Ziglar. He was the tenth of 12 children. Zig is known as America's Motivator. He authored 36 books and produced numerous life-changing programs. He will be remembered as a man who lived out his faith daily. I sometimes get Zig confused with another one of his peers, Mr. Og Mandino. You can check out both men on Amazon.

Here are some Zig quotes from his many books and lectures:

"Success is not measured by what you do compared to what others do. It is measured by what you do with the ability God gave you." (Ed: This one humbled me. With very few exceptions, I walk in a world of my betters.)

"You are a success when you have made friends with your past, are focused on the present, and are optimistic about your future." (Ed: Well, It appears, I'm one-third of the way on my journey to being successful.)

"Of course motivation is not permanent. But then, neither is bathing; but it is something you should do on a regular basis." (Ed: Again, no argument, here Zig.)

About the Author: Linford Herschberger is a principal with the A.D. Players Theater. In addition to being an actor, he also does accounting work and is an all-around great guy. But when it comes to his civic duties, Linford isn't acting, he is *in action*. Thanks, buddy!

Westwood Quickies:

Architectural Review: Ken Calvert

New house being permitted at 4002 Silverwood. Single story house of about 3100 square feet in the mid-century modern style. In other words, like several of the other new one story houses that have been built recently.

From the Editor: Dan Ballard

Here's where you can vent your Westwood concerns: dballardpmp@sbcglobal.net or on my cell at 832-875-3326. Tell me what's on your mind. I'll listen as long as you don't bless me out, or threaten me with a hog leg. (Don't know what a hog leg is? Look it up...)

Cool rides in Westwood Subdivision?

Since nobody has sent me a car picture lately, I've decided to open this category to lawn mowers, as well. If you have a lawn mower that has served you well, take a picture of it and tell me its history. You just might see your old friend in the Babblers. Extra points if I get a picture of you and the lawn beater taking care of business. Be sure to wear your best cut-offs and Tee shirt. Show some sweat, too.

Spotlight on a local Vendor: "Plant it Forward Who are they?"

PIF sells locally grown organic vegetables to both individuals and restaurants. The idea for Plant It Forward came to a group of local software entrepreneurs as they were looking for a way to give back to the community in 2010.



PIF is a partnership between Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program and Urban Harvest, a local community garden non-profit. A local church leased the organization three acres and introduced them to 14 Congolese refugee farmers. Some interesting facts:

- ⇒ Houston resettles more refugees than any other American city, and more than all but three countries globally. (Ed: Did not know this.)
- ⇒ Houston is a desert when it comes to fresh, locally grown food. (Ed: This I knew...)
- ⇒ Endorsed by Bugs Bunny. Bugs has started buying all his carrots from PIF. No fooling.

Plant if Forward Warehouse/Stand is right around the corner of Stella Link and W Bellfort:

4030 Willowbend Blvd, Houston TX 77025 Tuesdays 3:30-5:30pm

Telephone: 713-432-0754

They accept SNAP, Credit, & Debit at this location.

Spotlight on our Political Process:

Our United States representatives:

John Cornyn – Senior Senator for Texas
Since Nov 30, 2002 (Next Election in 2020)
Tel: 202-224-2934

Ted Cruz – Junior Senator for Texas
Since Jan 3, 2013 (Next Election in 2018)
Tel: 202-224-5922

John Culberson – Our representative for the 7th District
Houston Office: 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 620, Houston, Texas 77024-3490 Houston
Phone: 713-682-8828

Our Texas State Representatives:

Shawn Thierry – Our Representative for District 146
District Address: 2616 South Loop West, Suite 635, Houston TX 77054
Office Phone: (713) 667-4146

Joan Huffman – Our Texas State Senator for District 17
District Address: P.O Box 541774, Houston TX 77254
Local Phone: (281) 980-3500

Lawrence A. Allen, Jr – Texas State Board of Education - District 4
3717 Cork Dr. Houston, TX 77047 (713) 203-1355
sboesupport@tea.texas.gov Board Term: Jan. 1, 2015 - Jan. 1, 2019

Bet you didn't know: There are 15 state Board of Education members who are elected by Texans to four year terms of office. Each member represents about 1.8 million Texans.

Necessary facts to know: How do I find my 9-digit zip code? Folks, this is something that you may need to find your polling place, get/send your mail, or receive an inheritance from a long-lost relative.

While a standard 5-digit zip code is sufficient for most mail in the United States, an extra 4-digit code is sometimes needed. Go to this web page to look up your zip code: https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction_input

Election of the Westwood Civic Club Board Here are your new and not-so-new WCC board members:

President: Paul Sobieski
Vice President: Bob Weber
Recording Secretary: Alice Kuchera
Corresponding Secretary: Dan Ballard
Treasurer: Rose Michalec
Section 1 Representative: Ken Calvert
Section 2 Representative: Linford Herschberger
Section 4 Representative: Bill Pennington
Section 5 Representative: Omar Hinojosa

If you want to be part of a group of people who are committed to making life better for Westwood residents, why don't you take some time to explore the opportunities with our Westwood Civic Club? We're not an enforcement agency or a bunch of busybodies, just neighbors who are looking for ways to make the biggest impact with the meager resources we've been entrusted with.

"The few who do are the envy of the many who only watch."

Jim Rohn, American speaker and author.

Membership Form

Make checks payable to: Westwood Civic Club

Mail to: Westwood CC -- Dues, P.O. Box 20411, Houston TX 77225

Names of residents who live in home: _____

Name of Landlord (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

Dues are **\$50.00** per household (no matter when you pay them) OR **\$20.00** per household for seniors (65 and over)

Enclosed is my membership and additional funds (optional) for 2018 Membership

Dues \$ _____

Additional \$ _____ (circle your choice): Esplanade * C.O.P. * Babler * Membership * Other _____

Total \$ _____