

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

Welcome Summer!



May 2021

The Babbler

What's trending, Westwood happenings

Westwood

A Deed Restricted Community

Website: westwoodcivicclub.com

E-mail: westwoodcc@outlook.com

Questions for Architectural Review Committee? – send e-mail to k-calvert@sbcglobal.net

Heavy Trash Pick-up

HEAVY TRASH

June 15 and Aug. 17

TREE WASTE ONLY

July 20 and Sept. 21

Folks, let's do our parts by only putting things out on the curb the weekend before pickup:

3rd Tuesday of each month!

[Ramon Jimenez](#) of Westwood says it's easy to remember:

Even months - EVERYTHING

Odd months - TREE WASTE

Thanks, Ramon!

WESTWOOD CIVIC CLUB

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Due to COVID 19, we are still not able to meet in person for our general meeting of the Westwood Civic Club. However, we may be able to resume in-person meetings in July. We will keep you updated on the status of our next meeting. In the meantime, please mark your calendar tentatively for a general meeting on:

General Meeting – 7 pm, Thurs., July 22, 2021

Location to be announced.

Don't forget to pay your dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The form to fill out can be found on the last page of this Babbler.

Please join us for a great year as we move on from the pandemic.



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. All are 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 2021.

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 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. [Ken Calvert is Architectural Review Chairperson to contact at k-calvert@sbcglobal.net

From the Babblers Editor: Paul Sobieski

The Westwood Civic Club publishes the Babblers Newsletter five times a year before each general meeting. We also distribute invitation flyers to our National Night Out Event the first Tuesday of October, and to our Holiday Party in December. Lastly, we publish an annual calendar of meetings, recycle and trash pickups, and heavy trash schedule from the City of Houston. News articles for each Babblers are welcome and encouraged from residents of Westwood. They will be reviewed for pertinence, and published in one of the upcoming Babbblers. Here's the address where you can send your Westwood concerns or submit a potential article: westwoodcc@outlook.com

2 On another note, if you have questions or want to submit plans to the Architectural Review Committee, contact Ken Calvert at k-calvert@sbcglobal.net

Short notes from Paul Sobieski, Westwood Civic Club President: Lots of new construction and remodeling started in Westwood recently. So far, everyone seems to have followed the deed restrictions and City of Houston requirements that people get permits from the city and also submit their plans to the Westwood Deed Restrictions and Architectural Review Committee. That committee is easy to work with and Ken Calvert, our review chairperson, is a wealth of info on the process. There has been an uptick in postings about Westwood on NextDoor, most are good, although there is the occasional report of a car theft or someone breaking into a car. If something like that happens, the important thing to do is to call the non-emergency number for the Houston Police [(713) 884-3131] to report the incident, or file a 3-1-1 report as well.

Filing a 311 report online is easy and the best way to report problems to the city such as nuisances, over-grown yards, abandoned vehicles, non-working street lights or traffic lights, pot holes, etc. Simply go to www.houstontx.gov/311/ and follow the instructions to "submit a service request."

PERMITS AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

In Westwood Civic Club's ongoing effort to maintain its Deed Restrictions, we would like to remind residents and property owners that just getting a permit from the City of Houston does not mean that the building or alteration complies with Deed Restrictions. In fact, 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.

New construction or renovations/alterations can receive approval by the Deed Restriction and Architectural Review Committee of the Westwood Civic Club for conformance to the Deed Restrictions. The steps recommended are that the resident, property owner or builder submit their plans to the review committee first and get the written approval necessary to truthfully sign the affidavit when applying for a permit.

Together with other professional board members, Westwood Civic Club offers its residents and property owners a worthwhile and necessary service for which some of our neighboring civic organizations charge up to \$500. The Westwood Deed Restriction and Architectural Review Committee can be reached through E-mail at k-calvert@sbcglobal.net.

Annual elections for the Westwood Civic Club board were held on February 18, 2021.

The meeting was held via Zoom. The new board members for the 2021-2022 year are:

President: Paul Sobieski

Recording Secretary: Alice Kuchera

Treasurer: Rose Michalec

Section 2 Representative: Jon Jenkins

Section 5 Representative: Omar Hinojosa

Vice President: Bob Weber

Corresponding Secretary: position open *

Section 1 Representative: Ken Calvert

Section 4 Representative: Bill Pennington

*The Corresponding Secretary also edits the Babblers newsletter, which Paul Sobieski is currently handling.

Looking for fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables and food? Try a Farmers Market!

- Urban Harvest Farmer's Market – 2752 Buffalo Speedway - Upper Kirby district – Sat. 8 am – 12 noon.
- Plant It Forward Pop Up Market – 4030 Willowbend – Westwood neighbor. Check www.plant-it-forward.org for times.
- Braeswood Farmers Market – S. Braeswood at Stella Link, in the shopping center parking lot. Weds 3- 7 pm and Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
- Google "farmers markets near me" for more events. Good luck and happy eating, Paul Sobieski

Westwood Yard of the Month – the following houses were awarded yard of the month during the last year. Thank you for delightful and well-kept yards. You work hard to maintain them and we greatly appreciate your efforts!

January 2021 - 4009 Nenana Fersch/Puryear family

February 2021 - no winner

March 2021 - 9706 Mickler Rae family



Stella Link Esplanade Committee



The Westwood Civic Club started an Esplanade Committee with the job of keeping up the planters on the north and south ends of Stella Link, as well as the grassy area with the flag at the corner of Stella Link and 610. This committee began working on the esplanades by repairing the water sprinklers in each planter, then by spreading mulch around the trees in the esplanade in late October 2020. They are now working on plans for what to plant in the planters and how to maintain things during the year. Participation on this committee is welcome to all residents of Westwood.

The Esplanade Committee budget renewing the planters on Stella Link was approved at the February 18, 2021, general meeting. Work is now beginning here in May. If you are interested in joining the committee, making suggestions, or helping with the renewal work, please contact Robert Scott at robertescott4575@aol.com or Jon Jenkins at jonljenkinsaia@aol.com.



Braes Interfaith Ministries (BIM) continues to distribute food to our neighbors in need during these difficult days. Many families are struggling to make ends meet, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drop your non-perishable (and unexpired) food items off at BIM at 4300 W. Bellfort, just across the railroad tracks at Willow Meadows Baptist Church, or make a cash donation. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause



**Gulf Coast Regional
Blood Center**
www.giveblood.org

DONATE BLOOD!

Call 713-790-1200 or go on-line to www.giveblood.org

Things to Do in Houston – for residents and for visitors.

Written by [Shea Serrano](#) Updated 12/04/20 Fact-Checked by [Jillian Dara](#) Extra locations added by Paul Sobieski. **Here are activities for seeing Houston, some better suited for after the pandemic, but all are great for entertaining visitors or just going on your own. Save the list for when visitors come – you'll look very organized and well prepared!**

TOUR SPACE CENTER HOUSTON - 2101 E NASA Pkwy, Houston, TX 77058. The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, home of the NASA astronaut corps, occupies 1,620 acres in southeast Houston, consisting of roughly 100 facilities. The sprawling estate is not just for astronauts, either; tourists can experience a zero-gravity simulation in the Living in Space exhibit or encounter a virtual rocket launch, complete with exhaust, at the Destiny ("Blast Off") Theater.

VISIT THE HOUSTON ZOO - 6200 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX 77030. Sheltering more than 6,000 animals and 900 species, the [Houston Zoo](#) is one of the most visited zoos in the nation. Spend the day strolling through the facility's impeccably landscaped grounds, or get more, but hands-on by scheduling a guided tour.

STROLL THE MUSEUM DISTRICT - The Houston Museum District is home to 19 museums, galleries, and cultural centers packed into a mile-and-a-half radius of Hermann Park. **The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, (8th most visited art museum in the USA) which also houses the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens.. Nearby is the [Health Museum](#), the [Holocaust Museum](#), [Houston Center for Photography](#), [Houston Children's Museum](#), [Buffalo Soldiers Museum](#), [Contemporary Crafts Museum](#), [Museum of African American Culture](#), [Menil Collection](#), [Contemporary Arts Museum](#), [Asia Society Museum](#), [Moody Arts Center](#) and [Lawndale Art Center](#). The [Museum of Natural Science](#) is one of the top 5 science museums in the USA, featuring the Cockrell Butterfly Center, planetarium and tons of exhibits.

HAVE FUN AT KEMAH BOARDWALK - 215 Kipp Ave, Kemah, TX 7756. Spanning 60 acres on the Galveston Bay waterfront, [Kemah Boardwalk](#) has grown from a dining destination to Houston's largest theme park, featuring a Ferris wheel, train, and carousel (all available for rides and individually priced). Packed with hotels and restaurants like [Landry's Seafood House](#) and [Saltgrass Steakhouse](#), a family outing, only 30 miles from downtown.

EAT DELICIOUS TEX-MEX or BAR-B-QUE - Houston might not have invented the fajita, but it sure has mastered it. Between its hundreds of Tex-Mex restaurants, there's certainly no shortage of tortillas in this city. There hundreds of BBQ restaurants as well. Check out three great restaurants right here in Westwood: [Super La Mexicana](#) (Stella Link at Bellfort), [Two Brothers Smokin' Oak Kitchen](#) (Bellfort at Woodwind) and [Don Pepe's Tamales](#) (just past Sunny's on Link Valley at Stella Link).

HANG OUT AT DISCOVERY GREEN - 1500 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77010. A splash of vegetation in Houston's otherwise concrete and glass-laden downtown, [Discovery Green](#) is more than just a pretty park. It's also a common venue for open-air concerts, exercise classes, summer picnics, and more. The 12-acre green space is worth visiting just for a stroll, but check the park's [events calendar](#) for special events.

SEE SHARKS AT DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM - 410 Bagby St, Houston, TX 77002. Discover 400-plus species of marine life and dine alongside a 150,000-gallon, two-story tank at the [Downtown Aquarium](#). You can pet a stingray or go on an exhilarating train ride through the Shark Voyage, then wrap up the evening with a seafood feast followed by decadent desserts in the aquarium restaurant. Afterwards, ride the giant ferris wheel for a great view of downtown.

SHOPPING IN THE GALLERIA MALL - 5085 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77056. The Galleria Houston is an upscale shopping mall centrally located just outside the 610 Loop in Houston's Uptown District. The retail center is anchored by Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, and Saks Fifth Avenue, and features 400 stores. Largest mall in Texas.

BIKE RIDE DOWN BUFFALO BAYOU - Buffalo Bayou stretches from just outside the 610 Loop all the way into the center of the city, and then on eastward into the Houston Ship Channel to Galveston Bay. The bayou park—beginning at Shepherd Drive—offers some breathtaking views of the downtown skyline.

ADMIRE THE JAMES TURRELL SKYSPACE - Suzanne Deal Booth Centennial Pavilion, Houston, TX 77005. Head to the Rice University campus for one of the most impressive art installations you may ever see. Artist James Turrell has created an acoustically-engineered light and sound installation next to the Shepherd School of Music. Dubbed Twilight Epiphany, the show is projected onto the building's roof at sunrise and sunset. The show is free, but reservations are required.

SEE THE BATS AT WAUGH BRIDGE - *Waugh Street Bridge over Buffalo Bayou, Houston, TX 77019.* Houston has its very own colony of 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats, which reside under the Waugh Bridge, near Buffalo Bayou. While Austin's colony is larger, Houston's bats live under the bridge year-round and are not migratory. The bats emerge nightly to feast on insects, often eating up to 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour.

PICNIC AT HINES WATER WALL PARK - *2800 S. Post Oak Rd. Houston, TX by the Galleria Mall.* Features a 64-foot tall semi-circular architectural fountain that re-circulates 11,000 gallons of water per minute as it cascades down the water wall structure's inner and outer walls. The Hines Waterwall Park, surrounded by 186 live oak trees, is a city park and will continue to be the community centerpiece for Uptown Houston, the nation's 14th largest mixed use business center

VISIT THE HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDENS - *1 Botanic Lane, Houston, TX 77017, in southeast Houston off Gulf Freeway;*

VISIT THE HOUSTON ARBORETUM AND NATURE CENTER - *4501 Woodway Dr, Houston, TX 77024, near Memorial Park and the Galleria.* Two great locations to explore the natural environment of the Houston area.

CHEER ON A HOME TEAM - If there's one thing Texas is known for, it's the sports. It's the home of the Astros, who won the 2017 World Series and play every summer at Minute Maid Park. Catch the Rockets playing basketball at the Toyota Center, the Texans football team at NRG Stadium, or the men's and women's soccer teams, Dynamo and Dash, playing at BBVA Stadium, and the Skeeters AAA baseball team at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

VISIT SAN JACINTO MONUMENT HISTORICAL PARK - *1 Monument Cir, La Porte, TX 77571.* Site of the 1836 Texas Revolutionary battle that resulted in Texas independence from Mexico. Led to the Republic of Texas, and then statehood in 1845. A pivotal battle resulting in the USA acquiring Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Nevada and California. San Jacinto Monument is 570' tall, taller than Washington Monument in DC. View from top is superb!

VISIT GALVESTON BEACHES, GALVESTON STRAND and MOODY GARDENS - *Galveston, Texas Galveston is 45 miles south of Houston on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.*

DRIVING TOUR AROUND TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER - The largest medical center in the world with one of the highest densities of clinical facilities for patient care, basic science, and translational research. It contains 54 medicine-related institutions, including 21 hospitals and two specialty institutions, three medical schools, six nursing schools, and schools of dentistry, public health, pharmacy, and other health-related practices. It employs over 106,000 people and treats 10,000,000 patients a year. Its skyline is larger than all but 9 downtown skyline in the country. Healthcare is now the largest employer in the Houston metro area, ahead of energy and the port.



As part of the Chimney Rock and South Rice Bridge construction projects, both northbound and southbound lanes across both bridges will be reduced from two lanes down to one lane between North Braeswood and South Braeswood Boulevards, but the dedicated left turn lanes on the bridges will remain available. The lane reductions on the bridges will occur this week. Additionally, in the coming weeks, the lanes will also be reduced on North Braeswood and South Braeswood Boulevards from two lanes down to one lane at both Chimney Rock Road and South Rice Avenue.

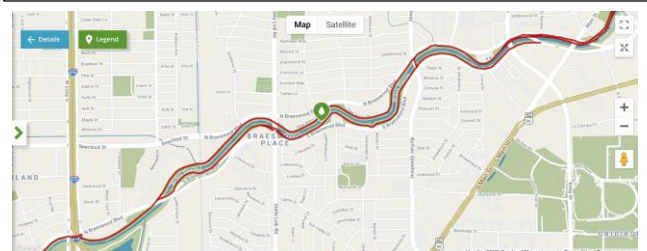
We appreciate your patience and understanding as we demolish and replace the current bridges with higher, longer, and wider bridges. This will increase the channel's capacity, allowing for more flood waters to flow throughout Brays Bayou. Construction is expected to be completed by Winter 2021/2022.

For more information on these projects, visit: <https://www.projectbrays.org/all-segments/segment-4/about-south-rice-ave-bridge/> and <https://www.projectbrays.org/all-segments/segment-4/about-chimney-rock-rd-bridge/>

Construction Update for Chimney Rock and S. Rice Bridges



The BRAYS BAYOU GREENWAY TRAIL is open for use from Broadway near the Ship Channel on the east all the way to the Braeburn area near US 59 on the west. Map below shows the section from Medical Center to the West Loop at N. Braeswood, the section closest to Westwood.



HEAVY TRASH AND TREE TRASH SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER 2021

Tree Waste Only is collected during ODD numbered months, and this Tree Waste can be recycled by the city. Tree Waste is defined as “clean” wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps. Lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted. Junk Waste may NOT be placed for collection during a Tree Waste month.

TREE WASTE ONLY collection dates for WESTWOOD:

JULY 20, 2021

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Junk Waste is collected during EVEN numbered months. Trees put out with Junk waste will not be recycled. “Junk Waste” or Heavy Trash is defined as items such as furniture, appliances and other bulky material

JUNK (Heavy Trash) & Tree Waste Dates for WESTWOOD:

JUNE 15, 2021

AUGUST 17, 2021.

Residents may dispose of Tree Waste and Junk Waste at their curbside (but not in the street or under power lines) starting on the Friday before and over the weekend before the collection day. Westwood collection day is always the 3rd Tuesday of the month. DO NOT PUT OUT EARLIER or a report to 3-1-1 will be made and you may be ticketed by the city for not following city ordinances! Residents may place up to 4 tires at the curb for collection during Junk Waste months. Collection crews will separate the tires from the Junk Waste. It may take up to a week before crews return and retrieve the tires. □ No more than 8 cubic yards (about the size of a minivan) of Junk Waste or Tree Waste may be placed at the curb for collection. Maximum of 4 cubic yards of building material (not to include roofing shingles, brick, plaster or concrete) generated by the resident in connection with the maintenance of the residential property may be collected. Contractor generated waste may NOT be put in heavy trash for collection - the contractor (tree trimming, house repair, remodeling, etc.) must carry off the debris and trash to the city dump himself/herself. □ Appliances containing refrigerant must have a tag attached to them certifying a qualified technician has removed the refrigerant.

WESTWOOD CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

As of May 13, 2021, we have 160 memberships paid for the 2021-22 fiscal year. That is exactly double the 80 memberships we had last spring at this date. Thank you Bob Weber for staying on top the memberships and for implementing the availability of paying dues using Zelle along with Kristina Rae and Rose Michalek.



Zelle now available for Westwood Membership Dues

Zelle is now an option for paying your Westwood Dues. The payee/bank account is listed as Westwood Civic Club, and the email address is westwoodcivicclub@gmail.com. (Not accepting cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin or Dogecoin.)

7 Westwood dues are \$50 and \$20 for seniors. Please note your name and address in the Notes.

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

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Paul Sobieski |
| Vice-President | Bob Weber |
| Recording Secretary | Alice Kuchera |
| Treasurer | Rose Michalec |
| Section 1 Representative | Ken Calvert |
| Section 2 Representative | Jon Jenkins |
| Section 4 Representative | Bill Pennington |
| Section 5 Representative | Omar Hinojosa |

| | |
|---|---|
| Babbler Committee | Paul Sobieski |
| Architectural Review & Deed Restriction Review | Ken Calvert - k-calvert@sbcglobal.net |
| Esplanade Committee | Robert Scott & Jon Jenkins |
| Welcome Committee | Diane Nguyen |
| Membership Committee | Bob Weber |
| Website Webmaster | Kristina Rae |
| Holiday Decorating Judges | Rose Michalec and Kristina Rae |
| Nominating Committee | Wanda Weber and Susan Pennington |
| Yard of the Month Committee | Robin Blanchette, Troy Williams, Priscilla and Doug Kennedy |
| Super Neighborhood 38 Reps | Ken Calvert & Bill Pennington |

BABBLER STAFF

EDITOR, Paul Sobieski

Writers: Judy Mathis, 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.

Membership Form - dues for the 2021-2022 year are due March 1, 2021.

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

Or you can use ZELLE as detailed on page 7 above.

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 funds (optional) for 2021 membership.

Dues: \$ _____

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

Total \$ _____