



WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB

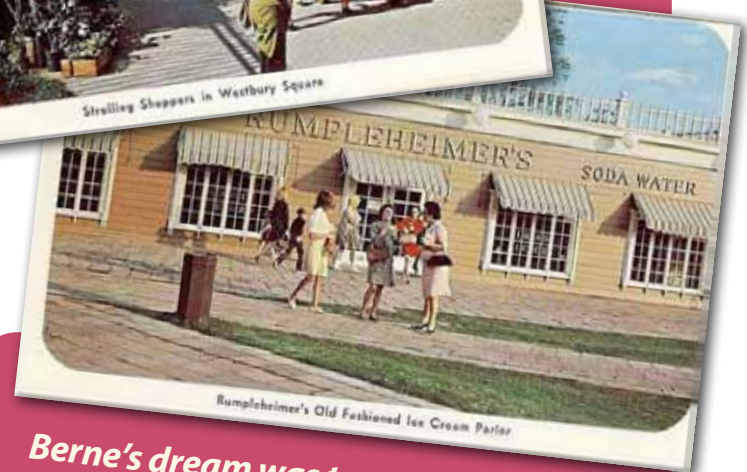
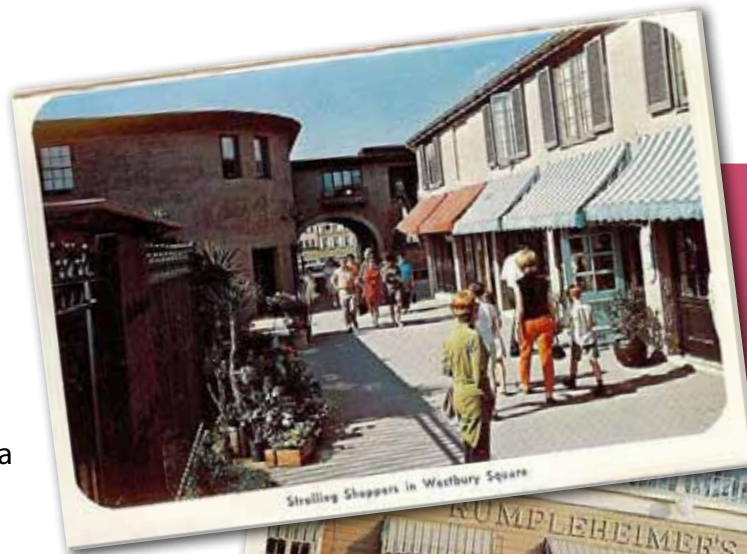
— Celebrating 60 Wonderful Years —

HISTORY

Ira Berne, a real estate developer from Westbury, New York, who loved European cities, came to Houston with a dream to create a unique suburban community. He named it Westbury, and in the center of this large subdivision created a European Square with shops, a fountain and apartments above.

The Westbury master plan was mentioned as a model of planned subdivisions in the Houston City Planning Commissions 1955-56 annual report. Projected as a complete suburban city, Westbury was to have a 33 acre shopping center, schools, churches, parks, playgrounds and more than 53 miles of paved streets and wide boulevards landscaped with mimosas and oleanders. By 1957, over \$20 million in homes sales had occurred and plans to add thousands more were underway as construction moved towards the 5,000 eventual homes making Westbury the second largest residential neighborhood in Houston.

**To see more about our land use
please visit:
www.westburycrier.com**



Berne's dream was to recreate a similar environment in Houston in a shopping center where people would come to spend the day, strolling down the brick boulevards, dining at cafes, treating themselves to ice cream and visiting master craftsmen in their shops.

— Alisa Rogillio-Strength
Houston Business Journal



WESTBURY CIVIC CLUB

working together to get things done!

The Westbury Civic Club (WCC) has been a driving force behind Westbury's progress and prominence since its inception in 1956. The civic club is a 501c4 non-profit organization locally operated and supported by its residents. As set out in the original by laws, the purposes of the Westbury Civic Club are to improve the appearance of the Westbury area and promote the civic, cultural, educational, health and general welfare of the residents of the Westbury and Parkwest subdivisions.

A 60 YEAR STRONG ADVOCATE FOR WESTBURY

In the early years, the Westbury Civic Club was instrumental in bringing a library, fire station, bus services, street lights, roads, and park improvements to Westbury. Monthly WCC board meetings are held with officers and directors representing all nine of the sections, and at large positions for security, greenspace, membership, communication, community relations, deed restrictions, volunteers, flood control, and infrastructure. The mission to improve the appearance of the Westbury area and promote the civic, cultural, educational, health, and general welfare of the residents continues today.

BEAUTIFICATION

Westbury Civic Club's award-winning beautification efforts have planted over a thousand trees and shrubs on the esplanades and in parks. The Westbury Civic Club received the 12th annual Environmental Improvement Award in 1972 from the **Houston Municipal Art Commission** and the **American Institute of Architects** for "long range planning for natural beauty through a far-sighted planting program". That work continued over the next four decades with more awards and in 2016 the WCC was awarded the Distinguished Neighborhood award by **Keep Houston Beautiful**.



SECURITY

For over 30 years, the Westbury Civic Club has actively supported public safety. In 1985, the Westbury Civic Club was instrumental in getting the Houston Police Department to open a community service center, known as the Westbury Storefront. Fundraisers were held many years to raise money to support the storefront. In 1982, to further bolster safety, the WCC contracted with Constable Precinct 5 to provide deputy services.

COMMUNICATION

The Westbury Crier, the monthly newsletter of the Westbury Civic Club and an award winning publication, has been issued and delivered to all Westbury homes every month since its inception as a double sided legal sheet in July of 1956. As the neighborhood grew so did the Crier and is now a beautiful 24 glossy pages.

< July 1956

Today >

DEED RESTRICTIONS

Westbury is a deed restricted community. Having strong deed restrictions was important in the 1955 Master Planning process. The WCC works to insure that the deed restrictions are enforced. As garage sales have not been allowed since 1956, the WCC hosts a biannual community garage sale event known as the White Elephant Sale. The WCC works with the City of Houston legal department, HPD, and outside legal counsel to keep Westbury a strong livable community.

Homes from the 1959 Parade of Homes tour in Warm Springs >

ADVOCACY

Mayors, City Council members and more have attended monthly WCC meetings. From City Councilman Lee McLemore in September of 1956 speaking on Civic responsibility to Council member Larry Green 60 years later in September of 2016, every councilperson representing Westbury has worked closely with the WCC. From Mayor Lewis Cutrer in November of 1961 to Mayor Sylvester Turner in 2016, Houston's Mayors have visited Westbury and heard the concerns of the Westbury Civic Club on important neighborhood issues.



^ Council Member Larry Green with Mayor Sylvester Turner



LEADERSHIP

Presidents of the Westbury Civic Club

Don Halbert - April '56 - '57

Fred Ashford, Jr. - April '57 - '58

Joe Guise - April '58 - '59

T.C. McCoy - April '59 - '60

Harold J. Erbs - April '60 - '61

Al Clements - April '61 - '62

Don Lanigan - April '62 - '63

Warren Roquet - April '63 - '64

George R. Kendrick - April '64 - '65

Vic Krueger - April '65 - '66

Frank Ballard - April '66 - '67

Jim Harper - April '67 - Dec '68

Dr. W. T. Howard - Dec '68 - '69

Roy Turner - Dec '69 - '70

Jane K. Guissing - Dec '70 - '71

W.C. Clark - Dec '71 - '72

H. D. Sullivan - Dec '72 - '73

A. E. Lane - Dec '73 - '74

Laney G. Reed - Dec '74 - '75

John C. Severance - Dec '75 - '76

Jane K. Guissing - Dec '76 - '77

Wally E. Davenport - Dec '77 - '78

John Garrett - Dec '78 - '79

David Carpenter - Dec '79 - '80

Bill Barnes - Dec '80 - '81

Leiv Platou - Dec '81 - Nov '85

Clayton Thomas - Nov '85 - '89

K.C. O'Connor - Nov '89 - '90

Becky Allen - Nov '90 - '93

Leiv Platou - Nov '93 - '96

Dabney Kennedy - Nov '96 - '99

Leiv Platou - Nov '99 - '00

Steve Schulze - Nov '00 - '02

Frank Silcock - Nov '02 - Dec '04

Edith Smith - Jan '05 - Dec '07

Cindy Chapman - Jan '08 - Dec '10

Becky Edmondson - Jan '11 - Current

WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN

growing our community through gardening!



Established in 2010, it is one of Houston's largest most successful gardens, with 65 raised allotment beds; 2 acres under cultivation by Plant It Forward refugee farmers; an organic farm stand on the weekends; two compost areas and two recently certified Master composters; a rain water collection device to demonstrate how others can harvest rainwater; an educational pavilion where Urban Harvest and others may hold classes; a certified wildlife butterfly garden area to demonstrate water-smart plants; and a tree farm where we are growing trees to be used in our esplanades and parks.

When the garden was threatened with destruction, the Westbury Civic Club, working with the Brays Oaks District and the City of Houston, was instrumental in its being saved permanently as seven acres of greenspace.



AWARD WINNING WORK

* KHB - (Keep Houston Beautiful), KAB - (Keep America Beautiful)

- '72 — Environmental Improvement award - AIA & HMAC
- '92 — Community of the Year - Mayor Bob Lanier
- '07 — **"Best Hidden Neighborhood"** - *Houston Press*.
- '07 — Working on Westbury project - Certificate of Recognition - **KHB**
- '08 — Hillcroft Esplanade project - Proud Partner Award- **KHB**
- '09 — West Bellfort Blvd Project - Proud Partner Award - **KHB**
- '10 — Westbury Community Garden - Proud Partner Award - **KHB**
- '10 — Westbury Community Garden - 1st place National Award - **KAB**
- '13 — **"25 Hottest Houston Neighborhoods"** - *Houstonia* - June 2013
- '15 — Neighborhood of the Year - **Neighborhoods USA**
- '16 — Distinguished Neighborhood award - **KHB**



WillowWaterhole.org

WILLOW WATERHOLE

Best Birding site in Houston!

PROJECT BRAYS: REDUCING THE RISK OF FLOODING

The Westbury Civic Club began advocating for flood relief after homes along the Willow Waterhole Bayou (WWB) flooded in 1974. As a response to flooding from Hurricane Alicia in 1983 the Brays Bayou Association was formed. WCC member Russell Shexnayder envisioned a regional detention area off of the WWB and the Willow Waterhole Greenway project was born. Located in the Westbury area near the intersection of South Post Oak Road and South Main Street, it is a 290-acre development that offers Houstonians recreational opportunities as well as storm water storage to reduce flooding. There are 6 lakes, 27 acres of wetland, and 15 acres of prairie designated for wildlife conservation and passive recreation, and include walking trails and gazebos.

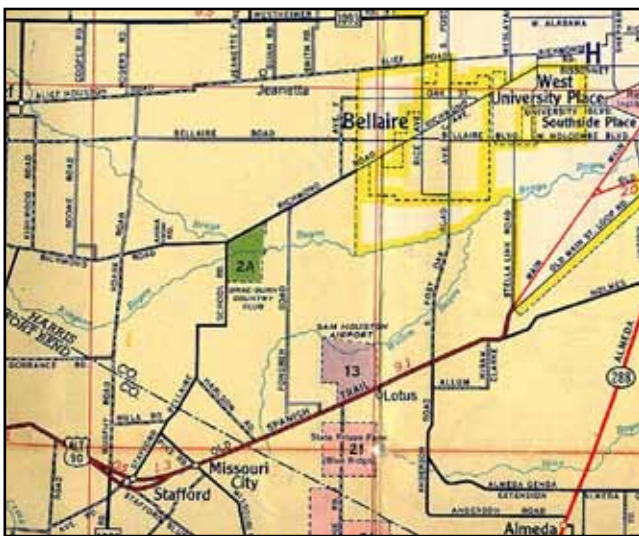


The Levitt Pavilion is an outdoor concert venue that will provide fifty free live outdoor concerts by national artists in the spring and summer of every year. In 2013, Willow Waterhole was formally announced as the site of Levitt Pavilion Houston. When the sustainably designed, state-of-the-art venue opens at water's edge in 2018, it promises to become a beloved place for all Houstonians.





Westbury through the years!



^ WESTBURY 1952

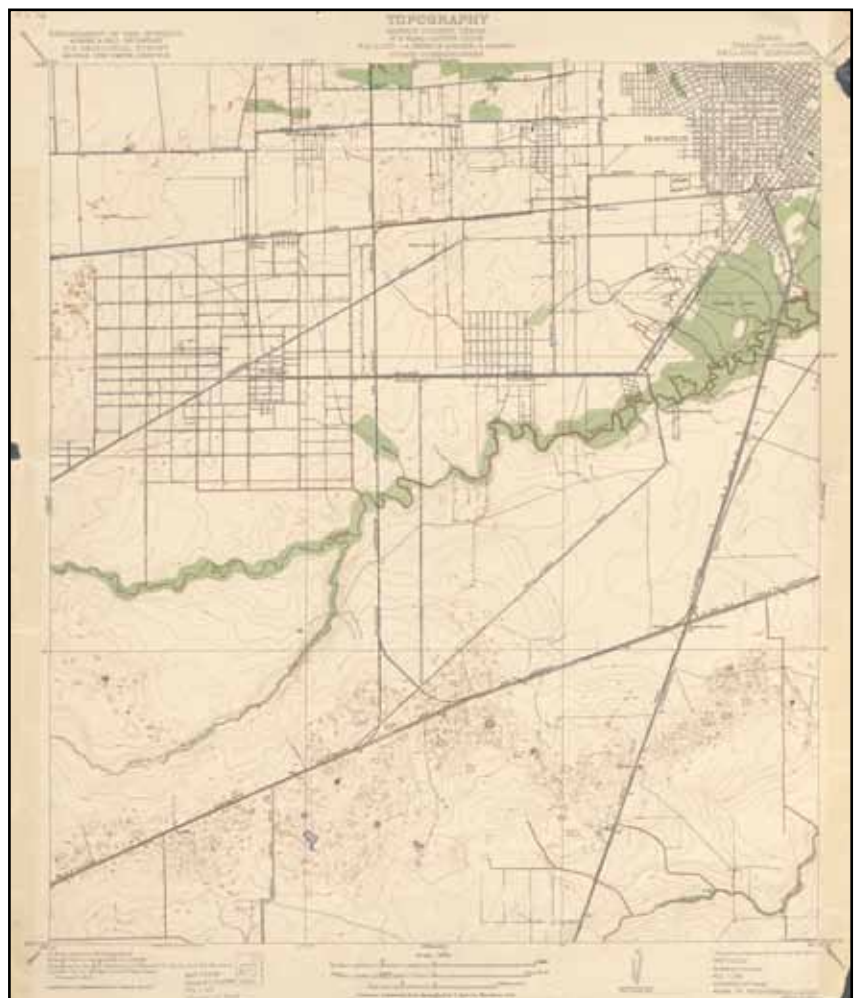
In this 1952 section from a road map, we can see most of the outlines of what would become Westbury. Notice that what we now call "South Main" is actually the Old Spanish Trail, US 90. The purple section right in the middle is Sam Houston Airport, a private airport that occupied this area until being sold in 1953. It never developed into having paved runways, but for a number of years it was the 2nd largest civil airport in the Houston area.

WESTBURY 1915 >

This 1915 USGS map of the SW Houston area includes all of Westbury. The railroad line that runs diagonally across the area came to the area in the 1870s and has been a link from Houston to points south and west for nearly 150 years. The large "Y" on the line is still in place and still very operational. The many slow meanders on both Willow Waterhole and Brays Bayous would be straightened in the late '50s.

WESTBURY 1960 v

This aerial photo circa 1960 shows the profusion of houses on the property once occupied by Sam Houston Airport. South Post Oak is at the top and the diagonal is the South Pacific RR line which still parallels US 90. The proposed extension of Loop 610 across Westbury to points south was abandoned in favor of improving US90 to what it is today.



With sincere thanks our sponsors:



BRAYS OAKS MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Brays Oaks District is one of 28 management districts in the Greater Houston Area. Westbury was annexed into the district in 2013. Providing leadership and innovation to shape positive growth in our community, they understand that successful local business requires a successful community. They provide the tools neighborhoods need to grow.

WESTBURY SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD

The WAIC and the Westbury Civic Club jointly make up the Westbury #37 SuperNeighborhood, as defined by the City of Houston. Focus areas include: Improvement of the appearance of the area; security of its residents; relationships between local businesses and residents; and services from city, state, and federal governments.

WESTBURY AREA IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

Incorporated in 1991, the purpose of the 501c3 non-profit WAIC (Westbury Area Improvement Corporation) is to improve the quality of life for residents of the Westbury area of Houston, Texas. The WAIC board has representatives from local schools, non-profit institutions, businesses, local organizations, and residents who live within the boundaries of the Westbury SuperNeighborhood.



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WestburyCrier.com