

News & Notes

August 11, 2009



Play Time for Both Big and Small!

New improvements at Loftin Park in Bellaire's Town Square will be formally opened Wednesday with a ribbon cutting at 11:30 a.m. New, colorful Evos play equipment will be available for children to enjoy, and outdoor fitness equipment will be available for adults. A pleasant pathway system will make strolling through the park a delight. The park is located at 7001 S. Fifth St.



Bellaire Police Officer David Rocha with Bellaire Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk and Optimist Club President Tara Morgan.

Recognition for Outstanding Service

Bellaire Optimists recently gave out their annual awards recognizing two of Bellaire's public safety personnel for outstanding work during the year. Dave Youngblood received recognition as Fireman of the Year and David Rocha was named Policeman of the Year. Both men were also honored with proclamations by Bellaire's City Council.



Bellaire Fireman Dave Youngblood with Bellaire Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk and Optimist Club President Tara Morgan.

Westbury Students Must Use METRO Stop in Front of High School on Chimney Rock

By Jeremy Rakes

Westbury High School students, who normally wait for a METRO bus on Burdine, will have to use a different bus stop when school starts.

Westbury Principal Eric Coleman says HISD is closing Burdine between the high school and Westbury Ninth Grade Academy Aug. 24, and the METRO stop will be

closed. The school district will place barriers on both ends of the street to keep traffic out.

Coleman says service trucks will be let through, but they will not be able to use the street as a thoroughfare.

Students will need to use the METRO stop in front of the school on Chimney Rock. "METRO picks up stu-

dents in back of the school and then swings around to the front for pick up at the other stop right now," Coleman says. "There will just be a stop at the front of the school starting this school year."

The bus stop closing is the final step to making Burdine HISD property. In January, a stretch of West Airport was opened from

Chimney Rock to Stone West Dr. That stretch was constructed by HISD with the agreement that once it opened, Burdine would become part of the Westbury HS property.

During the school year, METRO buses were allowed on Burdine during the school day, but barriers were erected on both sides of the street to

See Westbury page 24

Complete Back-to-School Information Throughout This Issue!

SOUTHWEST

News

August 11, 2009
Vol. 23, No. 11



Serving Bellaire, Meyerland, Westbury, Willow Meadows, Willow Bend, Willowbrook, Post Oak Manor, Maplewood and other Southwest Houston areas.

Subscribe to Our E-Edition at www.village-southwest-news.com

Three File for Bellaire Council Positions

Three Bellaire residents threw their hats in the ring last week to run for positions on City Council.

Current Council Member Will Hickman filed for reelection to Council Position 1. A patent attorney for Shell

Oil, Hickman, 35, is finishing his first term on council and is eligible to serve another four-year term.

Corbett Parker filed for Position 3, currently held by Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk. Faulk has served two terms

and is not eligible to run again under the city's term limit rules.

Parker, 28, is also an attorney, although he may be best known for his activities within the Rotary Club. He was founder and charter

president of the Rotary Club of Houston Skyline and remains active in various Rotary initiatives.

Andrew Friedberg, 28, is also an attorney and is currently a member of Bellaire's Planning and Zoning Commission. Friedberg filed for Position 5, currently held by Pat McLaughlan, who is also term limited.

Filing deadline for Council is Wednesday, September 2, at 5 p.m. The elected will be held on Nov. 3

Easing Your Child's Introduction to Kindergarten

By Melissa McDonald
UT Health Science
Center at Houston

As parents watch their child walk through the door to kindergarten for the first time, the backpack almost dwarfing the little body, the moment is bittersweet.

It may also include tears, and that's normal, experts say.

"It is not taboo for your child to cry. It's a normal emotion. The first day of kindergarten for your child can be exciting and a little bit scary," says John Gasko, Ph.D., director of state initiatives at the Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

So how do you know if your child is ready for this big step into kindergarten? Here are some clues to help ease parents' fears.

- Is my child comfort-

able with letters and the sounds they make?

- Are they familiar with books and can they pick out some of the words?

- Can they say and recognize numbers one to 20 and distinguish shapes?

Gasko says it's very important for a parent to be engaged with the child's teacher.

"From day one, make sure they know about any difficulty your child may have, the experience in a school setting to-date and your expecta-

tions. If time permits, attend the open house that most schools host before the school year begins," he says.

"It's going to be a bigger adjustment for children who haven't been in a preschool setting," says

Cathy Guttentag, Ph.D., a child psychologist at the Children's Learning Institute.

"They may have worries as well as excitement, and no worry should be trivialized.

"It's a good idea to start talking to your child about the daily routine at kindergarten. For instance, 'The teacher will be there to help you and show you where everything is. You'll have a desk or

See Kindergarten p. 17



Bellaire Council Renames Park

Bellaire City Council voted unanimously last week to rename Jaquet Park in honor of one of the city's most civic-minded families.

Henceforth, the facility will be known as the Ware Family Park, in honor of Louise and Henry Ware and their family.

Louise Ware was the first woman mayor of Bellaire, winning election to that office in 1978 after four years as a member of council. She later served as the small cities representative on the

See Ware page 24