Westchester RAP
July 2013

Our Neighborhood Gives Back!

The Women’s Club ends every year by giving back to the community the money we have taken in, after covering all of our expenses. Thanks to your membership dues and our directory advertisers, we are delighted to announce the following gifts to local schools and charities, which were voted on at our May meeting:

- $150 Citizens for Animal Protection
- $300 Literacy Advance
- $500 MAM I Can See Program
- $150 Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center Volunteer Service Scholarship Fund
- $400 Nottingham PTA – Book Angel Program
- $500 St. John Vianney Food Bank
- $150 Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
- $350 Westchester Owners Committee – Umbrellas and bases for the pool, 4th of July bounce house and ice cream
- $500 Westchester Swim Team – New software

This adds up to a generous $3000 Total in donations. It’s your continuing support that makes this possible: Join or rejoin today, and help us have another great year!

July Pool Hours:
CLOSED Mondays
Tues-Thurs: 12 - 8pm
Fri-Sat: 12 – 9pm
Sunday: 1 - 8pm

Pool / Social Scene: Come Join us!

Thurs. 4th of July – ALL WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN PARADE
Meet at Nottingham Elementary (NHE) at 9:30am to muster for the Annual Parade @ 10am. Very family friendly for ALL ages. The parade routes thru Cindywood Dr. to the Pool. There will be an open swim / ice cream social at the Pool. Cheering along route is encouraged!! Bring your chairs and gather round!

Fridays in July/Aug: Family Movie Night Continues
o Bring your own or order Dinner to be delivered/picked up from area restaurants
o Focusing July / Aug Movies On: Captain America, Thor, Ironman 1, The Incredible Hulk, Ironman 2, and The Avengers

Please send info to the westchesterrap@gmail.com if you want electronic notification of board meetings. They occur the 3rd Tuesday of each month and will be at the pool pavilion during the summer. @7p.m.

WOC Maintenance Contact:
Bill Tuttle
281-597-1260
Bilbert65@comcast.net

July Pool Hours:
CLOSED Mondays
Tues-Thurs: 12 - 8pm
Fri-Sat: 12 – 9pm
Sunday: 1 - 8pm

Pool / Tennis Membership Contact:
Ruth Parks,
281-497-7239
ruthparks@att.net

Inside this issue:
Pool/Social Events
YOM, Pool, Women’s Club
Miller Outdoor Theatre & Cor-
Rutter Letter The Hobby Center:
Mom's Club

www.westchesterhouston.org July 2013

Our Neighborhood Gives Back!

The Women’s Club ends every year by giving back to the community the money we have taken in, after covering all of our expenses. Thanks to your membership dues and our directory advertisers, we are delighted to announce the following gifts to local schools and charities, which were voted on at our May meeting:

- $150 Citizens for Animal Protection
- $300 Literacy Advance
- $500 MAM I Can See Program
- $150 Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center Volunteer Service Scholarship Fund
- $400 Nottingham PTA – Book Angel Program
- $500 St. John Vianney Food Bank
- $150 Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
- $350 Westchester Owners Committee – Umbrellas and bases for the pool, 4th of July bounce house and ice cream
- $500 Westchester Swim Team – New software

This adds up to a generous $3000 Total in donations. It’s your continuing support that makes this possible: Join or rejoin today, and help us have another great year!

Yard of the Month

14606 Oak Bend Drive
Wayne and Judith Anderson.

Please see insert

The Westchester Owner’s Committee invites all homeowner’s to an INFORMATIONAL town hall meeting on Tuesday, July 9th, at 7 PM regarding a neighborhood expense towards Memorial Drive construction.

A special meeting will be held on Monday, July 15th, 7 PM to formally vote on the issue. Both meetings will be held at the Westchester Pool Pavilion.
Mulch Helps Plants Weather the Summer Heat!
Summer is upon us and your garden may be feeling the effects of the heat. Mulch can help your garden plants weather the summer heat and still thrive.

Reduce Water Use
Mulch provides several healthy benefits to Texas gardens in the summertime. One of the most well-known benefits of mulch is to reduce evaporation and water use. In the heat of summer, conserving water can be particularly important. Mulch reduces evaporation preserving the water in the ground where your plants can access it through their root system.

Regulate Sub-Surface Temperatures
Another very important benefit to mulch in the heat of summer is regulation of ground temperature. A 3 to 4 inch blanket of mulch is excellent insulation, protecting the ground from direct sun, and greatly reducing the temperature several inches below ground level. This is where your plants' roots live, thrive and do the hard work of absorbing moisture and nutrients. They will be much healthier and more productive with the reduction in temperature that mulch provides.

Types of Mulch
As for types of mulch, we recommend hardwood or cedarwood for most gardens. Some gardeners prefer pine mulch, but while it is somewhat less expensive, it also breaks down more quickly and will need to be reapplied more frequently. Cedar is the most expensive of the three but does help reduce garden pests in some instances, due to its natural repellant properties.

To apply mulch, simply place it in the garden from the bag or with a shovel, and carefully spread it around your plants by hand or with a rake. Mulch will reduce your water use, reduce the time required to weed, as well as reduce soil loss due to wind and run-off. Plus it will help your plants to thrive through the summer heat!

Find more garden tips here, or go to www.calloways.com/good-neighbor-homeowners-association-program.

Upcoming Clinics You May Enjoy!

July 6 – Growing Fall Tomatoes. Tasty Tomatoes! Learn to grow these naturally delicious garden options.
Now is the time to prepare and plant for your Fall harvest. Selection of the right varieties is the key to success. Join us as we discuss the best tomato types for Texas gardens. Enjoy the natural delight of tasteful foods that you have grown yourself. Clinic at all Calloway's and Cornelius, 10:15 am, Saturday.

July 13 – Water-Wise Gardening. Save water in Texas! Discover tips, tricks and expert advice on water-wise gardening. Laugh at the summer heat with drought-tolerant plants. Get tips to conserve moisture and learn effective watering techniques! Clinic at all Calloway's and Cornelius, 10:15 am, Saturday.

"My husband and I and our two children moved into the Westchester neighborhood in March 2011. We had relocated from Australia and our house on Greenbelt was the first rental we viewed. We could not imagine there being a much nicer neighborhood than this for us and so we immediately chose it as our home for our expat posting. We are so glad we did!

We have been welcomed by you all. We immediately had neighbors knock on our door to introduce themselves, sometimes with welcome gifts, and soon after we were invited into your homes, and watched our kids play with your kids, and swim in your pools. We have shared stories, advice, guidance, much laughter and even some tears on the corner of our little street. We have made friends. We have been accepted.

Moreover, during a personally challenging time for our family we were embraced and comforted by our small community. We never felt alone, even though we are far from 'home'.

So now that we find our expat contract coming to an end and having to return back to Australia, we just wanted to let everyone know how grateful we have been to have spent these last 2+ years right here, on the corner of Greenbelt Drive. We leave with hope in our hearts and tears in our eyes, and a sadness at saying goodbye that we never imagined we would feel. Memories that will stay with us always....."

Becky, Gordon, Isabella & Gethin Rutter, 303 Greenbelt Drive.

You will be Missed.....

Museum/Attraction Free Days......

- **Children’s Museum of Houston**: Free Thursday 5 - 8 pm
- **The Health Museum**: Free Thursday 2 - 5 pm
- **Houston Museum of Natural Science**: Free Thursday after 2 pm
- **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**: Free Thursday 10 am - 9 pm

Houston Calendar of Events:
http://www.visithoustontexas.com/travel-tools/events/

**Mark Your Calendars for September**

**Women’s Club Coffee**

Have a great summer and look forward to seeing your neighbors again in the fall at our Kick-Off Coffee on Friday, Sept. 27.

We'll meet from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Hilary Probert's home at 14842 Bramblewood for coffee, snacks, conversation and fun! Everyone is welcome! If you are new to the neighborhood, this is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. Bring a friend and drop in!

http://www.thehobbycenter.org  www.wickedthemusical.com

**Wicked**  July 10 – Aug 11

Long before that girl from Kansas arrives in Munchkinland, two girls meet in the land of Oz.

One - born with emerald green skin - is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular.

How these two grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good makes for “the most complete - and completely satisfying - new musical in a long time” (USA Today).
July Women’s Club News:
July 11th Mom’s Night Out: Studio Movie Grill check Big Tent for details

Birth Announcements
If you recently had a baby or are expecting one soon please let us know! The mom’s group would like to provide your family with a few meals during this special time. Please email Jennifer Stockton jenniferkstockton@gmail.com or Greer Wymond greerwymond@gmail.com

To be added to the e-mail list and Big Tent, contact: Meg Maguire meg-maguire05@yahoo.com or Stacey DallePezza slskeels@hotmail.com You can also find us on Facebook "Westchester NFeight Momsgroup".

Westchester Pool & Tennis Join for summer fun!!
If you would like to join the Westchester Pool and Tennis Courts, please contact Ruth Parks at ruthparks@att.net or call at 281-497-7239.

Pool Hours for July
CLOSED Mondays
Tues-Thurs: 12 - 8pm
Fri-Sat: 12 – 9pm
Sunday: 1 - 8pm

Original Westchester Resident
Selling Houston since 1978
MARGE HOPKINS ABR, CRS
REALTOR ASSOCIATE
281.582.3951
margehopkins@heritagetexas.com

A Better Painting Service, Inc.
Jim Gallery
Westchester Resident 12 years
Free Estimates
Insured
Over 25 years Experience
www.aBetterPaintingService.com
(281) 596-0099

1 FREE MONTH OF WEEKLY POOL SERVICE
For ANY new customer with a 12 month service agreement
Contact us today to make an appointment
David Howard 832-689-5636;
The Westchester Owner's Committee invites all homeowner's to a special town hall meeting on **Tuesday, July 9th, at 7 PM** to discuss the Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project and a special request from the Memorial Super Neighborhood to Westchester and neighboring HOAs to support the installation of decorative lighting.

A special meeting will be held on **Monday, July 15th, 7 PM to formally vote** on the issue.

Both meetings will be held at the Westchester Pool Pavilion.

The Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project has been moved forward and will start later this year.

The project will be a significant upgrade to improve traffic flow and pedestrian accessibility in the area, while enhancing the appearance of Memorial Drive.

The Memorial Super Neighborhood has been working closely with the City of Houston (COH) and Energy Corridor District to incorporate the Energy Corridor style street light into the project instead of the standard COH Street light (lights mounted on wooden poles).

The Memorial Super Neighborhood has a goal to raise half of the required funds to accomplish this goal from the HOA's along the reconstructed portion of Memorial.

The Westchester Owner's Committee (WOC) has voted to pledge $30/home from our non-capital reserves to this cause, pending approval of the homeowners.

Please mark these meeting dates on your calendar and we hope to see you there!