

West U. Council's Lack of Transparency Hits Residents' Nerves

By Ben Ballanfant

West University council met last Monday to a crowd of anti-Super Block citizens. The council chamber had a good 30 residents sharing their displeasure at the council's decision.

While just under half of those actually spoke publicly to council about the matter, the entire room gave applause each time a person voiced their opposition to the issue. No one spoke in favor of the

SuperBlock initiative except for members of council.

The meeting started off with Mayor Bob Fry noting the large number of people who had signed up to speak on the matter and moved a later agenda item on the Houston Marathon up so representatives of the Marathon could speak and then make a timely exit.

Before opening up the agenda item, Fry read a prepared statement from council.

Apparently they knew they would have a strong blowback from their decision made at the previous council meeting or such a statement would not have been prepared.

David Dutch was the first resident to speak against the super block.

"I stated my vociferous opposition in the last meeting to the super block. Today I would like to briefly focus on the Children's Center. I

am curious if this will be a school or just some sort of an activity center. What is the stated capacity? Will there be daily pickup and drop off. Have we studied traffic patterns? None of us residents who are affected right there by traffic flow have been notified, talked to, etc..."

"I have nothing against the church or any religious entity whatsoever. I am disturbed, especially as a neighbor living right here, how

much land the church has acquired over the years. Since it is legally difficult to ask the church to limit its land, I would like to ask the church, who I assume are good religious folks and understand the moral clarity of the ten commandments, a very important part of the tenth commandment is 'Though shalt not covet thy neighbor's property'... I ask that they be good neighbors... expand elsewhere."

Former Mayor Bob Kelly spoke next. He wasn't into arguing facts and didn't want to get into the merits of the plan, but thought the procedure was "way out of line for the City of West University Place. This is not the way we do things."

He pointed out that there was no public input or information given to the public before the decision. "You are talking about a massive

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News & Notes

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SVdP Carnival Fun!

Camille Schneider, Sofia Vera, Dani Nolla and Kolbe Keeler are shown at the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish annual Fun Fest Weekend. Saturday night everyone gathered for fajitas, fellowship and bingo where many people won cash prizes. Sunday, young and old gathered for a traditional Fall Festival with games, rides, food and a raffle. The wonderful event was chaired by Tricia Hoffman and Mauria Still.



Fourth grader Roma Taylor, dressed as a Poe Raven, with her father Zachary Taylor, disguised as Edgar Allan Poe, took the top prize at the costume contest.

Poe Carnival Success

Poe Elementary welcomed record crowds at the 66th annual Poe Carnival on Saturday, Oct. 25. All money raised supports school projects through the PTO. Popular attractions included the Poe "jail," the haunted house, bouncers, a rock-climbing wall, and the dessert booth. As an added bonus, Poe's new dance teacher Jessica Nieto and fourth graders taught a crowd of students the "Thriller" dance. Poe Elementary is an HISD magnet school for the fine arts, providing instruction in dance, art, and music for every student.

There are now plans to hold two public information meetings, both on November 17, at 2 p.m. and also at 6:30 p.m. at the West U. Community Center.

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Southside, City of Houston Working to Reduce Impact of Bellaire Blvd. Water Main Construction

By Ben Ballanfant

The Bellaire Boulevard water main project in Southside Place is now at the 50% stage of plan submittals. City of Houston engineers have passed the plans on to Southside and their engineer John Peterson of HDR.

HDR bought Clauch and

Miller, who has been the City's long time engineering consultant.

"Engineers get to 50% before they continue on. They want to make sure they are on the right track. Now they are submitting to our engineer... now it will go back to the City of Houston once our engineer

has had a chance to review it," says City Manager David Moss.

The water main replacement was looking like it could undo a good bit of the work Southside had done in replacing the old roadway and beautification as well, but the current design has the work al-

most all in between the curb and the sidewalk or bored underneath the roadway where needed. Where they do have to go into the street, they will replace the entire panel.

According to Moss the line will run on the north side of the Bellaire towards Black

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Did You Know Pershing Has a Farmers Market?

By Zane Knipe and Harry Swales, Pershing Student Feature Writers

Want fresh fruits, and vegetables just around the corner from you? Pershing Middle School has large gardens and Mr. Coursey, the gardening teacher at Pershing Middle School. Every Saturday you can find Mr. Coursey and a number of his students set up and selling at the miniature local farmers market at Pershing. Everything that is sold at the Saturday farmers market is grown by Mr. Coursey and his students in the two gardens at Pershing. Both gardens produce a lot of crops every week.

Mr. Coursey maintains both of these amazing gardens as well as teaching sixth grade World Cultures classes and his gardening classes. His gardening students get to help maintain the garden, and learn how to grow their own crops.

Mr. Coursey grows and sells a large variety of fresh produce at his small table in the parking lot next to the football field on Stella Link. At this small, local farmers market, he sells cabbage, beets, onions, carrots, peppers, celery, three different types of kale, and many other fresh fruits and vegetables. Often the crops that he sells are based on the season when they are grown. See Market page 16



Pershing's garden sponsor and Farmer's Market mentor Mr. Coursey.