

**HOUSTON
CITY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT
G**



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News From District G

October 2013

To The Residents of District G:



Memorial Drive Reconstruction Design Workshop Scheduled

To all property owners along Memorial Drive from N. Eldridge Parkway to Kirkwood Dr.: please join Council Member Oliver Pennington and representatives from the City of Houston Public Works & Engineering Department for a neighborhood meeting regarding the Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project (CIP #N-000798) Preliminary Access Evaluation Summary.

At this meeting, PWE will discuss the Preliminary Access Evaluation Summary and the city's current plans for the traffic access management for properties along the stretch of Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Eldridge.

The meeting will take place on **Tuesday, October 22, 2013, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Spring Forest Middle School Auditorium, 14240 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079.**

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Out and About in District G:



During the last several months, Council Member Pennington was busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:



- Budget Hearings Held by Each Department
- Grady Park Meeting
- Italy's National Day Reception
- Zoo Annual Update Meeting
- Meeting Re: Bayou Greenways
- Greater Houston Builders Association Mid-Year Forecast Luncheon
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Meetings
- BARC Capital Campaign Leadership Organization Meeting
- TIRZ 17 Meeting
- HPD West Patrol Command Meeting with Assistant Chief and New Captains
- Public Meetings Re: Proposed Building at 2229 San Felipe
- Meeting with HPD Captain Skillern
- Steak Cutting Ceremony at Ruth's Chris Steak House
- Houston-Galveston Area Council Meeting
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood Meeting
- Memorial Super Neighborhood Meetings
- Air China Inaugural Gala

- Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee Meetings
- Rebuild Houston Advisory Committee Meetings
- Village West HOA Annual Meeting
- Chapter 42 Townhall Meeting
- First Responders Luncheon
- Westchase District Advisory Committee Meeting
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Bell Ringing Ceremony
- Boys and Girls Club Annual Dinner
- Meeting Re: City of Houston Million Pound Challenge
- Meeting with the Houston Apartment Association Legislative Committee
- HPD Westside Positive Interaction Program
- Tagore Society of Houston Statute Unveiling
- Meeting re: Jungman Library Renovations
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce
- Annual Health and Wellness Luncheon
- Shine a Light on Human Trafficking Press Conference and Kickoff

If you wish Council Member Pennington to attend your HOA/POA/Civic Club meeting, please contact our office at:

Districtg@houstontx.gov.

Photo ID Now Required to Vote in Texas Elections:



In 2011, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 14 (SB 14) creating a new requirement for voters to show photo identification when voting in person. While pending review within the judicial system, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which effectively ended all pending litigation. As a result, voters are now required to present an approved form of photo identification in order to vote in all

Texas Elections.

Acceptable forms of photo ID:

1. Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
2. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
3. Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
4. Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
5. United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
6. United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
7. United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

Procedures for Voting

When a voter arrives at a polling location, the voter will be asked to present one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo ID. Election officials will now be required by State law to determine whether the voter's name on the identification provided matches the name on the official list of registered voters ("OLRV"). After a voter presents their ID, the election worker will compare it to the OLRV. If the name on the ID matches the name on the list of registered voters, the voter will follow the regular procedures for voting.

If the name does not match exactly but is "substantially similar" to the name on the OLRV, the voter will be permitted to vote as long as the voter signs an affidavit stating that the voter is the same person on the list of registered voters.

If a voter does not have proper identification, the voter will still be permitted to vote provisionally. The voter will have (six) 6 days to present proper identification to the county voter registrar, or the voter's ballot will be rejected.

Exemption/Exceptions

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a **permanent exemption**. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing he or she has been determined to have a disability, or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent. In addition, the applicant must state that he or she has no valid form of photo identification. Those who obtain a disability exemption will be allowed to vote by presenting a voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption. Please contact your voter registrar for more details.

Voters who have a consistent **religious objection** to being photographed and voters who do not have any valid form of photo identification as a result of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot, appear at the voter registrar's office within six (6) calendar days after election day, and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for your ballot to be counted.

Should you need additional information, please contact the Texas Secretary of State via telephone at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) or via email at elections@sos.state.tx.us.

Early Voting Starts October 21

Early voting for this year's election will be held during the following dates and times:

- Monday, October 21 to Friday, October 25: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 26: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 27: 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 28 to Friday, November 1: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Remember, for early voting, you can vote at ANY early voting location. For a list of early voting locations, please visit:

<http://www.harrisvotes.org/EarlyVoting/EarlyVotingLocationsSchedule.pdf>

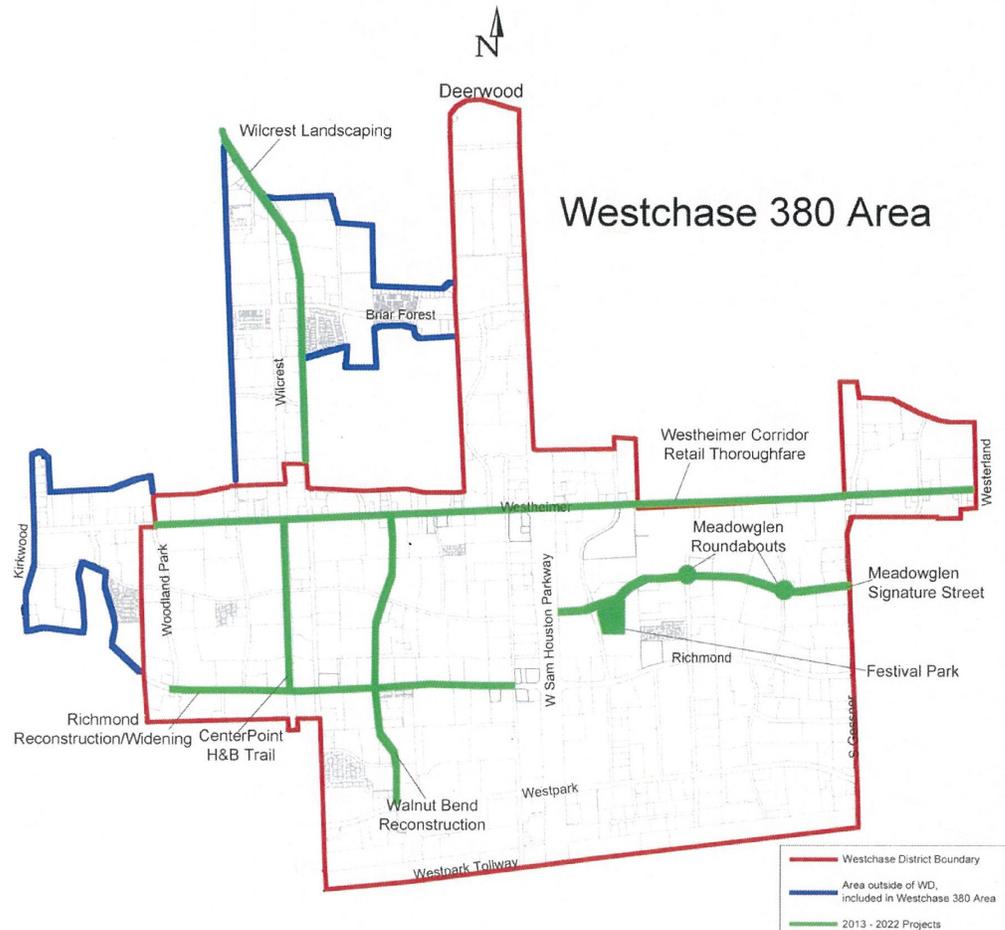
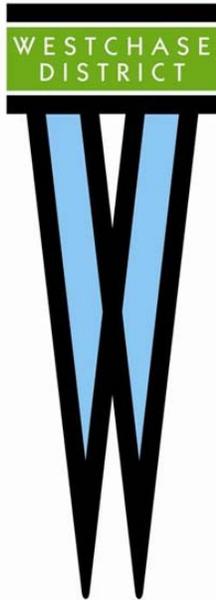
Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2013. For a sample ballot, or to find your Election Day polling location, please visit:

<http://www.harrisvotes.org/VoterBallotSearch.aspx?L=E>

This year's election consists of 9 proposed state constitutional amendments, 2 Harris County bond election propositions, City of Houston Mayor, City of Houston City Council members, City of Houston Controller, HCC Trustee, and HISD Trustee.



Council Approves Westchase District Economic Development Program



On October 16, City Council approved an ordinance creating the Westchase District Economic Development Program pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code.

The Westchase District conducted a study to identify projects and improvements critical to enhancing the economic vitality of the area and thereafter adopted the Westchase District Long Range Plan (the "Plan"). The Westchase District contains more than 50 multi-family units, many of them in declining and deteriorating conditions which impedes the property values, occupancy, and rental rates. The Plan contemplates infrastructure improvements that will initiate development and redevelopment by addressing aging infrastructure and the lack of parks, green space, and community venues. The 380 program will provide funding for the implementation of the Plan. The agreement

expands the area in which improvements can be made, beyond the boundaries of the Westchase District, to include those areas shown in blue in the above map. Specifically, this includes Briar Forest and Kirkwood areas, two adjoining areas that are in need of improvement.

The District has prioritized construction of certain Plan-related CIP improvements into three 10-year segments. The first segment of projects was approved by Council as part of the creation of the 380 program; the second and third 10-year segments are subject to City Council approval at a later date. Improvement projects will receive funding from a 2/3rds allocation of the incremental ad valorem taxes generated by the District until the earlier of December 31, 2043, or when all project costs have been fully reimbursed for all completed projects.

In approving this 380 program, City Council recognized the positive economic impact of the CIP

improvements to provide a public benefit to the City by extending and improving existing City rights-of-way and public streets, and improving existing public infrastructure components, which will directly result in improved mobility, improvement of blighted conditions and will stimulate economic revitalization with the District.

Summary of the Approved 10 Year \$84,650,000 CIP:

Festival Park: 7-acre park accessible to multiple community sectors; within West 8 Development, Westheimer @ Beltway 8; Cost: \$25.2 Million

Richmond Reconstruction/Widening: roadway improvement from Rogerdale to Woodland Park; Cost: \$12 Million

Walnut Bend Reconstruction: roadway reconstruction from Westheimer to Westpark; Cost: \$1 Million

Westheimer Corridor-Retail Thoroughfare: Pedestrian realm improvements from Rocky Ridge to Woodland Park; Cost: \$24 Million

CenterPoint Hike & Bike Trail: 10 foot wide multi-use path from Westheimer to Richmond; Cost: \$350,000

Wilcrest Landscaping: landscape and irrigate 14 esplanades north of Westheimer to Lakeside Place; Cost: \$600,000

Meadowglen Roundabouts: traffic control intersection upgrades via the implementation of roundabouts at Meadowglen & Elmside and Meadowglen & Hayes; Cost: \$1.2 Million

Meadowglen Signature Street: utilize the existing right-of-way and building setbacks to create a public space by incorporating medians, curbside parking and wider sidewalks from S. Gessner to Beltway 8; Cost: \$20.3 Million

Infrastructure Design Manual Chapters 6, 10 & 12

The Standards Review Committee (SRC), Department of Public Works and Engineering (PWE) has been established to review, revise, and update PWE's Standards and Documents. Public input and participation is requested by the submittal of proposals for suggested changes, comments, recommendations and other information.

The 2013-2014 annual review cycle involves review of Streets/Pavement, specifications and standard details (**Infrastructure Design Manual Chapters 6, 10 & 12**). The City is seeking input from all parties with expertise and interest in the subject matter.

This Review cycle will include two special focus areas as we continue infrastructure improvement efforts in Houston:

- Improved Standards related to pedestrian accessibility and minimizing obstructions to public pedestrian ways.
- Improved pavement performance and extended life for safer and smoother street conditions.

Chapter 6: governs Utility Locations (location of back lot utilities, water lines, wastewater lines, and storm sewer lines)

Chapter 10: governs Street Paving Design Requirements (design requirements for hot mix asphaltic concrete pavement and concrete pavement; includes such things as curb radii, right-of-

way corner cut backs, intersection sight distance, median design, left turn lanes, railroad crossings, sidewalks and accessibility ramps, alleys, street terminations, street connections and transitions, inlets and manholes)

Chapter 12: governs Street Cut Requirements (criteria for street pavement cuts, excavation, backfill, and pavement restoration in Public Ways)

Please visit the following link to get further details on the process of providing input:

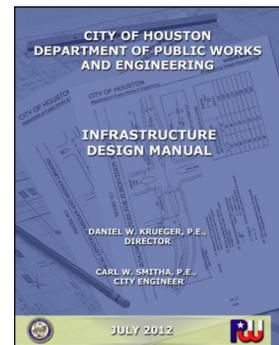
http://documents.publicworks.houstontx.gov/document-center/cat_view/88-engineering-and-construction/181-standards-review-committee.html

The SRC requests that all interested parties provide comments for changes by no later than **November 15, 2013**.

Submittals should be made by e-mail to standardsreviewcommittee@houstontx.gov or by mail to:

Standards Review Committee
Office of the City Engineer
1002 Washington Ave., 2nd Floor
Houston, TX 77002

Contact Rajiv Arya at (832) 394-9131 or by email: rajiv.arya@houstontx.gov for more information.



District G Honors Eagle's Trace Retirement Community



On October 15, Council Member Pennington gave a Mayoral Proclamation to the Eagle's Trace Retirement Community. Accepting the proclamation on behalf of Eagle's Trace was Ben Cornthwaite, Executive Director at Eagle's Trace, and a number of residents and employees.

Eagle's Trace is one of sixteen full-service continuing care retirement communities managed by Erickson Living. Located in West Houston near Highway 6 and Briar Forest, its scenic 70-acre campus is home to more than 600 residents and 300 employees.

2013 continues to be a banner year for Eagle's Trace as it fulfilled a commitment to its residents by opening a state-of-the-art continuing care neighborhood on June 11, 2013. It fea-

tures 112 spacious suites and residences, including assisted living, memory care, post-acute rehabilitation and nursing care services for residents and guests. The new neighborhood also created 120 new jobs in the west Houston area.

Whether through the volunteer activities of its Community Outreach Committee or the intergenerational connections created by its student scholar program, the residents and employees of Eagle's Trace are bound together by a simple mission: sharing their gifts to create a community that celebrates life. Furthermore, Eagle's Trace hosts the monthly Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17 meetings. They have truly become an asset and part of our community. Thank you Eagle's Trace for all you are doing for District G and the City of Houston.



Jungman Library to be Completely Renovated



The Jungman Library, located at 5830 Westheimer, was built in 1975. Other than minor renovations in 2009 to make the facility ADA accessible, there have been no renovations to Jungman in nearly 40 years. CIP # E-000047 provides over \$6 million to completely renovate Jungman.

The Design Notice to Proceed was issued to James Ray, AIA – Energy Architecture, Inc. on July 26, 2013. The design team includes Natalye Appel + Associates Architects, LLC. This same design team is responsible for the 2013 National AIA/ALA Library Building Award-winning Oak Forest Neighborhood Library. The library is very excited to be working with them again. The design process consists of three major components: Schematic Design,

Design Development, and Construction Documents and Permitting.

They have just concluded the first phase, Schematic Design. The entire design process should be complete before the end of this current Fiscal Year. The current plan is to reuse the foundation, walls, and roof structure, but to completely rebuild everything else.

The construction is scheduled to start at the beginning of the next Fiscal Year (which begins July 1, 2014). If everything stays on the current schedule, Jungman Library will likely close to the public next Summer for construction. The current schedule and goal is to reopen the newly renovated Jungman in the Fall 2015.



If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet



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Houston311.org



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HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween is a fun time for children and can be for parents as well. Following these safety tips can help ensure a safe and fun Halloween for your children and you.

Making child's costume safe

- Make sure costumes are flame-retardant.
- Costumes should be kept short to prevent tripping.
- Have children wear comfortable shoes.
- Use make-up instead of a mask.
 - Masks can be hot and can obstruct child's view.
- Children should wear light colors or place reflective tape on costumes.
- Make costume accessories, (such as knives, guns, or swords) from cardboard or flexible materials.

Alternative Celebrations

- Halloween costume parties with treats, games, contests, haunted houses, etc. at:
 - Schools
 - Fire stations
 - Libraries
 - Shopping centers/malls

Making Your Home and Neighborhood Safe

- Turn on exterior lights to welcome trick-or-treaters.
- Remove toys and other items from sidewalks and yard.
- Have your Neighborhood Watch or citizen's group assist in patrolling the neighborhood.
- Ask for volunteers to act as crossing guards.
- If you operate a motor vehicle, drive slowly and be observant for children.
- Report suspicious activity or criminal activity to police.

Tips for Your Trick-or-Treaters

- Older children should travel with friends.
 - Never alone.
- Set time limits for children to trick-or-treat.
 - Map out a safe route.
 - No shortcuts.
- Tell children not to enter a stranger's house.
- Have children trick-or-treat while it's still light outside.
 - If it is dark, have them carry a flashlight.
- Tell your children not to eat treats until they return home and have you inspect them first.
- Allow children to eat only unopened candies and in original wrappers.

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
 Community Services Unit

New
METRO
 Going Places

SYSTEM REIMAGINING

METRO Transit System Reimagining Project Survey:

Houston METRO's Transit System Reimagining project is rethinking their entire bus system, looking for ways that new patterns of service could better serve our changing region.

METRO's resources are limited and they need to get as much benefit as they can, so the plan will be about rearranging the service that exists to better reflect the city of today and the goals of today's citizens. Some growing areas may get more service, while low-ridership areas and those with declining population may get less.

If you ride METRO, or want to ride METRO but it is not available or convenient for your desired route, please take a few minutes to fill out their survey and have your voice heard:

To begin the survey, visit:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CA4znhHdod5GoaRHF0%2bLQBtF14ptPgKkxCg0AFG5Fi8%3d>