

*West Bellfort Property Owners Association*

*www.westbellfortpoa.com*

*Monthly Newsletter*

February 2016

**Please see Page 3 for important information about the Zika Virus**

**WBPOA BOARD MEMBERS:**

Barbara Hite, President  
Jeannette Calhoun, Vice President  
Phil Abrams, Secretary  
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Tom Roberts, Board Member  
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Dyaz Godfrey, Board Member  
Mari Angelo, Board Member  
Neal Harris, Board Member  
Asher Belles, Board Member  
Barbara Gretzer, Board Member  
Zally Lazarus, Board Member

**WBPOA MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

Ry Reid, PCAM, AMS, CMCA  
Sterling Association Services  
11201 Lake Woodbridge Drive  
Sugar Land, TX 77498  
Phone 832-678-5384  
or 832-678-5390  
Fax: 281-598-4487  
Emails: ry@sterlingasi.com

For your vacation planning needs, please be sure to register for a deputy vacation watch by visiting the Precinct 7 website and select "Vacation Watch" - <http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/compct7/>



**2016 POA DUES**

The 2016 payment notices for your POA dues have been out for some time, so hopefully you have already paid. For the POA to best serve the community and properly maintain our amenities, we need to receive your payment promptly. Please be aware that non-payment of dues severely impacts our community, as we cannot maintain the common areas, clubhouses, parks, pool and tennis court without your dues. As such, please ensure you pay your POA dues as soon as you receive your invoice. If for any reason you have not received your notice already, please contact Ry Reid with Sterling ASI as soon as possible.

**Ludington Clubhouse Rental**

Joy Cunningham 713 / 417-8154  
Joycunningham@sbcglobal.net

**Braesridge Clubhouse Rental**

Jeannette Calhoun 713 / 203-2407  
jcalhoun@insurepointe.com

**WBPOA is patrolled by :**

Harris County Constable Precinct 7  
Constable May Walker  
Precinct 7 Dispatch 713 / 643-6602

**Deputies assigned to WBPOA:**

Sgt. P. Basralian  
Deputy Antone  
Deputy Nowlin  
Deputy Simon

Please contact your alarm company and have the Constable's precinct listed as the first police authority contact.



## Volunteers Needed to Serve as Block Captains



Block Captains are residents who volunteer their time and efforts to The community to serve as “point persons” between the residents, the POA Board, its committees and The property management team. Some of the responsibilities of a Block Captain could include the following:

- Get to know your neighbors, at least by sight, so you will know when someone is around who doesn't belong
- Encourage your block neighbors to keep an eye out for each other (for safety, emergencies, welfare checks, etc.)
- Encourage National Night Out meetings for your block
- Welcome new neighbors on your block and ensure they know about amenities, POA regulations, etc.
- Help keep neighbors informed of emergency situations such as hurricanes, etc.
- Assist the POA Board by notifying them of issues on the block (any suspicious activities, code violations, etc.). You will NOT be asked to handle these issues directly
- Make sure all neighbors receive the neighborhood newsletter or other informational flyers
- Assist the POA Board by obtaining signatures on proxies, if ever required
- Attend POA Board meetings (your option) to help keep your neighbors informed

You will not be asked to do anything that puts yourself in harm's way. The time involved is minimal. By serving as the “eyes and ears” of The community, you will play a big part in keeping it safe, friendly and beautiful. You can even “co-share” and team up with a neighbor. If you have an interest in serving as a Block Captain, please contact any of the Board members or Ry Reid, or attend the upcoming WBPOA Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 6:30pm, Braesridge Clubhouse.

### *POA Rules Regarding Garbage / Recycling / Yard Waste / Junk & Tree Waste*

**PLEASE SEE THE CITY OF HOUSTON' S ARTICLE “TRASH FACTS” ATTACHED TO THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER!**  
The article will also be available on the website for the next couple of months.

**Garbage Bins:** Weekly pick up. To be placed at the curb the night before scheduled pick up date (ie, Wednesday before a Thursday pickup)

**Recycle Bins:** Bi-weekly pick up. To be placed at the curb the night before pick up date (See Schedule A attached)

**Yard Waste (grass and flower bed clippings, etc.):** Weekly pick up with regular household trash, but must be in City approved clear plastic compostable bags with a city seal on the bag (found at hardware stores and most grocery stores)

**Junk Waste & Tree Waste (tree trimmings, large limbs, etc.):** Alternate Monthly pick up. Can be placed at the curb up to 4 days prior to scheduled pick up date. Pick up dates for Junk Waste and Tree Waste alternate months (Junk Waste – even months / Tree Waste – odd months).

If for any reason a household has too much trash to fit inside the black garbage bin, residents can purchase city stickers to place on the outside of large plastic garbage bags. The stickers can be purchased from Fiesta or Seller's Brothers customer service windows. The stickers **MUST** be visible street side, or the bags will not be picked up.

Residents with physical limitations can contact 311 and complete a Solid Waste Pickup Request Form (for either regular trash or recycles, or both) to qualify for special pick up services. If qualified, city services will then pick up from the residents' specified locations and return them to the same location when emptied. The location **MUST** be out of sight from the street, but accessible to the city services (ie, behind unlocked fence gate).

All bins, yard waste, junk waste and / or tree waste **MUST** be removed from sight by the end of the scheduled pick up date. **ALL BINS MUST BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT AT ALL TIMES OUTSIDE OF TRASH PICK UP DAYS – NO EXCEPTIONS.**



Providing leadership and innovation  
to shape positive growth in our community.

[www.braysoaksmd.org](http://www.braysoaksmd.org)

713.595.1221

[info@braysoaksmd.org](mailto:info@braysoaksmd.org)

## ADDRESSING CONCERNS REGARDING THE ZIKA VIRUS

Brought to WBPOA by the Brays Oaks Management District

The City of Houston is taking the Zika Virus very seriously. The Houston Health Department held a planning meeting on January 29th with Harris County and our regional partners, including blood banks, healthcare providers, petrochemical companies, mosquito control specialists, and others to begin developing plans for pre-emptively preparing for and preventing the transmission of Zika virus in the Houston-area. The City will continue coordinating with regional, state and federal partners to prevent the virus.

The virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. The infection is usually mild, lasts from several days to a week and includes fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Severe illness requiring hospitalization is uncommon, but there may be serious complications for pregnant women.

This week, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) declared the Zika virus an international emergency and public health officials are considering barring patients who have traveled to affected areas from donating blood for up to 28 days.](#)

### How do we stop the spread of the virus?

- Remove ALL mosquito breeding opportunities around your home by eliminating all standing water, or items that may hold water.
- Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitos out
- If you are traveling to Central or South America or the Caribbean, it's important to prevent mosquito bites:
  - Use insect repellent that contains DEET
  - Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants
  - When you return home, continue using DEET containing insect repellent for two weeks.

For more information on the Zika virus in our community, pregnancy tips, and travel alerts visit: [http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology/Zika\\_Virus.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology/Zika_Virus.html)

Frequently Asked Questions can be found here: <http://www.houstontx.gov/citizensnet/zikavirus-qanda.pdf>

# The Community

## Community School

REMINDER!! Please be cognizant that there are 20 mph school zone signs in front of the Sephardic Gan/Torat EMT school on Braesridge, just before West Belfort. Some members of our community continue to ignore these signs, as well as run the stop signs at Teal Run with regularity. PLEASE KEEP THE CHILDREN IN MIND!! Slow down, be aware of the children and families at all times, keep your eyes open and your speed slow.....AND STOP.

### Community Clubhouses

The holidays may be over, but family celebrations go on all year!! Please be sure to use your community clubhouses for your family events. The WBPOA Board is also looking at updates for the Ludington Clubhouse... keep posted for details! In the meantime, Jeanette Calhoun or Joy Cunningham will be happy to assist you in providing nice facilities that are close to home. Their contact details are on the front of the newsletter.

### Community Parks

The cooler weather is soon to be behind us, and spring is not far away!! The Kittybrook and Ludington Parks are open year round, so be sure to come out and play!!

And don't forget we have a tennis court that is always available for a rousing game. Who cares if you can't play all that well?? Think of all the exercise you will get chasing the balls!!

### Ludington Pool

Please note, the pool is closed until May... but don't stress!! We hope to be making a few small upgrades to the pool are while it is closed so it will be all spiffy for you to use when it reopens!!



Want to be an active member of your community? Come to a Board meeting, contact one of your POA Board Members or Ry Reid to find how you can serve on one of the Board committees or serve as a Block Captain!



### POA Rules Regarding Home Improvements

Reminder that before doing any landscaping or home improvement project involving the exterior of your home (including the front AND back yards), such as painting, the construction of patio covers, pools, etc., you MUST obtain approval first from the Architectural Control / Review Committee by completing the Architectural Control Application. The application can be found on the WBPOA website, and a copy is attached to this newsletter. Failure to receive approval for the improvement and / or change may result in you having to remove, alter or change the improvement in order to comply with the rules and regulations of the POA.

### See Something, Say Something!

We live in a wonderful, safe community, but Houston is a large city, which means crime is always just around the corner. So please always be diligent and do your part to help keep our neighborhood safe. Be sure to put the Constable Dispatch number in your speed dials, and if you see or hear anything suspicious, please practice the SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING motto – nothing is too insignificant to bring to the attention of our deputies. This also helps us determine where to request focused attention from our police authorities as well. SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU!!!! BE SURE TO SAY HEY TO OUR CONSTABLES AS THEY DRIVE BY!

## SPREAD HAPPINESS THROUGH RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

In the news lately, all we seem to hear about is acts of violence, hatred and inhuman acts against other people and animals. It has become such a focus that we forget to celebrate the small acts of kindness we encounter every single day, which actually are really more numerous than bad acts – they just don't get the news coverage! But for 2016, let's all practice more random acts of kindness. You never know who's life you may be impacting for the better: maybe someone who is down and needs a lift... or just got some terrible news and could use a little bit of kindness... Or... just a cranky person who needs a smile. You may never know... but you may also BE that person one day! So take a moment and give from your heart. Small acts of kindness do chip away at hatred and violence and open doors to better understanding of our neighbors – and ourselves. Even better? Small ripples of kindness will eventually cause a tidal wave of kindness!!! Here are a few ideas that cost NOTHING (or next to nothing) but will bring great rewards – be creative and come up with your own too!

- Compliment a co-worker (genuinely) to their boss, out of their hearing;
- Compliment strangers (are you getting the hint that a nice word can do wonders for someone?? ☺)
- Random Notes of Kindness – leave random notes on cars, on restaurant tables, in a doctor's waiting room – might read "someone is praying for you today", "have a great day" or even a nice quote that makes you smile...
- Talk to a shy person at a gathering; help introduce them to others
- Leave your newspaper (if you still get a hard one) at the coffee shop for someone else to read
- Smile at people on the street – it is amazing how quickly that can spread
- While at a restaurant, a store, or anywhere else, be sure to thank your server or person helping you. Complaints are common; "thank you"s are not. Fill out the comment card with positive comments for once!
- Write a letter, a real handwritten letter, and mail it to someone important to you
- Write a note of encouragement, love or just "send a hug" and pop it in your child's lunch box
- Put sticky notes with positive slogans written on them in the workroom, kitchen, or other gathering places in the office – act just as surprised as everyone else when they appear
- Let them have the perfect parking spot... you can use the exercise!
- Pay the toll for the person behind you
- Bake cookies / make a casserole / buy a treat and drop off at your local fire department or law enforcement office. Stay a few minutes and let them know how much they are appreciated.
- Almost 60% of senior citizens living in nursing homes do not ever get visitors. Stop in for a couple of hours and spend some time with them The receptionist can tell you who they are
- If you have a WELL BEHAVED dog or cat, and the home approves... bring them with you (on a lead, please!). Then sit back and watch the astounding magic that will happen!
- Leave extra quarters at the laundry. Have extra soap or dryer sheets? Leave those too... and tip the lady who cleans the place... she has a family to support!
- Babysit for a single mother, or new parents – for free
- If you know someone who is taking care of a family member (elderly, sickly, etc.), go sit with their family member and give that person a break. They may say "not necessary", but... it is. Even one hour can help!
- Paper Heart Smiles – on Valentine's Day, cut out paper hearts – enough for a year! Write things on them that are special to you and your family – could be special talents you appreciate, special memories, whatever makes you smile. Place in a jar. Then randomly throughout the year, pick some out and share.... And start a new jar the following Valentines!
- Skip that meeting and go to your child's game, play or whatever – work will go on without, but seeing a parent in the audience or on the sidelines....especially when not expected....
- Send flowers or a card to a friend going through a tough time.
- Donate blood or plasma. Become an organ donor.
- Help a stranded person on the side of the road; You do not have to get out of the car, but you can call Houston's 311 Roadside assistance for them.
- Report street light outages, potholes, etc. – Houston 311 is online or you can call
- Quietly pay for someone else's meal at a restaurant
- If you are trained in a profession (legal, tax, etc), offer free advice at shelters and other places for those on limited incomes
- Also, if trained in a profession, speak at a high school. Some students are confused about what they want to study in college. Or there are some who can't afford college; not all careers require a degree, so speak on how you started your career, business, etc.
- Adopt a member of our military, police or fire station. Send care packages, letters of encouragement, etc. Our military branches have long lists of soldiers who could use the support; even if all you can afford are prayers, those are needed too!
- Hold the door or elevator open for someone
- Know anyone who is dieting or trying to exercise more for their health? Walk with them!!
- Write a note of thanks to a teacher, a family member's care giver, etc. They often hear complaints, but rarely thank you.

**Want more ideas?? Check out: <http://www.gajizmo.com/random-acts-of-kindness-ideas/>**

# YOU MUST BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO HAVE GOOD NEIGHBORS

I once rented a house next door to this really grumpy older guy. The first few months, I rarely spoke to him, as I had written him off as a "THAT neighbor with a bad attitude". Then one hot summer day, I noticed he was sitting at the curb in a chair, with a cooler next to him. A few minutes later, the trash collectors came by. When they stopped at his house, he got up and handed the guys bottles of water. They stood and talked for only a few short minutes, then were on their way. I came to realize he did this every trash day. Not only that, he also gave water to our postman daily. You could tell from their interactions that he had been doing these wonderful gestures for a very long time. After I adjusted MY attitude, I got to know this neighbor and his family very well, and they became really good friends. I also learned a lot from him.... (1) perhaps the attitude that needs to be adjusted is your own, (2) from that day forward, when I see the mail carrier, the trash or recycle collectors, I go out and give them a cold bottled water or Gatorade and (3) most importantly, it taught me what being a good neighbor was about – thinking of others and through simple gestures, making new friends of those you literally live with or see every day. So keep in mind that whether the you are new to a neighborhood or you have been in your neighborhood for awhile, keeping good relations with the neighbors can make a big difference in your quality of life. Here are a few etiquette tips to reduce friction and keep the peace with your neighbors.

- **Say hello.** A friendly smile and wave to a neighbor when you go out and get the mail can go a long way toward creating a pleasant atmosphere.
- **Turn your music down.** If you plan on entertaining and having music, let your neighbors know ahead of time and keep it to a reasonable volume – and reasonable timing!
- **Close your garage door.** Avoid the habit of leaving it open because you plan on going back out in awhile. This is especially important if it's messy. Not only is this a security issue, it's also common courtesy to your neighbors who may not wish to regularly get an eyeful of your collection of boxes, garbage cans, etc.
- **Do not let your dog bark incessantly.** If your dog stays in the yard while you are away at work, ask a neighbor who is at home during the day if they ever hear your dog. If there is a problem, fix it.
- **PICK IT UP! Speaking of dogs... Please. Pick. Up. After. Your. Dog. You don't want to step in it, you get upset about it being in YOUR yard... so don't leave it for others. Take a plastic bag with you and tie it to the dog's lead. AND USE A LEAD!**
- **Reach out.** Invite a neighbor over for a drink or a meal. Or invite a few neighbors over for a backyard BBQ or potluck. Investing some time in getting to know the neighbors will help keep relationships harmonious and make it easier to handle any problems that arise.
- **Maintain your yard.** At a minimum, meet the basic standards of yard maintenance by mowing, weed-whacking and doing your best to keep your yard looking decent. Hire someone if you can't seem to get it done yourself.
- **Share the love.** Working in your yard and notice weeds in your neighbor's? Cruise over with your mower and help them out. You never know why neighbors let their yards go; they may be ill, traveling, burdened with caring for a sick family member, etc. If they are just lazy, or cranky.... Well, hopefully they will feel guilty and get the message!
- **Position outside lights with care.** Make sure your security light doesn't shine into your neighbor's bedroom.
- **Don't leave toys or tools in the front yard.** Whether it's toys, yard equipment, or bins, it's bad policy to leave items on your front yard or driveway. Put your items away when you're done with them.
- **Be a good driver. Don't treat the neighborhood streets as your personal racetrack. Remember there are kids, dogs, walkers and bikers out on the street. Also, when driving through your neighborhood, turn the volume on your car stereo down. Your neighbors shouldn't associate your comings and goings with a thumping bass and rattling windows. And stop at stop signs.**
- **Be a "nosy parker".** OK, don't get all in your neighbors' business, but keep alert to those who do not belong in the neighborhood. You don't need to talk with anyone; just call the constable patrol if you notice anyone suspicious and let them handle it from there. Also, if you notice a neighbor has not been out in a while, check on them or call for a well-fare check.!
- **Do a "wheelie".** Notice that your neighbor has not wheeled their bins up from the street yet? Do it for them. Not only is this a kindly gesture, it helps neighborhood security as well. Bins at the street scream "NOT HOME", which is an open invitation to burglars..... Who may then come visit YOUR house...
- **Keep it clean!** It never fails that trash pickup happens the same day gale force winds visit our city, blowing trash all over the area. If you see trash...even not on trash days...pick it up! If you enjoy walks around the neighborhood, take a small plastic grocery bag with you and pick up what you see. No, it is not your job. BUT, it helps keep the neighborhood nice, and hopefully if others see you do it, they will do their part as well.
- **Don't throw it in the gutter/drain!** Trash of any kind does not belong in the street gutters or drains. Think about it... The drains get clogged, and the next rain... streets flood because they can't drain... the water will be in YOUR house.
- **Lend a hand.** If you are handy, help neighbors with small chores around their house – for free. Maybe that tacky hanging gutter can be fixed, but they either don't know how or don't have the money to hire someone.
- **Be open minded.** We all bring unique and rich traditions to our neighborhood, and learning about each other is one way to be a good neighbor. We hold our traditions with highest honor; so treat other traditions with the same regard. People enjoy sharing their traditions – so if you are curious, ask and learn!
- **Don't hog the road.** If you constantly host parties at your house, party attendees tend to park along the street and even block others' driveways. Please consider hosting your parties at one of the community clubhouses, or ask your party attendees to be considerate of your neighbors and park only along one side of the street. A street is not THAT long, so walking a few houses down will not hurt anyone.
- **Discuss problems in person.** If a problem arises, talk to your neighbor in person first. Approach the situation in a pleasant way, "You may not have realized this, but ..." Start here rather than resorting to a nasty note or a call to the police that will be sure to permanently strain your relationship. Also, use good judgment in identifying real problems: a party on a special occasion is one thing; a continuous stream of parties that interfere with your sleep on a regular basis is another.



## 2016 – LEAP YEAR!



Nearly every four years is a leap year which has 366 days, as opposed to a common year, which has 365. Why do we have Leap Years? Because they are needed to keep our modern day Gregorian calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the sun.

It takes the Earth approximately 365.242199 days – or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds – to circle once around the Sun. This is called a tropical year. However, the Gregorian calendar has only 365 days in a year, so if we didn't add a leap day every four years, we would lose almost six hours off our calendar every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days! This happened in the Julian calendar, which was in use until the Gregorian was introduced. Leap Day is added to the shortest month of the year, February.

However, despite common belief, Leap Years are not automatically every four years. Roman general Julius Caesar introduced Leap Years in the Roman empire over 2000 years ago. But the Julian calendar had only one rule: any year evenly divisible by four would be a leap year. This led to way too many leap years, but didn't get corrected until the introduction of the Gregorian calendar more than 1500 years later. The ancient Roman Calendar also added an extra month every few years to maintain the correct seasonal changes, similar to the Chinese leap month. So, how exactly are Leap Years determined? Three criteria must be taken into account to identify leap years:

- The year can be evenly divided by 4;
- If the year can be evenly divided by 100, it is NOT a leap year, unless;
- The year is also evenly divisible by 400. Then it is a leap year.
- This means that in the Gregorian calendar, the years 2000 and 2400 are leap years, while 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are NOT leap years.

The year 2000 was somewhat special as it was the first instance when the third criterion was used in most parts of the world since the transition from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar.

### Leap Year Traditions

Women Propose to Men: According to an old Irish legend, St Brigid struck a deal with St Patrick to allow women to propose to men – and not just the other way around – every four years. This is believed to have been introduced to balance the traditional roles of men and women in a similar way to how leap day balances the calendar.

12 Pairs of Gloves: In some places, leap day has been known as “Bachelors’ Day” for the same reason. A man was expected to pay a penalty, such as a gown or money, if he refused a marriage proposal from a woman on Leap Day. In many European countries, especially in the upper classes of society, tradition dictates that any man who refuses a woman's proposal on February 29 has to buy her 12 pairs of gloves. The intention is that the woman can wear the gloves to hide the embarrassment of not having an engagement ring. During the middle ages there were laws governing this tradition.



## CHINESE NEW YEAR – 2016 YEAR OF THE MONKEY



The Chinese New Year is the most important of the holidays for the Chinese. It is defined to be the first day of the first month in the traditional Chinese calendar. Unlike the Christian New Year, which is based on a solar calendar, the Chinese New Year is based on a traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar whose date indicates both the moon phase and the time of the solar year. A lunar month is around 2 days shorter than a solar month. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar, an extra month is inserted every few years, which is why the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year. Each year celebrates an animal on the Chinese Zodiac, and the animals repeat every 12 years. In order, the 12 animals are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat (also called Sheep in some areas), Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig. 2016 is the Year of the Monkey.

Normally, the celebration will start from the New Year's Eve and will last for around 15 days until the middle of the first month. Traditions and celebrations include cleaning (dusting out the old), shopping, using traditional decorations (usually in red), eating traditional foods such as dumplings and rice dumplings, lanterns and Lantern Festivals, fireworks, and celebrations such as those including the lion dances and Temple Fairs. The celebration will sometimes be highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of heaven, earth, the family ancestors and other gods. In modern China, working professionals will normally have 7 days of holiday including the weekend to celebrate. After the family reunion, some modern Chinese families may take the chance to visit tourist destinations. Visiting with family and friends is a very important part of the New Year. In addition, people exchange gifts, the most of which is a red envelope of money, given to children and retired seniors. It is not custom to give red envelopes to working adults, unless given by their employers. Red envelopes are used in the hope of giving good luck (as well as money) to the receivers.

# MARDI GRAS!

A Christian holiday and popular cultural phenomenon, Mardi Gras, also known as Carnival, it is celebrated in many countries around the world—mainly those with large Roman Catholic populations—on the day before the religious season of Lent begins. Brazil, Venice and New Orleans play host to the most famous public festivities.

According to historians, Mardi Gras dates back thousands of years to pagan celebrations of spring and fertility, including the raucous Roman festivals of Saturnalia and Lupercalia. When Christianity arrived in Rome, religious leaders decided to incorporate these popular local traditions into the new faith, an easier task than abolishing them altogether. As a result, the excess and debauchery of the Mardi Gras season became a prelude to Lent, the 40 days of penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Along with Christianity, Mardi Gras spread from Rome to other European countries, including France, Germany, Spain and England.

Traditionally, in the days leading up to Lent, merrymakers would binge on all the meat, eggs, milk and cheese that remained in their homes, preparing for several weeks of eating only fish and fasting. In France, the day before Ash Wednesday came to be known as Mardi Gras, or “Fat Tuesday.” The word “carnival,” may also derive from this vegetarian-unfriendly custom: in Medieval Latin, carnelevarium, which means to take away or remove meat.

Many historians believe that the first American Mardi Gras took place on March 3, 1699, when the French explorers Iberville and Bienville landed in what is now Louisiana, just south of the holiday’s future epicenter: New Orleans. They held a small celebration and dubbed the spot Point du Mardi Gras. In the decades that followed, New Orleans and other French settlements began marking the holiday with street parties, masked balls and lavish dinners. When the Spanish took control of New Orleans, however, they abolished these rowdy rituals, and the bans remained in force until Louisiana became a U.S. state in 1812.

Mardi Gras 1827, a group of students donned colorful costumes and danced through the streets of New Orleans, emulating the revelry they’d observed while visiting Paris. Ten years later, the first recorded New Orleans Mardi Gras parade took place, a tradition that continues to this day. In 1857, a secret society of New Orleans businessmen called the Mistick Krewe of Comus organized a torch-lit Mardi Gras procession with marching bands and rolling floats, setting the tone for future public celebrations in the city. Since then, krewes have remained a fixture of the Carnival scene throughout Louisiana. Rex, one of the oldest Mardi Gras krewes, has been participating in parades since 1872, and established purple, gold and green as the iconic Mardi Gras colors. Other lasting customs include throwing beads and other trinkets, wearing masks, decorating floats and eating King Cake.

Louisiana is the only state in which Mardi Gras is a legal holiday. However, elaborate carnival festivities draw crowds in other parts of the United States during the Mardi Gras season as well, including Galveston, Alabama and Mississippi. Each region has its own events and traditions.

Across the globe, Brazil’s weeklong Carnival festivities feature a vibrant amalgam of European, African and native traditions. In Canada, Quebec City hosts the giant Quebec Winter Carnival. In Italy, tourists flock to Venice’s Carnevale, which dates back to the 13th century and is famous for its masquerade balls. Known as Karneval, Fastnacht or Fasching, the German celebration includes parades, costume balls and a tradition that empowers women to cut off men’s ties. For Denmark’s Fastevlan, children dress up and gather candy in a similar manner to Halloween—although the parallel ends when they ritually flog their parents on Easter Sunday morning.







## HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY



The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that one of the Valentine saints was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France. Another theory is that the church used the day of St Valentine's martyrdom to Christianize the old Roman Lupercalia, a pagan festival held around the middle of February. The ancient ceremony included putting girls' names in a box and letting the boys draw them out. Couples would then be paired off until the following year. The Christian church substituted saints' names for girls' names in hope that the participant would model his life after the saint whose name he drew. However, it was once again girls' names that ended up in the box by the 16th century.

Eventually the custom of sending anonymous cards or messages to those whom one admired became the accepted way of celebrating Valentine's Day. There was an increase in interest in Valentine's Day, first in the United States and then in Canada, in the mid-19th century. Early versions of Valentine cards fashioned of satin and lace and ornamented with flowers, ribbons, and images of cupids or birds appeared in England in the 1880s. Hearts, the colors red and pink, roses, images and statues of cupids, and cupids' bows and arrows symbolize the feeling of romance and love on Valentine's Day. Cupid is usually portrayed as a small winged figure with a bow and arrow. In mythology, he uses his arrow to strike the hearts of people. People who fall in love are sometimes said to be "struck by Cupid's arrow". The day focuses on love, romance, appreciation and friendship.

Many people around the world celebrate Valentine's Day by showing appreciation for the people they love and admire. Some people take their loved ones for a romantic dinner at a restaurant while others may choose this day to propose or get married. Many people give greeting cards, chocolates, jewelry or flowers, particularly roses, to their partners or admirers on Valentine's Day. It is also a time to appreciate friends in some social circles and cultures.



## HISTORY OF GROUND HOG DAY



In 1723, the Delaware Indians settled Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania as a campsite halfway between the Allegheny and the Susquehanna Rivers. The Delawares considered groundhogs honorable ancestors. According to beliefs of the Delaware Indians, their forebears began life as animals in "Mother Earth" and emerged centuries later to hunt and live as men. The name Punxsutawney comes from the Indian name "ponksad-uteney" which means "the town of the sandflies." The groundhog, also known as a woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), is a member of the squirrel family. The name woodchuck comes from the Indian legend of "Wojak, the groundhog" considered by them to be their ancestral grandfather.

When German settlers arrived in the 1700s, they brought the tradition of *Candlemas Day*. It came at the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. Superstition held that if the weather was fair, the second half of Winter would be stormy and cold. For the early Christians in Europe, it was the custom on Candlemas Day for clergy to bless candles and distribute them to the people in the dark of Winter. A lighted candle was placed in each window of the home. The day's weather continued to be important. If the sun came out February 2, halfway between Winter and Spring, it meant six more weeks of wintry weather. If the sun made an appearance on Candlemas Day, an animal would cast a shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of Winter. Germans watched a badger for the shadow. In Pennsylvania, the groundhog, upon waking from mid-Winter hibernation, was selected as the replacement.

Pennsylvania's official celebration of Groundhog Day began on February 2nd, 1886 with a proclamation in *The Punxsutawney Spirit* by the newspaper's editor, Clymer Freas: "Today is groundhog day and up to the time of going to press the beast has not seen its shadow." The groundhog was given the name "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary" and his hometown thus called the "Weather Capital of the World." His debut performance: no shadow - early Spring.

The legendary first trip to Gobbler's Knob was made the following year. Up on Gobbler's Knob, Phil is placed in a heated burrow underneath a simulated tree stump on stage before being pulled out at 7:25 a.m. to make his prediction.

Groundhogs in the wild eat succulent green plants, such as dandelion, clover, and grasses. The current "Phil" weighs 15 pounds and thrives on dog food and ice cream in his climate-controlled home at the Punxsutawney Library.

# February 2016



| Sunday  | Monday                                     | Tuesday  | Wednesday           | Thursday                                       | Friday                       | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---------------------|--|------------------------------|----------|
|   | 1  | 2<br>Groundhog Day                                     | 3                   | 4  | 5                            | 6        |
| 7<br>Super Bowl Sunday  | 8<br>Chinese New Year (Year of the Monkey) | 9<br>MARDI GRAS!                                       | 10<br>Ash Wednesday | 11<br>Recycle Pick Up                          | 12<br>Junk Waste North Side* | 13       |
| 14<br>Valentine's Day   | 15<br>President's Day                      | 16   | 17                  | 18   | 19                           | 20       |
| 21  | 22<br>Martin Luther King Day               | 23<br>WBPOA Board Meeting 6:30pm Braesridge Club House | 24                  | 25<br>Recycle Pick Up June Waste – South Side* | 26                           | 27       |
| 28  | 29<br>Leap Day                             |  |                     |  |                              |          |
| <p>* WBPOA – Northfield III and IV (North Side of West Belfort): Junk Waste 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of even months / Tree Waste 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of odd months<br/>                     * WBPOA – Northfield V (South Side of West Belfort) – Junk Waste 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of even months / Tree Waste 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of odd months</p> |  |  |                     |  |                              |          |

- PLEASE SEE ATTACHED:**
- WBPOA Recall Proxy for 2015
  - Trash Facts
  - WBPOA Architectural Review Approval Form
  - 2016 Recycle Calendar
  - Useful Numbers



*Upon entering the Magic Kingdom, one of the security guards said to Alli 'Excuse me Princess, can I have your autograph?' I could see that the book was filled with children's scribbles as the guard asked the same question of many little Princesses. Alli could not get over the fact that the guard thought she was a real princess." From [Pinterest](#).*

**Junk Waste  
ODD months**  
 January  
 March  
 May  
 July  
 September  
 November



**Tree Waste  
EVEN months**  
 February  
 April  
 June  
 August  
 October  
 December

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| Things to do in Houston:                  | <a href="http://www.visithoustontexas.com/things-to-do/">http://www.visithoustontexas.com/things-to-do/</a>             |
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| USEFUL NUMBERS  |                   |
|---|-------------------|
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| Animal Control (BARC)                                       | 713-229-7300      |
| Anti-Gang Office  | 832-393-0931      |
| Brays Oaks Management District                              | 713-595-1221      |
| Citizens' Assistance  | 832-393-0955      |
| City Council District J                                     | 832-393-3015      |
| City Council District K                                     | 832-393-3016      |
| City of Houston Services:                                   | 311               |
| Constable Precinct 7 - General Info                         | 713-643-6118      |
| Constable Precinct 7 - Dispatch                             | 713-643-6602      |
| Emergency   | 911               |
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| Mayor's Office  | 832-393-1000      |
| Milne Elementary School                                     | 713-778-3420      |
| Parks Department  | 832-395-7000      |
| Public Works and Engineering                                | 832-395-2511      |
| Solid Waste Management                                      | 713-956-6589      |
| Sterling Association Services (WBPOA's Property Management) | 832-678-4500 x253 |
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| Houston, TX 77096                              | Fri   | 1pm - 5pm  |
| Phone: 832/393-2410                            | Sat   | 10am - 5pm |
| <i>(on Fondren just passed Willowbend)</i>     | Sun   | Closed     |
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| US Senators:                        | Texas              | John Cornyn            |
|                                     |                    | Ted Cruz               |

## ***IMPORTANT TRASH FACTS***

### **Weekly trash pickup (96 gallon black rolling bin)**

Weekly trash pickup is EACH Thursday, usually in the morning  
(Trash may *legally* be placed at the curb after 6 p.m. the night before or before 7 a.m. the morning of trash pickup)

### **Recycling (96 gallon green rolling bin)**

Recycling occurs every other week on Thursday morning in WBPOA  
(Recycling cans may *legally* be placed at the curb after 6 p.m. the night before or before 7 a.m. the morning of recycling trash pickup)

#### **Recycling dates (ALL THURSDAYS):**

**If the service day lands on a CITY HOLIDAY—trash will be collected the following day except December 25, 2016 is also a City holiday**

|                                |                           |                             |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| January 2016<br>7 and 21       | February 2016<br>4 and 18 | March 2016<br>3, 17 and 31  | April 2016<br>14 and 28   |
| May 2016<br>12 and 26          | June 2016<br>9 and 23     | July 2016<br>7 and 21       | August 2016<br>4 and 18   |
| September 2016<br>1, 15 and 29 | October 2016<br>13 and 27 | November 2016<br>10 and 25* | December 2016<br>8 and 22 |

- **November 24, 2016** is Thanksgiving day so Friday November 25th will be weekly trash pickup / recycling pickup / grass clippings pickup
- **December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2015** are City holidays.
- **BOTH TRASH CANS ARE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE CURB BY 6 P.M. ON TRASH PICKUP DAY.**
  - **TRASH CANS ARE TO BE HIDDEN FROM VIEW ONCE RETURNED TO YOUR HOUSE.**

## Grass Clippings / Tree Waste

Grass clippings are collected weekly on the same day (Thursday) as your weekly trash pickup. Grass clippings **MUST** be placed in a City of Houston approved compostable bag with the City of Houston seal on the bag. Absolutely nothing other than grass clippings may be in the bag or the trash driver will leave your grass clippings at the curb.

If the compostable bag should break and drop the grass clippings in the street and the driver does not pick it up, call 3-1-1 / 713-837-0311 and your District K City Council office to report it 832-393-3016.

## Small Bundles

Tree branches **MUST** be bundled and less than 3 ft. in length and placed 3 ft. apart from the other debris.

## Heavy Trash / Junk Waste

Heavy Trash is picked up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday on the north side of West Bellfort POA  
Heavy Trash is picked up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday on the south side of West Bellfort POA

**ALL ODD NUMBERED MONTHS ARE GRASS CLIPPINGS / TREE WASTE ONLY**  
**January, March, May, July, September, November**

**ALL EVEN NUMBERED MONTHS ARE JUNK WASTE ONLY**  
**February, April, June, August, October, December**

Heavy Trash *MAY legally* be placed at the curb on the Friday prior to your heavy trash pickup day and the pile **MUST** be less than 8 cubic yards (one standard truck bed).

### **ADDITIONAL AND USEFUL INFORMATION**

\*\*If you or a neighbor is physically challenged and unable to take the trash can(s) to the curb please call 3-1-1 / 713-837-0311 to ask for an application to apply for assistance from the Solid Waste Department (SWD). Once the application is approved by your doctor and Supervisor (this indicates you are eligible) the trash truck driver will come to the side of your house or up to the garage door to get the trash can(s) and return them.

\*\*\*If your trash (household, recycling, grass clippings, heavy trash) has been missed and you know you had placed it at the curb well in advance of the trash truck coming down your block, please call 3-1-1 / 713-837-0311 to report it, wait till you're given a "service request number" then call your District K City Council office 832-393-3016 so we can assist with the matter.

\*\*\*\*If you have filled up your black 96 gallon trash can to capacity but you still have more trash SWM will collect the overage ONLY if the extra bags are tagged with a 'tag for bag' sticker (this is the tags for bags program). You can purchase a sticker for about \$1.00 from the courtesy booth at Fiesta or Sellers Brothers Grocery Stores (Courtesy Booths). Put your trash in any plastic bag, affix the sticker onto the bag facing the curb so the driver can see it and they will pick it up on your scheduled trash day.

\*\*\*\*\*If you are moving into a house in the neighborhood and you will have emptied boxes you want picked up you can call 3-1-1 / 713-837-0311 and your District K City Council office at 832-393-3016 to ask for a one-time ONLY "NEW MOVE-IN".

\*\*\*\*\*If you have a gardener/landscaper mowing your lawn, you should be paying that individual/company to remove the cut grass each time they mow. The City will not pick up grass clippings if Solid Waste becomes aware that you have someone {a vendor} mowing your lawn. These grass clippings should not be placed at the curb till the evening prior to your weekly trash pickup day.

If you do allow a gardener/landscaper to mow your lawn and place the bags of grass clippings at the curb sooner than *legally* allowed you will run the risk of being reported to 3-1-1 who will then notify the Department of Neighborhoods of the violation and thus the risk of being fined.

\*\*\*\*\*Trash violations can and should be reported to 3-1-1 / 713-837-0311, be sure to get the "service request number" and also call your District K City Council office 832-393-3016. Such violations do carry a rather expensive fine.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NONE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS APPRECIATES LOOKING AT YOUR TRASH SITTING AT THE CURB. NO ONE APPRECIATES HAVING THE NEIGHBORHOOD LOOK LIKE A TRAILER PARK. WE URGE YOU TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND FOLLOW THE RULES, THE RULES THAT APPLY TO ALL WEST BELLFORT POA RESIDENTS AS WELL AS ALL OTHERS ACROSS THE CITY.**





# RECYCLE MORE

The City of Houston accepts recyclables at curbside, the Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Centers and drop-off facilities.

## Examples of acceptable plastics and materials:

|   |  |   |   |   |  |   |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|  <p><b># 1 Plastics</b><br/>Soft drink and water bottles</p> |  <p><b># 2 Plastics</b><br/>Milk jugs, juice bottles, and food containers</p> |  <p><b># 3 Plastics</b><br/>Detergent bottles, shampoo bottles</p> |  <p><b># 5 Plastics</b><br/>Yogurt containers, caps, straws and empty medicine bottles</p> |  <p><b># 6 Plastics</b><br/>Styrofoam blocks<br/><small>(Not Accepted in Curbside Recycling Program. Accepted at the Westpark Recycling Center and ESC - South only)</small></p> |  <p><b># 7 Plastic</b><br/>Large water bottles</p> |  <p><b>Mail, Envelopes, and Paper</b></p> |  <p><b>Newspapers, Magazines, Telephone Books and Catalogs</b></p> |  <p><b>Aluminum &amp; Tin Cans</b></p> |  <p><b>Flattened Cardboard</b></p> |  <p><b>Glass</b><br/>Accepted in automated recycling, neighborhood depositories, dropoff locations and Westpark</p> |  <p><b>Used Motor Oil</b><br/>Do not place in recycling bin. Place on curb or bring to Westpark or ECS.</p> |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|



City of Houston  
Solid Waste Management  
Department

Follow us:  
[@houstontrash](https://twitter.com/houstontrash)  
[/houstontrash](https://www.facebook.com/houstontrash)  
[www.houstonwaste.org](http://www.houstonwaste.org)  
 or call 3-1-1 for additional information.

# 2016 Bi-Weekly Collection Schedule

Schedule A  Schedule B  City Holiday \*(Follow the adjusted "Holiday Schedule")

| January |    |    |    |    |    |    | February |    |    |    |    |    |    | March |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 3       | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 7        | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 6     | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 10      | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14       | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 13    | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 17      | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21       | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 20    | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 24      | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28       | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 27    | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |
| 31      |    |    |    |    |    |    |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |

  

| April |    |    |    |    |    |    | May |    |    |    |    |    |    | June |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S   | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S    | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 3     | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 8   | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 5    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 10    | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 15  | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 12   | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 17    | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 22  | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19   | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 24    | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 29  | 30 | 31 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30   | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

  

| July |    |    |    |    |    |    | August |    |    |    |    |    |    | September |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S    | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S      | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 3    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 7      | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4         | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 10   | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14     | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11        | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 17   | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21     | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18        | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 24   | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28     | 29 | 30 | 31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28        | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |
| 31   |    |    |    |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |    |    |    |    |    |    |

  

| October |    |    |    |    |    |    | November |    |    |    |    |    |    | December |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 2       | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 6        | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 4        | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 9       | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13       | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11       | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 16      | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20       | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18       | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 23      | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27       | 28 | 29 | 30 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28       | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |
| 30      | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |

- If your collection day is during the "A Week" then follow the schedule for the shaded yellow week. Ex: Thursday A service days in January are the 7th & 21st.
- If your collection day is during the "B Week", you will follow the unshaded week's schedule. Ex: Tuesday B service days in January are the 12th and 26th.

\*For the Holiday Schedule and additional information, visit our website at [www.houstonwaste.org](http://www.houstonwaste.org) or call the Houston Service Helpline 3-1-1.

| PROPERTY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES:  |  |
|---|--|
| <i>If you would like to serve on one of these committees, please come to the next Board meeting</i> |  |
| Architectural Review (ARC):   | Barbara Hite, Jeanette Calhoun, Marc Warren, Tom Roberts |
| Clubhouse:  | Jeannette Calhoun, Tom Roberts, Joy Cunningham           |
| Landscape:  | Jeannette Calhoun, Tom Roberts                           |
| Newsletter:   | Dyaz Godfrey, Mari Angelo                                |
| Parks & Recreation:   | Zally Lazares, Asher Belles, Neal Harris                 |
| Pool:   | Phil Abrams  |
| Safety:   | Barbara Hite, Barbara Getzer, Yonah Nathan               |
| BLOCK CAPTAINS:   | Volunteers Needed!                                       |

| WEBSITE INFORMATION:                        |   |
|---|---|
| City of Houston (General Info):             | <a href="http://www.houstontex.gov">www.houstontex.gov</a>  |
| City of Houston Services (311 Online):      | <a href="http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php">http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php</a>     |
| Constable Precinct 7 Vacation Watch:        | <a href="http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/compct7/">http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/compct7/</a>     |
| Texas DPS Driver's License Renewal:         | <a href="http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/">http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/</a> |
| West Bellfort Property Owner's Association: | <a href="http://www.westbellfortpoa.com">www.westbellfortpoa.com</a>                                  |

| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION                    |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Concert Arenas</b>                     |   |
| Arena Towers                              | <a href="http://www.arenahouston.com/events/category/events/">http://www.arenahouston.com/events/category/events/</a>   |
| Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion           | <a href="http://www.woodlandscenter.org/">http://www.woodlandscenter.org/</a>   |
| Miller Outdoor Theater                    | <a href="http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/">http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/</a>   |
| <b>Sports Complexes</b>                   |   |
| BBVA Compass - Dynamo Soccer/TSU Football | <a href="http://www.bbvacompassstadium.com/">http://www.bbvacompassstadium.com/</a>                                     |
| Minute Maid Park - Astros                 | <a href="http://houston.astros.mlb.com/hou/ballpark/index.jsp">http://houston.astros.mlb.com/hou/ballpark/index.jsp</a> |
| NRG Stadium & Park - Texans & Rodeo       | <a href="http://nrgpark.com/nrg-stadium">http://nrgpark.com/nrg-stadium</a>   |
| Toyota Center - Rockets                   | <a href="http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com/">http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com/</a>                                   |
| <b>Things to do in Houston:</b>           |   |
| Volunteering Opportunities:               |   |
| City of Houston                           | <a href="http://volunteerhouston.org/">http://volunteerhouston.org/</a>   |
| Harris County                             | <a href="http://www.harriscountycitizen corps.com/">http://www.harriscountycitizen corps.com/</a>                       |

| USEFUL NUMBERS  |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Name  | Phone Number      |
| Animal Control (BARC)                                       | 713-229-7300      |
| Anti-Gang Office  | 832-393-0931      |
| Brays Oaks Management District                              | 713-595-1221      |
| Citizens' Assistance  | 832-393-0955      |
| City Council District J                                     | 832-393-3015      |
| City Council District K                                     | 832-393-3016      |
| City of Houston Services:                                   | 311               |
| Constable Precinct 7 - General Info                         | 713-643-6118      |
| Constable Precinct 7 - Dispatch                             | 713-643-6602      |
| Emergency   | 911               |
| Harris County Flood Control:                                | 713-684-4197      |
| Health and Human Services                                   | 832-393-5169      |
| Houston Fire Department Non-Emergency                       | 832-394-6700      |
| Houston ISD   | 713-556-6000      |
| Houston Police Department District #17                      | 713-773-7901      |
| Houston Police Department Non-Emergency                     | 713-884-3131      |
| Mayor's Office  | 832-393-1000      |
| Milne Elementary School                                     | 713-778-3420      |
| Parks Department  | 832-395-7000      |
| Public Works and Engineering                                | 832-395-2511      |
| Solid Waste Management                                      | 713-956-6589      |
| Sterling Association Services (WBPOA's Property Management) | 832-678-4500 x253 |
| Welch Middle School   | 713-778-3300      |
| Westbury High School  | 713-723-6015      |

| TEXAS DPS OFFICE   |             |                 |
|--|-------------|-----------------|
| Driving Tests / In-Person Driver's License New & Renewal       |             |                 |
| Closest (South Gessner close to West Airport - Approx 2 Miles) |             |                 |
| 12220 South Gessner  | Mon - Thur: | 7:30am - 6:00pm |
| Houston, TX 77071  | Fri:        | 7:30am - 5:00pm |
| Phone: 713/219-4100  | Sat:        | Closed          |
| Second Option (Rosenberg - US 59 @ Hwy 36 - Approx 20 Miles)   |             |                 |
| 28000 Southwest Freeway, Suite A                               | Mon - Thur: | 7:30am - 6:00pm |
| Rosenberg, TX 77471  | Fri:        | 7:30am - 5:00pm |
| Phone: 281/517-1630  | Sat:        | Closed          |

More Info:  
[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver\\_licensing\\_control/rolodex/searchresults.asp](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver_licensing_control/rolodex/searchresults.asp)

| LOCAL LIBRARIES                                |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| City of Houston Libraries                      |   |            |
| <b>Morris Frank Library</b>                    | Mon & Thur  | 11am - 6pm |
| Brays Oaks Towers Building                     | Tue   | 12pm - 8pm |
| 10103 Fondren                                  | Wed   | 10am - 6pm |
| Houston, TX 77096                              | Fri   | 1pm - 5pm  |
| Phone: 832/393-2410                            | Sat   | 10am - 5pm |
| <i>(on Fondren just passed Willowbend)</i>     | Sun   | Closed     |
| <b>Meyer Branch Library</b>                    | Sun & Mon   | Closed     |
| 5005 West Bellfort Street                      | Tue & Wed   | 10am - 6pm |
| Houston, TX 77035                              | Thur  | 12pm - 8pm |
| Phone: 832/393-1840                            | Fri   | 1pm - 5pm  |
| <i>(on West Bellfort just before Kroger's)</i> | Sat   | 10am - 5pm |
| <b>Houston Main / Central Library</b>          | Mon - Thur  | 10am - 8pm |
| 500 McKinney                                   | Fri & Sat   | 10am - 5pm |
| Houston, TX 77002                              | Sun   | 1pm - 5pm  |
| Phone: 832/393-1313                            | <i>(Located Downtown at McKinney &amp; Smith. Garage Parking - \$2 per hour, max \$16 - NO STREET PARKING EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS - TOWING ENFORCED; Street parking is free on Sundays)</i> |            |

| Harris County Library                             |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| <b>West University Branch</b>                     | Mon        | 10am - 8pm |
| 6108 Auden  | Tue & Wed  | 10m - 6pm  |
| Houston, TX 77005                                 | Thur & Fri | 1pm - 6pm  |
| Phone: 713/668-8273                               | Sat        | 10am - 5pm |
| <i>(@ Corner of Auden &amp; Milton in West U)</i> | Sun        | Closed     |

| STATE, COUNTY & CITY OFFICIALS      |                    |                        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Position                            | WBPOA's District   | Currently Held By      |
| Mayor                               | Houston            | Anrise D. Parker       |
| County Judge:                       | Harris County      | Ed Emmett              |
| Tax Assessor-Collector:             | Harris County      | Mike Sullivan          |
| Treasurer:                          | Harris County      | Orlando Sanchez        |
| County Attorney:                    | Harris County      | Vince Ryan             |
| District Attorney:                  | Harris County      | Devon Anderson         |
| County Clerk:                       | Harris County      | Stan Stanart           |
| District Clerk:                     | Harris County      | Chris Daniel           |
| County Sheriff:                     | Harris County      | Adrian Parker          |
| County Constable:                   | Precinct 7         | Constable May Walker   |
| County Commissioner:                | Precinct 1         | El Franco Lee          |
| Metro Transit Authority Chairman:   | Houston Metro Area | Gilbert Andrew Garcia  |
| City of Houston Council Member:     | District K         | Larry Green            |
| HISD School Superintendent:         | Houston            | Terry B. Grier         |
| HISD School District:               | Position 9         | Wanda Adams            |
| Houston Community College District: | District 9         | Christopher W. Oliver  |
| Justice of the Peace:               | Position 1         | Judge Hillary H. Green |
| Justice of the Peace:               | Position 2         | Judge Zinetta Burney   |
| State Board of Education:           | District 4         | Lawrence A. Allen, Jr  |
| State Senator:                      | District 13        | Rodney G. Ellis        |
| State Representative:               | District 131       | Dr. Alama A. Allen     |
| Governor:                           | Texas              | Rick Perry             |
| US Representative:                  | District 9         | Al Green               |
| US Senators:                        | Texas              | John Cornyn            |
|                                     |                    | Ted Cruz               |