

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



The Babblers

What's trending, Westwood happenings

December 2020

Westwood

A Deed Restricted Community

Website:

westwoodcivicclub.com

E-mail:

westwoodcc@outlook.com

Heavy Trash Pick-up

HEAVY TRASH

Dec. 15 and Feb. 10

TREE WASTE ONLY

Jan. 19 and Mar. 16

Folks, The City of Houston has done a much better job of picking up heavy trash this summer and fall. Let's do our parts by only putting things out on the curb the weekend before pickup: 3rd Tuesday of each month!

Interested in working on the Westwood Civic Club board? Come to our Jan. 12th board meeting and learn more about the civic club and what the board does for the neighborhood!

NOTICE:

Due to the spike in COVID 19 cases in the Houston area and now being at Code Red threat level 1, it is highly recommended that we all stay home, so the

Holiday Party scheduled for

December 2020, has been Cancelled!

Hope to see you at our next General Meeting on Feb. 18, 2021, when we will hold our annual elections for board members!



WESTWOOD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Decorate your house with lights, inflatables, trees and more.
Judging will be on Sunday, December 13, 2020.

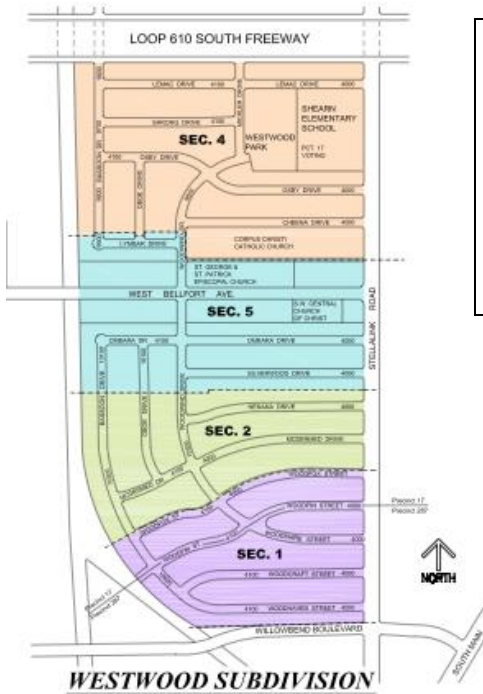


Get Connected with Westwood!

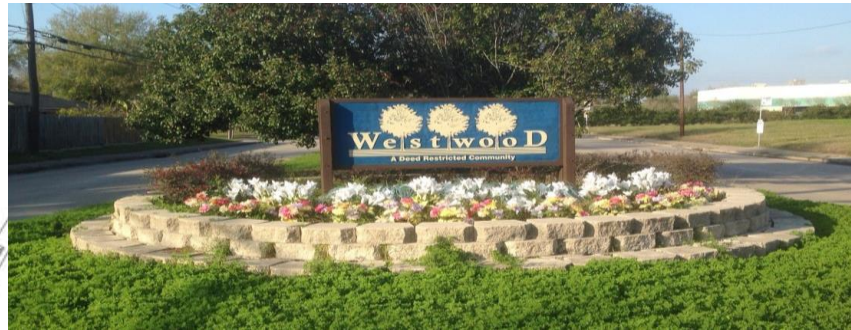
Visit our **Website**: <http://westwoodcivicclub.com/>

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

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



Just thought I'd remind everyone about what the Westwood Civic Club does all year long. It is made up of neighbors in Westwood who pay their annual dues (home owner or renter, regular dues rate or senior dues rate). Westwood Civic Club is administered by a Board of officers who are elected for annual terms at the February meeting each spring. Please attend our general meetings (see calendar for dates) and consider volunteering, or agreeing to be an officer. Fresh blood is welcome!



Westwood is a stable and welcoming residential neighborhood located in southwest Houston. It was founded in 1950 and continues to attract new families here in 2020. The neighborhood is served by Shearn Elementary School, Corpus Christi Catholic School, Grace Episcopal School and many nearby schools located outside the boundaries of the neighborhood. There are three churches located within the neighborhood: Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Grace Episcopal Church and Southwest Central Church of Christ, plus 15 businesses.

Westwood Civic Club does many things for the residents of our neighborhood - home owners & renters alike:

- mosquito control, and larvacide in the sewers
 - maintain the Westwood signs and planters in the Stella Link esplanade.
 - e-mailing alerts to the neighborhood.
 - sponsoring a venue for National Night Out in Westwood Park in October.
 - Westwood neighbors participate in the Citizens On Patrol (COP) program of daily neighborhood patrols.
 - Work with City of Houston and Harris County to clean out and maintain the big ditch along railroad tracks - an ongoing job.
 - publish the "Babbler" newsletter five times a year
 - act as liaison with the City of Houston and Harris County through the civic club and through participation and membership in Super Neighborhood Group 38.
- Monitor new construction/remodeling to maintain our Deed Restrictions.

Information shared by Barbara Hite and Perdita Chavez in City of Houston Council Member Martha Castex-Tatum, District K (our district) office. E-Mail: district@houstontx.gov Phone: 832.393.3016

Tis' the Season to Recycle in District K

"LIGHTEN" UP THE WORLD AND RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

SOUTH POST OAK RECYCLING CENTER
14600 S POST OAK - 77045

NOW THROUGH JANUARY 2021

BIN OPEN 8AM - 5:30PM M-F & TILL 4PM SATURDAYS

Financial Assistance and Grief Counseling Available to Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones to COVID-19



Memorial Assistance Ministries, a non-profit agency, in partnership with Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund, United Way Houston, and Greater Houston Community Foundation offer financial assistance to families that have lost loved ones due to

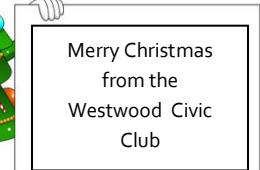
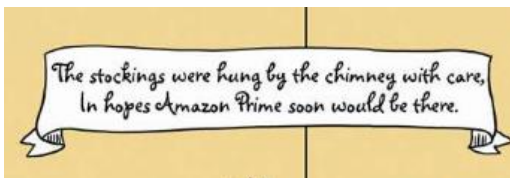
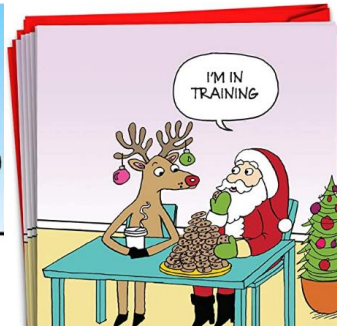
COVID-19. Immediate family members who resided in the same household can receive \$3,500 per death as well as information and referrals for grief counseling. Recipients' legal status will not be required. For more information please visit: <https://www.mamhouston.org/lostlovedone>

Senior Thoughts – submitted by Judy Mathis – from www.avast.com

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on just one.
I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.
Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation, "Maybe next time", isn't the correct response.
Don't irritate old people. The older we get the less "life in prison" is a deterrent.
Have you ever listened to someone for a minute and thought, "Their cornbread ain't done in the middle."
Aliens probably fly by earth and lock their doors.
You will hit every cone on the highway before I let you merge in front of me, because you saw that sign two miles ago like I did.
I asked my wife if I was the only one she had been with. She said yes, all the others were nines and tens.
It turns out that being an adult is mostly just googling how to do stuff.
I miss the go's, when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.
Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think, "That can't be accurate"
I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.
As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of . . . it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.
I thought getting old would take longer.
My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make food right in front of you. I took her to Subway. That's when the fight started.
Me: Sobbing my heart out, "I can't see you anymore... I'm not going to let you hurt me again."
Trainer: "It was one sit-up. You did one sit-up."
Picked up a hitchhiker. He asked if I wasn't afraid he might be a serial killer? I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely.
I went line dancing last night. OK, it was a roadside sobriety test ... same thing

The older I get the earlier it gets late.
Remember when we were young and we saw an old man and you said to shoot you if you ever dress that way?
Well...

A little holiday humor:



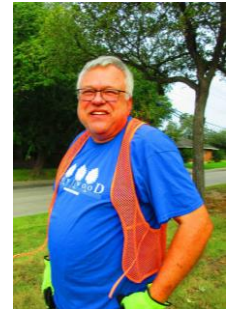
WESTWOOD ESPLANADE COMMITTEE (Chaired by Robert Scott and Jon Jenkins) beautified the Stella Link esplanade on Saturday, October 24, 2020. Over 30 volunteers showed up to spread the 22 cubic yards of mulch provided by the City of Houston Forestry Department. See posts on NextDoor below as well as photos taken by Wanda Weber and Bob Weber.

Messages sent on NextDoor:

[Wanda Weber](#) • 24 Oct [Westwood Esplanade on Stella link](#). Thanks to Robert Scott & Jon Jenkins, for all the work & effort to beautify our Westwood esplanades ! We put mulch around the trees 🌳. Thanks to the numerous residents of Westwood ; who helped out Great Team work ! We had beautiful weather! BIG. Thanks to everyone ! 👍

[Robert Scott](#) • Westwood Albion

Wanda Weber, you and Bob Weber kept the positive energy from your example of Westwood Pride flowing in all of us! Thanks for all you guys do in Westwood!!



Locally-Owned and Invested in Our Communities for Over a Quarter Century

SOUTHWEST NEWS
November 3, 2020
Vol. 36, No. 23

Serving Bellaire, Meyerland, Westbury, Willow Meadows, Willow Bend, Willowbrook, Post Oak Blinn, Magnolia and other Southwest Houston areas.
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Westwood Residents Turn Out to Keep Their Esplanade Looking Its Best

Since 1984, Westwood Club, which was formed to improve the quality of life in the area, has been a major force in the neighborhood's development. The club's efforts have resulted in the creation of the Westwood Esplanade, a beautiful area of trees and landscaping that has become a centerpiece of the community. This year, over 30 volunteers showed up to help with the annual mulch project, a tradition that has become a beloved part of the neighborhood's calendar. The project is a great way for residents to get involved in the community and make a difference in their own neighborhood. The Westwood Club is proud to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who care about the future of the community. The club's efforts have resulted in a beautiful and well-maintained esplanade that is a source of pride for all who live in the area. The club's commitment to the community is a testament to its long history of service and dedication. The club's efforts have resulted in a beautiful and well-maintained esplanade that is a source of pride for all who live in the area. The club's commitment to the community is a testament to its long history of service and dedication.

Richard D. ...
See Westwood page 8

Westwood was also featured in a two page article by Kathy Bellafant in the Nov. 3rd issue of the Southwest News.

You can read the article by going to <http://www.village-southwest-news.com> and clicking the picture of the Southwest News, then clicking on the "Archive" box in the website toolbar.

Thank you very much, Kathy!

Gardening can be extremely enjoyable for people of all ages and different walks of life. It is amazing for curious children and adults alike to watch seeds in their garden grow and then nurture them into something much larger than the tiny original seedlings. There are many plants that take very little maintenance while others need the utmost attention. All plants though will have a much better chance of surviving and thriving if transplanted correctly into the right soil with appropriate pruning, if necessary.

Soil Rather than just putting any old soil on top of your plants, consider getting soil blends that offer both macro and micronutrients for your garden. It will help provide higher quality and a better yield production from your plant. Better yet, if you create a lot of compost in your home and have a small garden, adding two to three inches of organic matter on top will make your plants extremely happy. If you do not produce enough organic matter in the home and/or it isn't in your budget to purchase it, it is possible to find free topsoil advertisements in the local paper. Look into what type of soil is best for your plants and how often it needs to be watered.

Transplanting If you are planting from seed and later transplanting them into your garden, there are a few things that should be done in preparation. First, make sure the soil you have chosen in the bed is loosened at least a shovel length deep and a good amount of organic matter is thoroughly mixed in. Next, check the moisture level and determine if it is too dry or wet and adjust accordingly. Take the appropriate measures in preventing future weed growth which will give the transplants a good healthy chance of surviving. Once they are ready to be transplanted, dig a planting hole that is only a little larger than the root ball and roughly the same depth. Carefully place it into the hole and gently press the soil around it to help ensure there is a strong contact between the soil and the roots and don't forget to water it.

Cuttings Cuttings are also a popular alternative if you don't have the time to plant your favorite seed from scratch. There are numerous plants that will root easily from cuttings if done correctly and with proper care. If you are wondering how to root fig tree cuttings, for example, try and take the six to eight-inch cutting from a stem that is strong rather than a green stem which is more likely to rot. Ideally, take the cutting when the plant is dormant and put in a plastic pot that is filled with moistened soil. Cuttings, in general, should be anywhere from three to six inches long and made with a sharp cut as it is easier for shoots to develop into new roots if they are cut cleanly rather than mashed. Some choose to dip it into rooting hormone before putting it in the pot. Have patience with these cuttings as they may take a month or two before they take root.

Pruning Some plants, such as rose bushes, will need to be pruned regularly. This is done to both remove dead, diseased or damaged stems and prevent attracting insects or diseases from developing. The majority of plants will often be pruned right before it breaks dormancy and after the final frost in the spring, but there are some that may need to be pruned continuously throughout the year. Cutting roses back are done differently depending on what look you are aiming for. Light pruning involves thinning out less than a third of the plant which increases the number of short-stemmed flowers that appear. Moderate pruning involves five to twelve canes being cut 18-24 inches making for a larger bush and severe pruning leaves only three to four canes that are six to ten inches high and result in the fewest but largest blooms.





Every February, my wife Mary and I visit the Urban Harvest Fruit Tree Sale to pick up some new trees to add to our yard. Due to COVID 19, Urban Harvest in 2021 will offer a week-long festival celebrating fruit trees from February 6 – 14, 2021. You can visit their website and the Urban Harvest Houston YouTube channel for stories and lessons given by local gardeners and experts. www.urbanharvest.org Thanks, Paul Sobieski

Texas Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar – How to register voters for 2021/2022 elections.

In order to encourage voter registration, Texas election law provides for County Voter Registrars to designate individuals to assist in the registration of eligible persons to vote. These individuals are appointed as Volunteer Deputy Registrars and operate under State rules and the supervision of the County Voter Registrar. Once you have been trained and receive your certificate of appointment, you can help register voters for the next two years. Appointments end on Dec. 31st of even numbered years, so if you train in spring 2021, your appointment will last until Dec. 31, 2021. You can register voters on your own, or help an organization that conducts voter registration drives. There are rules to follow and those are explained in ZOOM classes offered by the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector office. See info online at <https://www.hctax.net/voter/Deputy>

Zoom training classes offered by Harris County begin on Jan. 6, 2021, and continue throughout the year.

As we all saw in the just held national election, voting is right and a responsibility. Helping non-voters learn how to register to vote is a very rewarding volunteer activity.

To be eligible to serve as a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar, you MUST be: (1) at least 18 years of age; (2) a citizen of the United States; and (3) a resident of Texas. Plus, there are other rules that are fully explained on the website.



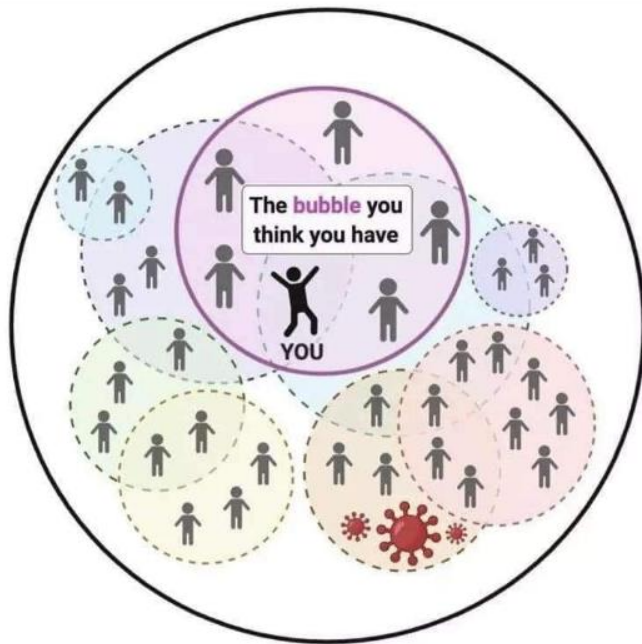
Ditch 136 (runs along UP railroad tracks) – report by Bob Weber

On Friday, Nov. 13, 2020 work began on re-grading the ditch between West Bellfort and Willowbend. This work should improve the drainage on Bassoon and Oboe but I suspect that this will adversely affect the turtle habitat *. I spoke with Melvin Hopkins in Councilperson Martha Castex-Tatum’s office regarding the ditch and presently the plan is to only re-grade from West Bellfort to Willowbend. He said that there is a plan to “work” Ditch 136 from West Bellfort to the bayou (Brays Bayou) in April of 2021. Will keep everyone informed on the progress.

- Ditch 136 is home to lots of wildlife including turtles. Some Westwood residents even refer to Ditch 136 as Turtle Bayou. Hopefully after the re-grading the turtles will be able to continue to use the ditch for shelter and food.

Ditch 136 runs along the railroad tracks from Willowbend north to Brays Bayou. Some storm sewers in the south section of Westwood drain into Ditch 136. We want to keep the ditch clear of debris so Bassoon, Woodcraft, Woodfox, Woodfin, Woodhaven, Woodwind, Woodshire, Oboe and McDermed drain during heavy rains.

Something to think about when you gather, even in a small group, with people you are sure haven't been exposed to COVID 19. You just don't know how they have been exposed by virtue of their extended "safe" small groups being exposed.



The bubble you actually have

As Texas surpasses the grim milestone of [more than one million confirmed COVID-19 cases](#), the need for a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas has grown more dire by the day. Leading drug manufacturers including Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca are offering three promising COVID-19 vaccines, and the first shots from Pfizer and Moderna could be given in the coming weeks.

Texas Medical Center can potentially have first shipments at the end of December or the beginning of the year, maybe sooner, according Houston's internationally renowned infectious disease expert, Baylor College of Medicine's Dr. Peter Hotez.

In an interview with the Houston Chronicle, Hotez revealed more about the current uptick in COVID-19 cases in Texas and the vaccine rollout.

Chron: What's driving the winter surge of COVID-19 cases throughout Texas? Hotez: There's a few things going on. Nationally, the colder weather is driving people indoors. North Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa, West Texas, Idaho, New Mexico are some of the worst-affected areas. People are indoors more, and they're more exposed. Also, there's the factor that the virus survives better in the colder weather. Out of the 12 most affected states, some of them are red states. Why that's relevant is that some local leaders, some governors buy into the White House coronavirus disinformation campaign that basically says that 'COVID-19 is a hoax.' They're discrediting masks. This is causing people to be defiant in many cases. It's really deadly. COVID-19 will soon be the leading cause of deaths on a daily basis in the U.S. It's just spiraled out of control at this point. An estimated 15,000 Texans will lose their lives between now and right after the inauguration. We're already the worst COVID-19 affected state in the country in terms of number of cases. None of them have to die. It's preventable.

Chron: There are three promising vaccines from drugmakers, Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca. Which one shows the most promise for you and which would you choose when they become available?

I think we will have good vaccines very soon. The question I often get asked, 'Hey Dr. Hotez, which vaccine will you be taking?' We're not going to have a lot of choices in the very beginning. All of the vaccines work the same way. They all work by inducing the immune response to spiked protein of virus. Don't try to cherry-pick or overthink it. Get whatever you can because they all work to give you that virus-neutralizing antibodies that'll keep you out of the hospital. Later on, you can always get a booster. But don't wait. Take the first FDA-approved vaccine offered to you. **The first one that's offered to me, I will take.**

By Allison Medley in Houston Chronicle, Nov. 25, 2020. Note that the Chronicle has a daily section dedicated to CORONAVIRUS coverage. It's full of great information, charts and more.

Sign up for FREE COVID-19 testing. Closest site to Westwood is the Aramco Parking Lot at 9009 W. Loop South, across from Hobby Lobby and Lowe's.

Call City of Houston at 832-393-4220 for an access code, then drive through the test site. I was tested recently and it took about 12-15 minutes from arrival to leaving. Got results in less than 30 hours. Be sure to you give them a cell phone number for the results and keep the volume up so you hear the call when it comes. It's a great relief when they say you tested negative, but remember to keep away from groups for a week afterward anyway just to be safe. Paul Sobieski

As Norah O'Donnell likes to say on CBS News:

Stay Positive and Test Negative!

Nov. 21, 2020 Update on Bridges over Brays Bayou - by Bob Weber

Greenbriar Bridge. Work is complete and bridge is completely open.

Stella Link Road Bridge. Traffic is moving in all 4 lanes on Stella Link Bridge but work is ongoing under the bridge.

Buffalo Speedway Bridge. The current bridge will be demolished and replaced with a higher, longer, and wider bridge. The new bridge will be four lanes wide, include a left turn lane at each intersection, and have an expanded 10-foot sidewalk. Work is slated to begin in early 2021.

Hillcroft Bridge. The Hillcroft Bridge was raised 15 inches and the intersections of North and South Braeswood are complete. Traffic is moving in all lanes but some channel work is ongoing along with some cleanup.



Artist Rendering of New Buffalo Speedway Bridge.



Artist Rendering of Hillcroft Bridge.

South Rice Bridge. The South Rice Bridges will be demolished and a complete replacement with higher, longer and wider bridges. The plan is for segments of the bridges to remain open to commuter and pedestrian traffic during the construction period, with temporary lane closures to the North and Southbound lanes as the bridges are being reconstructed. Construction will begin winter of 2020/2021 and last about one year.



Artist Rendering Of New South Rice Bridge.



Artist Rendering of New Chimney Rock Road Bridge

Chimney Rock Road Bridge. The Chimney Rock Road Bridges will be demolished and a complete replacement with higher, longer and wider bridges. The plan is for segments of the bridges to remain open to commuter and pedestrian traffic during the construction period, with temporary lane closures to the North and Southbound lanes as the bridges are being reconstructed. Construction will begin in the winter of 2020/2021 and is scheduled to last about one year.

New Homes and Homes Being Remodeled in Westwood.

Presently there are four new homes being built in Westwood. These houses are in varying stages of construction. Below is a brief description of the general location and status of construction as observed from the street for each house.

4002 Silverwood. This house on the corner of Stella Link Road and Silverwood has been under construction for some time. The foundation, framing, roof, siding and sheetrock installation has been completed. This house should be nearing completion soon.

4114 O'Meara. Near the intersection of O'Meara at Oboe. Foundation, framing, roof and siding are in place, and was recently painted.

4053 Woodfox. Between Stella Link Road and Woodwind. The foundation is finished and framing of the second story is in progress.

4117 Woodcraft. The foundation has been poured and framing is in progress. This will be a two story home.

The table below shows some of the homes in Westwood that are in the process of being remodeled.

Address	Permit Description	Comments
4017 Woodshire	Demo Only	Lot Cleared
4138 Woodcraft		Garage conversion
4121 Woodfox		Swimming Pool
10101 Woodwind		Repairs & Garage Remodel
4017 Woodfin	Residential Remodel	Looks like total gut
4105 Woodhaven		Residential Remodel
4030 Cheena		Remodel after big add-on in back

Please remember that permits are needed for renovations as well as complete re-builds. The process is that you need to be cleared by the Westwood Architectural Review Committee and then by the City of Houston permitting office. In order to get a permit, someone has to sign an affidavit that states that the issuance of a permit does not authorize construction on, or use of, any property in violation of deed restrictions. **Any misrepresentations on the affidavit will render the permit void.** Please contact Ken Calvert of the Westwood Architectural Review Committee before beginning work to insure that are no Deed Restrictions are being violated. **Ken can be contacted via email: k-calvert@sbcglobal.net**



REMEMBER: IT IS ILLEGAL TO PARK IN THE GRASS OR IN YOUR YARD. PARK IN YOUR DRIVEWAY OR IN THE STREET. DO NOT BLOCK THE SIDEWALK, THAT GETS A TICKET AS WELL!



Illegal to park in grass or yard.



Illegal to block sidewalk.



On street, park facing same way as traffic flows. Black car in pix below is parked wrong.



Offense

It shall be an offense for any person to park or to cause, suffer or permit the parking of a vehicle or equipment on any surface that is not an improved surface as defined in this article, within any front or side yard of a single-family residence in a residential area subject to this section. It is presumed that the registered owner of the vehicle or equipment is the person who parked, caused, suffered or permitted the vehicle or equipment to be parked in violation of this article.

Penalty

Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$150.00. Each day a violation of this article shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

To read the complete ordinance, go to www.Municode.com on the internet and search for City of Houston, Chapter 28, Article X, or enter Parking of Vehicles on Residential Property in the search block.

Your Yearly Dementia Test (only 4 questions)

Yep, it's that time of year again for us to take our annual senior citizen test. Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important to keep mentally alert. If you don't use it, you lose it! Here is a very private way to gauge how your memory compares to your last test. Some may think it is too easy, but the ones with memory problems may have difficulty. Take this test to determine if you're losing it or not. The spaces below are so you don't see the answers until you've made your answer. OK, clear your mind and begin.

#1. What do you put in a toaster

Answer: 'bread.' If you said 'toast', just give up now and go do something else.

And, try not to hurt yourself. If you said, bread, go to Question #2.

2. Say 'silk' five times. Now spell 'silk.' What do cows drink?

Answer: Cows drink water. If you said 'milk,' don't attempt the next question. Your brain is already over-stressed and may even overheat. Content yourself with reading more appropriate literature such as Women's Weekly or Auto World. However, if you did say 'water', proceed to Question #3.

3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from?

Answer: Greenhouses are made from glass. If you said 'green bricks', why are you still reading this??? PLEASE, go lie down! But, if you said 'glass,' go on to Question #4.

4. Do not use a calculator for this

You are driving a bus from New York City to Philadelphia.
In Staten Island, **17** people got on the bus.
In New Brunswick, **6** people get off the bus and **9** people get on.
In Windsor, **2** people get off and **4** get on.
In Trenton, **11** people get off and **16** people get on.
In Bristol, **3** people get off and **5** people get on.
And, in Camden, **6** people get off and **3** get on.
You then arrive at Philadelphia Station.

Without going back to review, how old is the bus driver?

Answer: Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember your own age?!?! It was **YOU** driving the bus!

MY HOME IS HERE / HOUSTON - survey shared with Babblar by Westwood resident **Nancy Edwards**

Why is the survey important? Severe weather and a growing population present new social needs for the five million residents who call Harris County home. The results of the Harris County Housing Survey will inform decisions that impact safe and affordable homes and apartments in your community. Harris County received \$10 billion to implement the results of the survey, and your responses show your local government how to spend those funds on real estate in your neighborhood like determining where homes need to be built or repaired, types of dwelling options that are needed, and maintaining affordable costs for hardworking Houstonians. This is your opportunity to tell Harris County and the City of Houston on how to responsibly develop improvements for economic, environmental, and social balance in the most valuable space of all, your home and community. It's also a chance to add a general statement at the end of the survey, such as on climate change, need for help during the pandemic, etc.

The Rain submitted by Judy Mathis

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am.

I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease. As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late. He said that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now. I was surprised, and asked him, 'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?'

He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is.'

I had to hold back tears as he left, I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, 'That is the kind of love I want in my life.' True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be.

The happiest people don't have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have.

'Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain.'

We are all getting Older. Tomorrow may be our turn.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday. Hope 2021 brings you happiness and good health!



A helpful holiday hint from the Dec. 2020 READER'S DIGEST magazine:

Wrap the Gifts and the Tree:

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of fir. When putting the tree up this season, tuck a tree bag (found at most hardware stores) under the stand and skirt. When it's time to take down the tree, pull the bag up around the branches and carry it out – and save your self a clogged vacuum.

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY
Non-Profit • Supported by Donations

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
DISTRICT K COUNCIL
MEMBER AND VICE MAYOR
PRO TEM CASTEX-TATUM

H-E-B
Helping Here

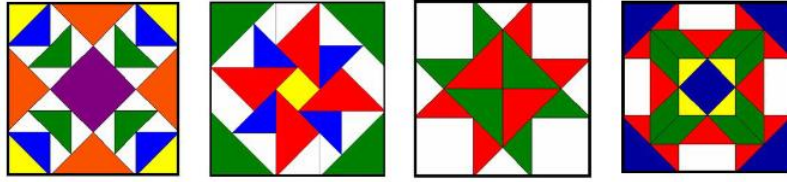
HHS PET PANTRY WILL BE AT
Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center
3810 W. Fuqua Street, Houston, TX 77045
Tuesday, December 15, 2020
10am-12pm

PROVIDING FREE PET FOOD TO THOSE NEEDING ASSISTANCE

Martha Castex-Tatum
Vice Mayor Pro Tem
District K

WWW.HOUSTONHUMANE.ORG
No appointment necessary.
Please remain in your vehicle.
We are prepared to serve individuals
on a first come first serve basis.

Here's an idea on how to decorate Westwood in a unique way. We challenge the woodworkers, painters, crafters & tinkerers of Westwood to put up a BARN QUILT on your front wall, garage wall or a fence.



Have you ever driven past a barn with a quilt block pattern and wondered about the meaning behind it? **Barn quilts** began as a way to honor a loved one with a gorgeous piece of folk art. While barn quilts have been around for many years, there's been a spike in popularity in the last two decades. In Adams County, Ohio, in 2001, Donna Sue Groves set out to honor her mother, Maxine, and her quilt art by painting a quilt block on her tobacco barn. The idea was a hit, and soon friends and neighbors wanted barn quilts of their own. Donna realized that her unique quilting could have quite the effect on the area, so she decided to paint barns with quilt squares all over, and soon the first barn quilt trail was born.

So what is a quilt trail, you ask? Great question! According to **Barn Quilt Info**, it's a collection of quilt blocks on a barn or building or house that are on a walking or driving trail. The quilt patterns can be on the side of any buildings the quilter sees fit to put them on. The barn quilts are generally chosen from a family's own colorful **quilt** pattern that has been passed down through the years. Then the family's quilt pattern is turned into public art on their own barn or other building, and it becomes part of a quilt trail. However, anyone can make a barn quilt and can make their own pattern.

It would be wonderful to see houses all over Westwood decorated with a barn quilt and **have our own Westwood trail**. (There are barn quilts trails all over Texas. The largest is in Bonham northeast of Dallas with.)



How to make a DIY barn quilt. By Cindy at DIYBEAUTIFY.com

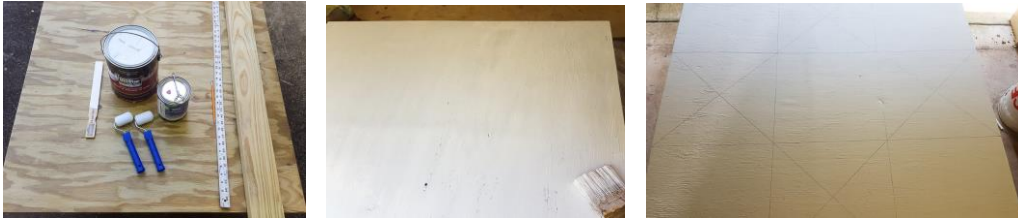
Choose or make up a pattern. There are lots

of ideas and pictures on the internet.:

- [pressure treated plywood](#) (cut to 4' square in store, or whatever size you choose to make your barn quilt)
- 2x4's to brace the back for hanging
- [L-brackets](#)
- outdoor [marine paint](#) in colors of choice (they'll tint it in-store for you)
- paint brushes and rollers in various sizes
- [painter's tape](#) (optional)
- measuring tape and pencil
- straight edge.:

Step 1 - Sand the board really well to make it ultra smooth and ready for paint.

Step 2 - Paint the board with two coats of [white marine paint](#). We kept it extra simple with no borders.



Step 3 - Measure and mark the pattern with a ruler and a pencil. **The Ohio Star pattern is made by dividing the board into thirds and drawing straight lines across, then connecting the corners with diagonal lines.** And just like that, it looks like a star!

Step 4 - If you have a complicated pattern, you may want to tape the edges to make painting easier. Paint the star with a contrasting color. You can use a small roller brush for this part, but need something infinitely smaller to stay inside the lines in the corners and edges. Use a flat craft brush for those areas and then filled it in with a larger brush and the roller. Doesn't look great initially...it takes about 3-4 coats to really cover well. Remember, this quilt will be hanging on a building so you won't see any small mistakes or slightly uneven lines!



The painting definitely takes the longest because you need to wait for it to dry before painting another coat. Four coats later it looked a lot better! Marine paint is intended for wet conditions. If you choose to use another paint, you'll want to seal the painted barn quilt with several coats of [clear polyacrylic sealant](#). Stay away from polyurethane as it tends to yellow white paint!

How to hang a barn quilt - Screw the 2x4's to build a frame at the back of the quilt. Use L-brackets to secure them together. The frame gives the wood barn quilt stability so it won't warp in the changing weather. It also provides a frame to drill into and secure the barn quilt to the garage, rather than drilling into the quilt itself and messing up all of your hard work



You might consider painting a mural on a fence or garage wall! I did it on my garage wall overlooking our backyard gardens and it really makes the wall pop! E-mail me if you are interested in having a mural painted.
paulsobieski@att.net



Submitted by the Westwood Citizen Patrol

The holiday season is upon us. As we plan our shopping and visiting to avoid Covid-19, your Citizen Patrol is working so crime avoids Westwood. So far this year we have averaged 33 hours of patrolling each month. This means on average someone is out every day. But we still can use your help. Here are some things you can do to assist your patrollers.

Be sure to lock your car every time you leave it, even when you run back in the house to grab that forgotten item. Leave nothing visible on the car seats. You are just inviting trouble. Remember the movie, "Gone in 60-seconds"? Since May there has only been one theft from an automobile in Westwood so keep locking those cars. Another thing you can do is close your garage door. Even if you are only running off to Sonny's for a bag of ice, keep the door closed. That lawn mower, trimmer or toolbox is so tempting. You also have just left your house unlocked since you probably never lock the door between the garage and house. Now anyone can come in. We know it is a pain to get out of the car again to close the garage door, but it is less of a pain than what can happen if you do not. If your holiday plans include time away from Westwood, let a neighbor know so they can keep an eye on your place. Be sure to stop the newspaper so a pile does not form in your driveway. Leave a light on in rooms or put them on timers, making it appear someone is home. Be sure garbage bins have been put away.

Even with all our efforts crime still occurs. Summer was quiet maybe because of Covid-19 restrictions, but in the last couple months there have been two car thefts and one break-in all at night. The holiday season always brings out the criminal element so stay even more vigilant during the coming weeks. Remember to wear your mask and keep a safe distance when around others you do not know. The Westwood Citizen Patrol wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday.



REPORT FROM SHEARN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

This has been a very unique and historic school year. We would like to thank all of the Westwood community for all of the support given through this year. The Shearn staff and teachers have done an amazing job kicking off the school year in person and virtually. They have gone above and beyond to provide students a normal day to day schedule and education. I personally have two children attending Shearn Elementary and what they are all doing for our students is amazing.

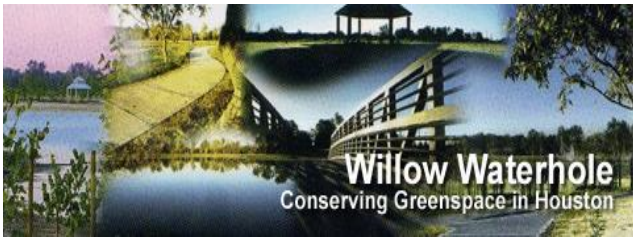
With support from neighbors, churches, donors and parents we have been able to provide a school environment that gives encouragement, motivation and positivity. The transition back to in-person learning has been smooth considering the worldwide pandemic. Students were able to return to clean and safe buildings thanks to our amazing custodians. Shearn created a Safety Council that has worked hard to make sure every employee and student feel safe entering the building and laid out procedures for any possible situation that could occur for all in-person attendees. Thanks to this council, parents have felt safe to send their children to school and have been provided all possible communications of school occurrences. Virtual Students have been provided with stable and consistent learning opportunities and schedules. The school has done everything to make sure all students are provided with the technology necessary to learn from home. Teachers have done an amazing job teaching virtually but also in providing the warmth and emotional support that each student finds in school.

PTO would like to thank Mrs. Romero-George for the work she has done to lead our school into a successful school year. Her dedication and leadership have made a school where children receive not only the best education but also find a family away from home. We are so grateful to have her as our principal!

We are confident that with your continued support we will get through this! Thanks so much!

Melissa Jones Shearn PTO President shearnpto@gmail.com





LESS FLOODING....MORE GREENSPACE

– submitted by Bill King of Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy

This is the motto of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy, a non-profit organization which leads efforts to improve and maintain this 291 acre park. The conservancy assists and nurtures the partnership with residents, environmental groups, Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Precinct One, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department and the Houston Parks Board in developing Willow Waterhole Greenway.

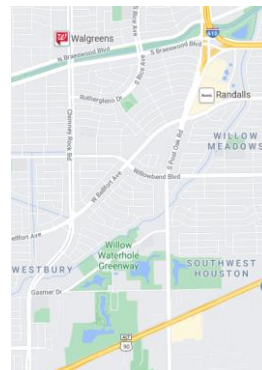
In 2002, Harris County Flood Control District began acquiring property to be used for flood control. Construction started in 2003. The last of the six wet bottom detention ponds was completed in 2019. All of the ponds are connected by underground box culverts which are connected to the Willow Waterhole Bayou, which drains into Brays Bayou just north of South Loop 610.


Today, the “lakes” range from 10 acres to 110 acres and can retain 600 million gallons of storm water. In 2016 Texas Parks and Wildlife began stocking the lakes with bass, sunfish and catfish. Fishing is encouraged along with canoeing and kayaking.

The Greenway has extensive walking and biking trails complimented with native trees, plants and grasses. While enjoying the trails you may notice numerous birds. The Houston Audubon Society conducts monthly bird surveys and has identified approximately 200 different species of birds in the Greenway.

Willow Waterhole Greenway is a place in our neighborhood that should be used, visited and supported. Parking is available at the main entrance at 5300 Dryad which is adjacent to Westbury High School and the Westbury Little League complex. There is street parking available on Ricecrest between S. Willow Drive and Gasmer.

Consider joining the Conservancy. Visit our website to join or email us: membership@willowwaterhole.org. We welcome volunteers: email volunteer@willowwaterhole.org. **Take the time to explore and enjoy this wonderful neighborhood asset!**





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Westwood Civic Club - Here is *your* current WCC Board:

President	Paul Sobieski
Vice-President	Bob Weber
Recording Secretary	Alice Kuchera
Babbler	Judy Mathis
Treasurer	Rose Michalec
Section 1 Representative	Ken Calvert
Section 2 Representative	Linford Herschberger
Section 4 Representative	Bill Pennington
Section 5 Representative	Omar Hinojosa
Architectural Review	Ken Calvert
Esplanade Committee	Robert Scott & Jon Jenkins
Welcome Committee	Diane Nguyen

BABBLER STAFF

EDITOR, Judy Mathis

Formatting, Paul Sobieski

Writers: Bob Weber, Wanda Weber, Uncle Sam, Omar Hinojosa, Trish Hitchcock, Dan Ballard, Chuck Seidel, Robert Scott, Jon Jenkins, Bob Mathis, And, OF COURSE, All BABBLER DISTRIBUTORS (coordinated by Susan and Bill Pennington), and mail-out coordinator, Alice Kuchera.

Nov. 2020 Membership Report – Bob Weber We currently have 148 members who have paid dues this year. We eventually reached 212 by the end of the last fiscal year. We appreciate everyone who has sent in dues this year. Please consider paying your dues and supporting the efforts of the civic club. Thanks.

Remember that dues for the 2020-2021 year are due March 1, 2020. Now is the time to send them in!

Mail to: Westwood CC – Dues, P.O.Box 20411, Houston, TX 77025

Names of residents who live in home: _____

Name of Landlord (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail address (please print): _____

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

Enclosed is my membership and additional fund (optional) for 2020 membership.

Dues: \$ _____

Additional \$ _____ (circle your choice) Esplanade C.O.P. Babbler Other _____

Total \$ _____