



WESTCHESTER RAP

Letter from the Board

A new year brings an election and a new Board of Trustees. Foremost, thank you to the wonderful volunteers in the past who handed the baton over to us to try to help shoulder the burden of improving our neighborhood. A big **thank you** goes out to our 2022 WOC board: Michael Williams, Ryan Renfro, Russell Pae, Andrea Stevens, Kristie Tobin, Dave Anderson, Joe Strong, Erin Fulweber, and Natalie Hightower.

Our intention is to serve our great community as a team and help improve it further, through respect, trust and true camaraderie. We aim to bring pride and solutions to ongoing projects, and hopefully some fun creativity. We're all ears and we'd love to hear from any and all of you, positive or negative, on making our neighborhood an even better place to call home!

The 2023 board's names and contact information can be found at the bottom of this page. We look forward to using this news letter and our Westchester Owners Committee Facebook page as a way to share information and keep in touch with everyone.

With so many many new, great families joining us in Westchester, we wanted to begin an initiative called "Meet Your Neighbor!". We plan to highlight one of our neighborhood families each RAP issue, to help each other get to know one another. We're looking forward to meeting everyone and helping our neighbors grow closer to one another.

In This Issue

Bloom Where You Are Planted	1
Letter from the Board	1
Meet Your Neighbor	6
Westchester Dolphins Swim Team	2
Women's Club	5
Yard of the Month	1

Advertiser Index

Adams Tree Service	4
Erin Lumpkin Realtor	2
Grace School	3
Shelley Filla Realtor	4
Whitney Smith Realtor	2

Bloom Where You are Planted

These tips are drawn from *Lone Star Gardening* by Neil Sperry and The River Oaks Garden Club's *A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, 5th edition*. (The latter book advocates organic gardening practices but has a wealth of information specific to our area that is useful to all.)

If desired, groundcover beds of Asian jasmine, mondo grass, and liriope can be trimmed with a line trimmer or mower early in the month. (It needs to be done before the mondo grass and liriope send up their new shoots for the spring to avoid "squaring off" the tips of the new shoots.)

If you need to reduce a shrub's size, this is the best month to do that. Nandina's can be pruned by cutting some of the tallest canes to the ground leaving some shorter stems to help the plant as it fills out.

Crape Myrtles can be pruned by removing unwanted trunks and branches but do not "top" them since it will delay their first blooms and does not increase blooms later in the season. Repeat blooming roses can be pruned and fertilized sometime around Valentine's Day. (Once blooming climbers, etc. shouldn't be pruned until after they bloom in the spring.)

This is the most favorable month to try to root cuttings of hardwood shrubs, trees, and vines. This is a great month to begin making plans for any changes you hope to make in your yard this year.

Yard of the Month

Sponsored By: Keller Williams Realty – Memorial
<https://www.kwmemorial.com/>

Bill and Evy Tuttle at 14710 River Forest Dr.



Next HOA Meeting: Tues Feb 21, 2023 from 6-8 PM in Saint John Vianney Room E-9.

2023 Westchester Owners Committee Trustees

Sy Zaidi – President
president@westchesterhouston.org

Andrea Stevens - Treasurer
treasurer@westchesterhouston.org

Jordon Giarratano - Maintenance
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Lindsey Ferrell - Vice President, Pool
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Justin Girard - Security
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Asim Modi - Secretary
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Sean McBeth - Trash and Pest Control
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Adam Hampton – Westchester RAP Editor
rap@westchesterhouston.org

Westchester Dolphins Swim Team

Westchester Dolphins swim team registration is set to open 3/20. The Dolphins need your sponsorship! The Dolphins need Volunteers and Volunteer Coaches! For additional info on sponsoring the team, volunteering or coaching please contact Meg Maguire via email at westchesterdolphins@gmail.com. More details can be found on the team web site:

<http://westchesterdolphins.swimtopia.com>



2023 Swim Season Schedule

Registration Opens	March 20th
Early Bird Rate Ends	April 17th
Swimsuit fittings @ Westchester pool	April 30th
Practices Begin	May 2nd
Swimsuit order deadline	May 8th
Time Trials/Meet #1 vs. Sharks	May 20th
No Practice	May 25th-May30th
Thornwood Practice Meet	May 31st
Stroke Clinic: Freestyle	June 1st
Meet #2 @ Spring Valley	June 3rd
Swim Team Photos	June 5th
Stroke Clinic: Backstroke	June 8th
Meet #3 vs. BGP	June 10th
Relay Invitational Meet	June 14th
Stroke Clinic: Breaststroke	June 15th
Meet #4 vs. Briar Village	June 17th
Stroke Clinic: Butterfly	June 22nd
Prelims (must attend to make finals)	June 23rd
Finals (must qualify after prelims)	June 24th
End of Season Party	June 24th

westchesterdolphins.swimtopia.com


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Advertise with us! Have an upcoming event, business, or service you need to get the word out about? The RAP is the place to reach the eyeballs of Westchester residents. Reach out to us at rap@westchesterhouston.org for more info.

HOA Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, February 21, 2023	Westchester HOA	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	E9
Tuesday, March 21, 2023	Westchester HOA	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	E9
Tuesday, April 18, 2023	Westchester HOA	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	E9
Tuesday, May 16, 2023	Westchester HOA	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	E9



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Women's Club

Kickoff meeting was a great success!

More than 40 women gathered at the Nottingham Forest Club on Jan. 12 to help us as we reboot the Westchester/Nottingham Forest VIII Women's Club. It was great to see such a wide variety of women gather. Thank you again to Katie Mehnert and Ally Energy for sponsoring the facility's use. It was the perfect size and had all the A/V equipment we needed.

We need hosts for monthly get-togethers

One of the things that the Women's Club commits to is a gathering once per month. At these gatherings, we have a short business meeting, where if we need to vote on something, we can do that.

We have a host for March's meeting, so mark your calendar for 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, at Lilac Gallery's home.

However, we need a host for February's and April's meetings. The host can choose a morning event or an evening event. The Women's Club can provide paper products, and we have a percolator for coffee. These are usually a bring-something-to-share event, so all the host needs to provide is a place to meet and a table for snacks.

If you would like to host one of the monthly meetings, [you can do so here](#).

Annual grant applications are open

One of the group's main activities is to provide annual grants to nonprofit groups. These grants are usually in amounts from \$100 to \$500, and preference is given to groups with the following qualities:

- The group applying for the grant has some association to a member of the Women's Club.
- The group is local to our area (not a national organization).
- Grants that have a specific purpose rather than for the general fund.
- Groups that have a history with the Women's Club.
- Many groups that have received grants work with children in the area.

Groups that would like to apply for a grant can do so [on this form](#). The form includes a few questions about the group and then provides a way for the group to upload a grant application letter in either document or PDF format.

The application form will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 14.

We are in the process of putting together the grant application committee. After the application deadline, the committee will meet before May 1 to put together a proposed list of grant recipients. That list will be up for approval in mid May by the Women's Club members, and checks will be sent around the first of June.

We are working on building interest groups

One way the Women's Club fosters connection is through interest groups. These groups are started and maintained by members of the group, and they can start and end as there is interest. At the Jan. 12 meeting, several types of interest groups were mentioned, including:

- Couples socials
- Speaker series
- Book club/s
- Weekend socials at the pool
- Lunch bunch (and bring back the Hat Brunch)
- Walking group
- Family fest on the bayou
- Tennis
- Bridge
- Mah Jongg
- Baking
- Gardening
- Art to Lunch

We are in the process of putting together an interest survey for all members, and we are also looking at ways we can use Membership Toolkit to put together interest groups so that interested members can connect. This is still in the planning stage, so if anyone would like to help work on putting these groups together, please email Ruth Parks at ruthparks@att.net.

New Yard of the Month Volunteers

We would like to thank Brenda Thompson and Cynthia Wier for coordinating the Yard of the Month and Holiday Lighting Awards program in Westchester for the past 12 years.

After Brenda and Cynthia talked about the program at the Jan. 12 meeting, several people in both Westchester and Nottingham Forest VIII have stepped up to be the new leadership of the program.

Casey Reed and Erin Lumpkin will be sponsoring the program with their realty company. They will be making new signs for both Westchester and NFVIII. Erin Warren will work with Erin Lumpkin on the Westchester side and Grace Terroir will be working with Casey Reed on the NFVIII side.

Meet Your Neighbor

Once a month the RAP focuses on a family in Westchester. This issue covers the **Parks** family. Many in the neighborhood know Ruth, who has volunteered countless hours to our community, mom's group, pool, swim team, gardens, women's club, along with many other efforts. Thanks for being kind enough to answer the WOC Board's questions!



We (Craig and Ruth) moved to Westchester from Connecticut in 2005 for a job opportunity for Craig and a chance to be closer to family in Texas. We bought our first house in Westchester neighborhood from original homeowners, the Hruskas. Since then, our family has grown to five with the addition of Jillian (who is now a junior at Stratford HS), Zachary (who is now an 8th grader at Spring Forest MS), and the adoption of Bella (our 9-year-old dog) who we adopted as a puppy from Ace Hardware on Memorial.

The whole family enjoys helping out in the neighborhood. Ruth started the Moms Group in 2007 with the encouragement of the Westchester/NF8 Women's Club. Craig has served on the WOC Board and he and Zachary hang the holiday wreaths at the entrances every Christmas. Come summertime, you can find Jillian and Zachary assistant coaching for the Bayou Swim League Champions, the Westchester Dolphins, at the Westchester Pool.

You can frequently find the Parks Family at Sam's Burgers Pies and Fries or Mas Taco before or after a football game or a theater production at Stratford HS or just at the end of a crazy week. Try the hand-cut potato chips at Sam's – you won't be sorry!

At this point our family fun revolves around school and sports activities. But we always enjoy running into Westchester neighbors and friends when we go out, which is one of our favorite things about living in this area. We feel so lucky to have found a neighborhood with a small town feel where kids walk to school and to see friends. This is not something we expected to find when we moved to Houston.

I (Ruth) am interested in helping reboot the Westchester/NF8 Women's Club. Due to Hurricane Harvey and the pandemic, the membership and activity of this group steeply declined. The Club was started in 1970 with the purpose of "enriching the lives of the members and serving the community". I am excited to see this multi-generational group of women grow again providing more connection to our neighborhood.

--Ruth Parks & Family