



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



Christmas Party:

Bring a desert and join your friends and neighbors for holiday cheer! Drinks provided. Door prizes!

Thursday, Dec 7th at 7:00 pm (Gather at 6:30)

Corpus Christi Church, Prefontaine Hall

9900 Stella Link, Houston, TX 77025

Westwood Decorating Contest:

Folks, get those Christmas lights, your nativity sets and inflatable Santas out of the attic on and onto your lawn.

Judging Weekend: Dec 9th & 10th

Heavy Trash Pick-up

Look! Trash and recycling will be the Friday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 24.

HEAVY TRASH

No dates yet – stay tuned

TREE WASTE

No dates yet – stay tuned

Folks, The City of Houston has done a great job of dealing with the Hurricane Harvey trash. We're going to have to cut them some slack until they can get back to a regular schedule for tree and heavy trash pick-up.

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>



The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Dept Courtesy: Harry J. Hayes, Director.

After a 2-and-a-half-month suspension due to Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) will resume curbside recycling collection starting Monday, November 13, 2017. The resumption of service is as follows:

"B Week" collection will begin the week of Monday, November 13, 2017

"A Week" collection will begin the week of Monday, November 20, 2017

As curbside recycling collection reboots, customers are encouraged to place only the following items in their green recycling carts: paper, cardboard, clean food cartons, plastic containers #1-5 and #7, aluminum cans and bimetal cans. A detailed list of accepted items can be found on department's website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html>

Customers are also reminded that glass is not accepted in the curbside containers, but can be recycled at all City recycling drop-off locations. The recycling link previously mentioned lists those locations and has them mapped. Here are a few other reminders to remember after our recycling hiatus:

No Hurricane Harvey Debris should be in the recycling cart. While we recognize that many customers used their carts to haul demolition material to the curb immediately after Harvey, material of that type is not recyclable and is considered trash.

1. Recycling should be loose and not bagged in the cart. Loose material speeds the processing line and ensures that contamination is kept at a minimum.
2. **Glass is not** accepted at this time and should be taken to a convenient drop-off site.
3. Junk Waste and Yard Waste services remain suspended until further notice. Those crews continue to work on Hurricane Harvey debris removal.
4. All city drop-off locations continue to work on a 7 day schedule until further notice. These sites include the Neighborhood Depositories, Westpark Recycling Center and the Environmental Service Center. Remember to check with 3-1-1 or the department's webpage for operating hours.
5. The Recycling Collection Schedule is found here: http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/Recycle_Cal.pdf
6. All Solid Waste Services Collection Day Information can be found at the following link: http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html

Yard Waste and Heavy Trash Collection: Yard waste and heavy trash collection will be suspended until further notice due to the need of extra personnel for debris collection for disaster recovery. (Ed note: Rumors are flying, but no official change. Use this time to sharpen your chain saws and top off the oil, or just drink beer.)

Westwood Quickies:

New Construction: Courtesy of Ken Calvert; k-calvert@sbcglobal.net

- ✓ New house submitted for 10313 Oboe... That's on my block. I'll give updates.
- ✓ As of 11/21 there is one less house in Westwood. 4137 Woodhaven St was demolished today. Interesting, the Owner Occupant is listed as Sharon Lundy, who has not lived there for years.

From the Editor: Dan Ballard; dballardpmp@sbcglobal.net

Here's where you can vent your Westwood concerns: d Ballardpmp@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...)

HURRICANE HARVEY - Postlude:

I'm trying to put together a list of the groups and organizations that are involved in Harris County water management, or the lack thereof. In the next couple of Babblers, I'm going to see if I can give a quick Bio on anybody who plays in this arena. I caution you, this is more like an Agatha Christie murder mystery, than a straight-forward analysis. We will all have to take a hard look at these guys and see what their agenda is and how it relates to us. Here is our first organization:

Brays Bayou Association (Ed note: I've put in a request for some info from these guys.)

Purpose: To reduce the risk of flooding in the Brays Bayou watershed. (Ed note: How?)

Meeting place/times: Third Monday of every month, 7:30 pm, The Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow, Houston, TX 77035.

Notes from meetings on 10/18 and 10/20 attending by Bill Pennington:

On October 18th the Braes Bayou Association (BBA) met on the banks of Braes bayou under the 610 loop. This meeting featured a representative from Harris County Flood Control. The agenda was the status of the flood control project on the bayou. They are referring to the portion of the project that deals with the banks of the bayou from Buffalo Speedway to the Loop. The takeaway from this meeting: they were moving along as planned. They also noted the progress of the Willow Waterhole Project. Specifically, connecting all of the detention ponds to the Willow Waterhole Bayou. I also learned that the bridges on Braes Bayou—starting with the Buffalo Bayou bridge—will be rebuilt beginning in the second quarter of 2018. Estimated construction time per bridge: 1 year. (Ed note: Yikes!)

Also mentioned in this meeting was the difficulty getting reimbursed by the Corp of Engineers for work completed. Which sort of leads us to the next meeting...

The October 20th meeting of the Braes Bayou Association featured an appearance by Congressman John Culberson. Representative Culberson filled us in on the legislation he was working on, aimed at changing the way the federal government deals with natural disasters such as Harvey. Specifically, he addressed the way funds are dispersed after a natural disaster. His observations on the process as it exists today were eye-opening. We wish him luck streamlining the emergency response.


On a lighter note: Paul “Green Thumb” Sobieski expounds on Thanksgiving.

It’s Thanksgiving morning. Got up, put the turkey in the oven (brown bag cooking) and headed out on my bike ride. It was so peaceful and quiet, even more so than on a Sunday morning. The sun was shining but it was 47° with a sharp breeze from the north so I froze my hands as I rode without gloves. Christmas decorations have already been put up (take a look at the wonderland on Nenana), yards are mowed and trash “and recycling” are waiting for pick up scheduled for tomorrow (finally!) While I was riding, I thought about all I’m thankful for in my life: my wife and kids and extended family, my improved health (been home from the hospital for two weeks now), my neighbors and friends, this wonderful city of Houston we live in, and so much more.

I thought about what a diverse neighborhood we are: older houses, brand new houses, conventional yards, more eclectic yards, gardens, over hanging oak trees on some streets, the park, etc. But what I’m most thankful for is the wonderful neighbors and friends Mary and I have made during the 32 years we’ve lived in Westwood. I’m thankful for feeling safe here, the lack of major crime, the fact that every day I see lots of people walking, running, walking their dogs and just visiting in front yards, and for the fact that we are are so close to everything. I’m thankful for the fact that not one Westwood home had flooding during Hurricane Harvey.

Now, we’re getting ready for our Thanksgiving feast with lots of family and friends. Hope everyone in Westwood has a wonderful day!

President’s Note: We all know that Thanksgiving started in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in the 1620’s so we’ve been celebrating this meal for almost 400 years. President Lincoln proclaimed in 1864 that the country should have an official holiday for Thanksgiving but that was not actually ratified by Congress until 1941. And, the truth is that the first Thanksgiving meal celebrated in the USA was actually held in Texas in 1598. Juan de Onate led an expedition from Mexico toward the northern Rio Grande (New Mexico area now.) They ran out of food but when they reached the Rio Grande near what is now El Paso, they found water and food. He ordered a day of Thanksgiving, which was celebrated for years afterwards. (Ed note: to the great dismay of Turkeys everywhere!)

 **Holiday Get-Together!** Westwood is holding its annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 7, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church at 7 pm. **EVERYONE IN WESTWOOD IS INVITED!** Please come, it will be fun with desserts, drinks and lots of door prizes!

Take care, Paul Sobieski, President

➤ This message has been endorsed by Santa Inc. Show up and be good, or risk the consequences.

MEET THE BOARD: Listed below are some of our friends and neighbors who donate their time to the Westwood Civic Club. Getting these folks to sit down and write five sentences about themselves is like getting Willie Nelson to banish herbal supplements from his tour bus. Some of the following is true and some is well, as true as made-up stuff can be. You decide.

Alice “Ladyfingers” Kuchera: Alice is our Recording Secretary. Rumor has it that back in the day, she was a Blackjack dealer in Monte Carlo. Here are some of thing she fessed up to:

My name is Alice Kuchera. I purchased my home in 1972 at a fair price of \$16,500. I am a native Houstonian and have seen many homeowners flee their homes for pennies on the dollar when they didn't like what was happening. They often had the same problems in the next neighborhood so I decided this was not the route I wanted. A few years later I attended a civic club meeting to complain of an issue and became involved and have been involved ever since. I can honestly say I have enjoyed being involved in our community.

I worked in the oil patch for 34 years before leaving and pursuing other interests. I still very much believe in Westwood and look forward to our future. I hope more of you decide to join in. I believe involvement preserves our investments and the quality of our lives. *Roger that, Alice!*

Omar Hinojosa: Omar is the Section 5 Block Captain and my across-the-street neighbor.

Omar is a man of few words and great mystery. I believe that the Hinojosa’s descended from the Sorcerers who inhabited the American desert southwest. Why do I believe this? Because Omar hypnotized me into helping him lay sod last summer on what was the hottest (so far) day of the year. I have a simple mind open to suggestion, but I’m still not sure how that happened.... When he is not dabbling in the dark arts, Omar is also a car guy who owns a 1978

Chevy pickup—the first truck he ever bought new. I think he’s trying to get his money’s worth from this ride. Omar is a straight-shooter and a friend to everyone in his neighborhood. He also introduced me to the breakfast tacos at La Michoacana Meat Market on Stella Link. For all this—and for much, much more—I am grateful that he is my friend.

Linford “Grizzly” Herschberger: Linford is our Section 2 Block Captain. Here he is in his own words:

I grew up in a small town in northern Canada. My dad was a pastor, and he knew EVERYBODY. We had a grocery store and a gas station and that was about it. Other than the climate, it was quite similar to Westwood. We even had a community newsletter, which I delivered door-to-door when I was a boy! I also spent a lot of time with neighbor children climbing trees, building snow forts, and riding snowmobiles.

When my wife and I moved here in 2009, we were told that you have to be cautious and alert when someone comes to your door. How sad that Westwood can’t be a true small town. Or can we? As the years have gone by, I’ve learned that it’s amazingly possible to know a lot of the people in your neighborhood.

I have a very busy life taking care of my family, working as a bookkeeper, and occasionally performing on stage. My most distinguishing feature right now is a very, very thick beard, which my kids love. This year, my kids and I hope to have the most densely lighted oak tree trunk on Bassoon.

This a wonderful time of the year. It’s not too hot, and you can get out and get to know your neighbors. Take walks. Spend time in your front yard decorating. Come to the Westwood Holiday Party! Yes, we can be a small town. I should know. I grew up in one.

Bill and Susan Pennington: Westwood’s answer to Bonnie and Clyde, Bill is our Section 5 Block Captain and his lovely wife handles a lot of behind the scenes duties getting the Babblers printed and passed out as well as some counter-intelligence missions, as well. Who would have thought? In their own words:

The Penningtons have called Westwood home for more than 40 years. Bill was in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Our son has two children and they are the joy of our lives (most of the time). They live in Meyerland. Not at the present time, of course—they have been flooded out for the third time. *Ed note: I think we call that the “Houston Trifecta.”*

Susan and I are both retired at the present. Susan was the office manager at a dental practice and I was in the remodeling business.

Susan has been active in the civic club for over 30 years. She has always been involved with the Babblers. At the present time she is in charge of distribution of the Babblers. I have been directly involved with the civic club for the last 10 years. At the present time I am the section rep. for section 5 and am a member of the citizen's patrol.

We have always enjoyed living in Westwood. We feel this is an overlooked gem of a neighborhood. It is close to most of the amenities of this huge city and is close to the medical center and the museum district. We are proud of our neighborhood and the great people who live in it. *Well said, Bill and Susan!*

Spotlight on Urban Harvest:

Urban Harvest 18th Annual Fruit Tree Sale: Saturday, January 13th Houston Community College West Loop, 5601 West Loop South 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. What the heck is it?: The largest single-day fruit tree sale in the country featuring over 100 varieties of fruit trees suited to the climate and soils of the greater Houston area.

Urban Harvest Farmers Market - 8am - 12pm, Year round, rain or shine

3000 Richmond at Eastland

Houston, Texas 77098

Only rule: We love dogs, but can't have them at our markets due to City Health ordinance

Ed note: The no-dogs rule is a real Bummer. On the plus side, I've been to this market and every time I've gone I spent more money than planned and had a better time than planned. I've come to the conclusion that planning is vastly over-rated. Not into health and looking cool? Don't sweat it; there is an upscale beer joint next to the Farmers Market. Just saying...

Cool rides in Westwood Subdivision?

How about somebody sending me a picture of your ride? Don't wait until you get it polished-up and the carpets cleaned, that doesn't show in photos. Just the street rod and you with a grin on your face—the goofier, the better.

Believe it or not! Did you know that if you ride a bike, walk or run on every block of Westwood, you will cover 8.2 miles, and the entire ride/walk/run is safe without exposing yourself to heavy traffic or busy pathways.

“Protecting Yourself from Home Repair Fraud & Scams Workshop”

Sponsored by: Council Member Larry V Green, District K

When: Saturday, December 2, 2017

What you will learn: Attend this informative workshop to learn everything you need to know about protecting yourself from being scammed.

Come learn how to deal with home repair contractors; how to find, hire, work with and pay contractors so you don't get ripped-off. What should and should not be in your contract, the building permit process, how to set up payment schedules, insurance issues you may not know about, how to deal with problems that may arise, change orders, lien releases, and a whole lot more!

It doesn't matter where you are in your project! Come learn how to protect yourself now and in the future.

Where: Westbury High School Lecture Hall

11911 Chimney Rock Rd

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

RSVP Required!!

Questions? Contact District K council office @ 832-393-3016 or

Donald.perkins@houstontx.gov

Co-sponsored in conjunction with the National Center for the Prevention of Home Improvement Fraud.

Legal Principle involved: *“Caveat emptor, quia ignorare non debuit quod jus alienum emit”*

Meaning: "Let a purchaser beware, for he ought not to be ignorant of the nature of the property which he is buying from another party." The principle that the seller of a product cannot be held responsible for its quality unless it is guaranteed in a warranty.

Today, most sales in the U.S. fall under the principle of *caveat venditor*, which means "let the seller beware. Unless otherwise advertised (for example, "sold as is") or negotiated with the buyer, nearly all consumer products are guaranteed to work if used for their intended purpose." *Ed note: Latins did more than just invent pizza. These guys were thinkers.*