



City Currents

Spring 2017



West University's Library Improvements Make Life a Necessity!



West University's \$300,000 Renovation to Library Building Ensures Safety of Patrons

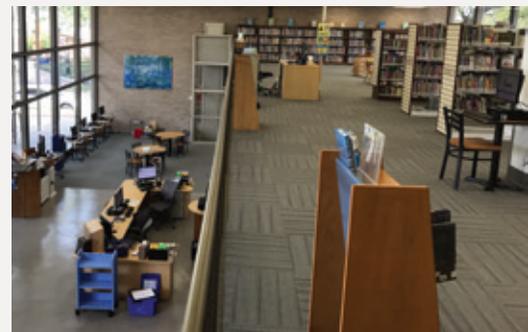
In 2016, the West University Place City Council approved funds to complete long overdue renovations to the library building, which had seen little work since it originally opened in 1963. As many of you know, the City of West University owns the library building itself, but the services housed in this building are provided by the Harris County Public Library. In essence, West University is the landlord and Harris County is the tenant.

The recent improvements were completed in early February by the City: workers removed flooring containing asbestos; installed a fire alarm and suppression system; replaced stair railings to comply with current city code; enlarged restrooms to make them compliant with the American with

Disabilities Act; installed new hardware on exterior doors for use during emergencies; and installed a second floor fire escape as well as new flooring, lighting and ceiling.

The Harris County Public Library is also using this opportunity to make improvements of its own—upgrading technology infrastructure (to improve network speed and reliability) and replacing furniture throughout the building.

On many occasions, I have been asked this question: Why are we spending the money on these improvements before deciding the future of the building? My answer is simple: these improvements provide for the safety and security of our residents while the community's future needs and desire for a library are considered.



From Council Member Mardi Turner



Security cameras have long been an effective crime-fighting tool. They have successfully served as a deterrent and also as a forensic tool to solve crimes after they occur. Continued interest has resulted

in funding for a pilot network of cameras at locations yet to be determined.

The new security cameras will be a “passive” system used to locate suspect vehicles after a crime is reported. The camera functions will include license plate recognition, the same technology already used in our police patrol vehicles. Cameras so equipped will scan license plates and notify officers of stolen vehicles, amber alerts, and more, using special proprietary technology to accomplish this, along with high speed, real-time communications to transfer data from the various camera locations. Each intersection where cameras are located will have

two cameras for each lane of travel—one color photograph camera and one infrared camera. The cameras will record the exterior of vehicles for the purpose of capturing license plate images. With the exception of emergency situations or special circumstances, there will be no live monitoring of the system.

All images captured in this system will create a searchable data base of license plates that can be used as an investigative tool to help narrow possible leads for crimes in given areas.

While we're on the subject of technology—did you know that West U has a pretty cool website feature where you can submit a question, complaint or compliment, or report a problem? The website is www.westutx.gov/350/Click-West-U. There are also iPhone and Android apps that support the same function. The site is designed to provide our residents with a “virtual city hall,” giving you the opportunity to access City Hall 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Social media is great for sharing news, but if

you really want to know if you need a permit to replace your fence, this is the place to be.

And here's another “did you know”—are you aware we have a small park called Liberty Hill? It's located on Bissonnet, between College and Northwestern, identified by a series of planters and a large West University sign. This park is being completely refurbished, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of West University Parks. There will be a beautiful new travertine “West University Place” sign and new plantings everywhere.

I hope by the time this article comes out that we will be well on our way to establishing a design for the Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park at the corner of Sewanee and Pittsburg. It's been held up for a month or two to square away some legal details, but I think we're ready to start task force meetings again! If you are interested in receiving the task force updates, please send a note to myparks@westutx.gov.

City Council elections will take place on May 6, 2017. Don't forget to vote!



Opt in now to receive emergency notifications via home phone, cell phone, text message and/or email directly from the City of West University Place. Opting in is easy:

1. Text the phrase Swift911 to 99538, download the Swift911 public app on your cell phone, register your information, and select “West University Place” as your Home Publisher.

or

2. Go to www.westutx.gov/184/swift-911 and register via the Swift911 web portal

Once registered, you will have the opportunity to sign up for additional Swift911 subscription lists that you may find useful. These include:

- General Notifications (non-emergency alerts)
- Severe Weather Warnings
- Tornado Warnings

Once your account has been created, you can log back in at any time to update your contact information and add/remove yourself from available list subscriptions.

If you are in need of assistance in registering or you have any questions, please call (713) 662-5826.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to inform our residents quickly and efficiently!

Notice of the May 6, 2017, General Election

Registered voters of West University Place are encouraged to vote on May 6, 2017, in the general election to elect a Mayor and four Council Members.

When to vote on Election Day

Polling place will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Where to vote on Election Day

City Hall, 3800 University Boulevard

Candidates on the Ballot for Mayor

(In the order they will appear on the ballot)

Two-year term—Vote for none or one

- Susan Sample
- Sonny Brandtner
- Greg J. Micek

Candidates on the Ballot for Council

(In the order they will appear on the ballot)

Two-year term—Vote for none, one, two, three or four

- Burt Ballanfant
- Mardi Turner
- Kellye Burke
- Dick Yehle
- Wayne J. Franklin
- Michael Kaplan
- Bruce Beneke
- Bob Higley

Important Dates

April 6: Last Day to Register to Vote and Change Address

Last day to register with the Harris County Registrar to vote in this election or for requesting a transfer of registration to vote in West University Place. Contact the Harris County Clerk's Office at (713) 755-6965 or visit www.harrisvotes.com.

April 20: Deadline to Submit Application for Ballot by Mail (in person by 5:00 pm)

Application for Ballot by Mail must be delivered at City Hall in person no later than the close of business.

April 25: Deadline to Submit Application for Ballot by Mail (by mail by 5:00 pm)

Application for Ballot by Mail must be received at City Hall by mail no later than the close of business.

April 24 – May 2: Early Voting by Personal Appearance

If you do not have time on Election Day to vote, you can stop by City Hall (3800 University Boulevard) and vote early. The hours the polls will be open are:

April 24 – 27 and May 2: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

April 28 and May 1: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Contact City Secretary Thelma Gilliam at (713) 662-5813 or at tgilliam@westutx.gov for more information and/or to obtain this and other election information in Spanish.

Comuníquese con la Secretaria de la Ciudad Thelma Gilliam al (713) 662-5813 o en tgilliam@westutx.gov para obtener más información y/o para obtener esta y otra información electoral en español.

Parks and Recreation

Friends of West U Parks

Over 650 guests attended the 26th annual Park Lovers' Ball on February 18, themed "Masquerade in the Park." A celebratory ambience was prevalent throughout the evening as friends and neighbors enjoyed visiting with one another, sipping on cocktails, trying their hand at the Whiskey Blackjack game, winning bottles of wine in the Wine Pull and using mobile bidding (a first for the ball) on the auction items. There was a lot of "winning" to be had as there were more than 280 fabulous packages and items in the auction. Attendees also made sure they had their "blinky rings" for the must-play Heads or Tails game sponsored by Claudette Toomey



Peyton Popp, Anna Stewart,
Sami Morrison, Donna LaMond

of Taylor Real Estate. The grand prize was a yeti cooler loaded with goodies from St. Arnold's Brewery. Everyone appeared to enjoy the fun and exciting vibe of this ever popular community event.

This year's Park Lovers' Ball Co-chairs, Sami and Jud Morrison and Peyton and Alex Popp, left no detail of the evening overlooked. The décor was beyond amazing, thanks to our talented board member Mitra Woody, our Décor Chair. The Live Auction kept the excitement alive in the ballroom with a Texans #1 Fan Game Day Experience, a one-week stay in a gorgeous Breckenridge ski home, the Fathers & Flashlights VIP &

Mom's Night Out package and a Jeff Bagwell autographed Houston Astros framed jersey just to name a few. The Big Board boasted fabulous packages such as a Pappy Van Winkle's Family Reserve Bourbon (23 years old), a Lake McQueeney getaway, a Round Top getaway and an Arnold Palmer autographed Master flag.

The evening's program included a salute to Tim O'Connor on his retirement from his position as West U Parks and Recreation Director effective February 28, 2017. The rest of the evening was spent dancing to the energizing tunes of Dysfunkshun Junkshun. A grand time was had by all who attended, thanks to the hard work and passion of the event Chairs, their leadership committee and all of the wonderful dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the ball.

Sami and Jud Morrison and Peyton and Alex Popp would like to thank all who attended Park Lovers' Ball 2017. They would also like to thank all of the generous sponsors and underwriters including The Woman's Hospital of Texas, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Cara and Chad Michael, Jane and Harry Pefanis, Reed Smith LLP/Carol M. Burke, Mandy Rochelle Designs, Elite Care Emergency Center Rice Village and Kristine Martinez, Realtor, John Daugherty Realtors. For a complete listing of the sponsors and underwriters who helped us raise much needed funds for our parks, please visit the Friends website at www.westuparks.org.

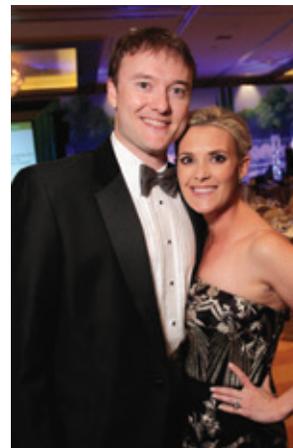
Stay tuned for information on the 11th annual Fathers & Flashlights campout on the fields surrounding West University



Tree marker presented to Tim O'Connor for his newly planted tree at Colonial Park, a retirement gift from Friends.

Elementary School. Event Co-chairs Alison and Gary Moorhead, Julia and Carl Williams, and Mitra and Josh Woody are busy planning another memorable campout for fathers and their children. The date will be announced soon for the always sold-out event. To be sure you do not miss the registration emails about the campout, sign up to receive Friends emails at www.westuparks.org.

To stay current on all Friends events and activities, please visit westuparks.org and sign up to receive Friends emails. Want to do your part for West U Parks? Want to get involved with Friends? Questions? Please call (713) 662-7430, email DLaMond@westutx.gov, or stop by the Friends of West U Parks office located in the West U Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire Boulevard.



Peyton and Alex Popp



Sami and Jud Morrison

Colonial Park Pool

Members Only Weekend at Colonial Park Pool

Join us for a special Colonial Park Pool Members Only weekend! Welcome the start of the spring/summer 2017 pool season by attending this special weekend dedicated to our VIP customers. You must have a Colonial Park Pool 2017 membership to join the kickoff party on Saturday, **April 29**, from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm and Sunday, **April 30**, from 12:00 – 7:00 pm. Don't have a membership yet? Purchase your membership in advance at the West University Place Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire Boulevard (pre-sales available now), or at the door to get into the party!

Colonial Park Pool opens to the general public for weekends on Saturday, **May 6**. Don't forget your swimsuit!

For a complete operational schedule of Colonial Park Pool spring and summer hours, log onto www.westutx.gov/Colonial.

Mom's Spa Day

All West U resident mothers are invited to relax and enjoy a special day out at Colonial Park Pool on Sunday, **May 21**, from 9:30 – 11:30 am! Come out to enjoy a kid-free morning by the pool, complete with breakfast, facials and mimosas. Each mother will get the opportunity to win raffle prizes, and all will leave with their own Mother's Day gift, courtesy of the West U Parks and Recreation Department. The event is limited to the first 60 registrants. Priority and complimentary registration for 2017 Colonial Park Pool members begins April 1. General registration begins April 15. The event is \$10 for resident non-members and \$15 for non-resident guests. For information about registering for this event, please call (713) 662-7420 or go to www.westutx.gov/events.

Note: Colonial Park Pool will open to the public at 12:00 pm after the event!

Ice Cream Social

Colonial Park Pool members are invited to enjoy the end of the 2016 – 2017 school year at Colonial Park Pool on Friday, **May 26**, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Celebrate with music and complimentary sundaes after last day of school. This event is exclusive to 2017 Colonial Park Pool members, no exceptions.

Party on the Patio Concert Series

Get ready to enjoy a fantastic lineup with some of Houston's best-known bands! West U's very own band Dee Dee & Mike and the Moondance Band kick off the first Party on the Patio concert of the season at Colonial Park Pool on **June 2**. Co-sponsored by the Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. and the City of West University Place, concerts will be held on four consecutive Fridays in June from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on the Colonial Park Deck, 4130 Byron. Blankets and lawn chairs are permitted, and concessions will be available for purchase from Prince's Hamburgers. Party on the Patio is a complimentary concert event for West U residents and their guests. If you wish to swim, regular pool admission is required. Please visit the Parks & Recreation Special Events page on the website at www.westutx.gov/events for a complete schedule or call (713) 662-7420 for more information.

June 2: Dee Dee & Mike and the Moondance Band

June 9: Yelba's Variety Band

June 16: The Fab 5

June 23: The Trey Clark Band

Lifeguard Certification Courses

Are you 15 or older and looking for a great summer job, after-school activity or a challenging career in aquatics? Lifeguarding puts you in an exciting position, working as part of a team to help people safely enjoy the water. Lifeguarding will help you develop skills and experiences that will be valued by colleges and future employers. All participants must pass a prerequisite skills swimming test prior to taking the class; the test will be administered a week before class starts. Three class sessions will be offered on Saturday and Sunday.

April 1 – 2, 8:00 am – 6:30 pm
(prerequisite March 25, 8:00 – 11:00 am)

April 29 – 30, 8:00 am – 6:30 pm
(prerequisite April 13, 8:00 – 11:00 pm)

The price is \$170 for residents and \$195 for non-residents, plus a \$35 online fee required by the American Red Cross. For more information about this class, please call the Recreation Center at (713) 662-7420 or visit our website at www.westutx.gov/reg.

Music Under the Stars: Classical Concert Series

Each concert is an informal event designed for newcomers and symphony enthusiasts alike. Remember to bring a blanket and picnic basket for an evening of classical music in the park. You will be entertained by some of the finest classical ensembles in the Houston area. For more information, call (713) 662-7420 or go to www.westutx.gov.

Colonial Park under the Pavilion
April 7, 21 and 28, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Summer Registration Dates

West U summer programs are here! Are you looking to continue your favorite programs that you have participated in within the past 30 days? Then take advantage of priority registration, which starts **April 4** at 5:00 am at the West University Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire Boulevard. *(Priority registration is not available online.) If you are looking to try something new and you are a West U resident, registration opens **April 11**, 5:00 am. If you don't live in West U, but you still want to try our amazing programs, then come on over; we'd love to have you! Registration for non-residents starts, on **April 13**, 5:00 am. Both resident and non-resident registration is available in person at the West U Recreation Center or online! Check out all of the programs in advance and register at www.westutx.gov/reg. Space is limited in many classes, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Looking for a summer job?

The West University Recreation Center is hiring part-time employees. The positions available are Customer Service Representative, Swim Instructor and Lifeguard. If you are interested in great starting pay, flexible schedules, a team atmosphere, the potential for advancement and a fun place to work, then West U is the place for you! For more information, call (713) 662-7420, visit www.westutx.gov, or pick up an application at the Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire Boulevard.

Safety and Public Works

An Ounce of Prevention

Contending with the criminal behavior of others has challenged our communities and our law enforcement entities throughout history. Even as proactive measures in the detection and apprehension of the criminal element have evolved, the practice of crime prevention has always remained among the most effective methods utilized in combatting this social issue.

Burglary of motor vehicles and incidents of identity theft/fraud are the two most frequently reported crimes we as a community contend with. Those of you who have fallen victim to either one of these crimes know full well the frustration and inconveniences faced when having to deal with these types of situations and the efforts in clearing them up.

Fortunately for us, both of these types of crimes are preventable to some degree through the implementation of the following crime prevention measures:

Burglary of Motor Vehicles

- Remove items of value. Leaving items such as purses, wallets, laptops, and even your phone inside your vehicle makes your vehicle a likely target.
- Remove firearms or any indication of firearm possession/ownership from your vehicle. There are many ways criminals come into possession of firearms, and people leaving them unattended inside of a vehicle is one of the most common ways. Leaving boxes of ammunition or empty holsters inside, and displaying decals of weapon manufacturers on bumpers or windows only enhances the probability of your vehicle becoming a target.
- Lock your vehicle. A vast majority of the vehicles that were targeted were unlocked.

Identity Theft / Fraud

- Check your credit report on a regular basis. Checking your report is very easy and allows you to review your accounts and look for credit inquires. If your name and identifying information are being used by someone else, this is normally where the information will show up first.
- Pay close attention to your credit card and bank statements. Go a step further than just paying the bill or checking the bottom line. Pay close attention to the charges and transactions made to see if someone has tapped into your account. In an effort to avoid detection, most fraudulent activities take place in small increments that will most likely be overlooked.
- Consider the use of credit / bank account monitoring services.
- Limit the type and amount of information you make available to others. Take the time to question and verify the need for sharing your identifying and financial information. If you did not initiate contact with the person asking you to provide this type of information, the chances of your becoming a victim are extremely high.

Consider this information when taking active measures to reduce your risks and exposure to the criminal element. Also take the initiative in meeting and getting to know your neighbors, as they are always your first line of defense when crime occurs close to home. Look out for one another and report all suspicious activity to the West University Place Police Department immediately.

Quiet Hours and Noise Ordinance: What You Should Know!

Spring is around the corner, and soon the days will be getting longer and the nights shorter. As residents start to enjoy the longer days, we ask you to be considerate of your neighbors with activities that cause noise.

The City has established “Quiet Hours,” which means certain noisy activities are limited during these following hours:

Monday – Friday	8:00 pm – 7:00 am
Saturday	8:00 pm – 8:00 am
Sunday and Holidays	8:00 pm – 12:00 noon

Building and lawn care activities are also limited during these established hours, which generally includes noise generating activities, such as compressor use, sawing, nailing, mowing, tree and plant trimming using power tools, edging, leaf and grass clippings blowing, and other unreasonable noises.

Other noise producing activities (such as talking, basketball bouncing, swimming, skateboarding, etc.) are not specifically prohibited during quiet hours. The neighborly and considerate thing is to be aware of the noise levels your activities produce and adjust them accordingly.

The City wishes you a happy spring and summer!



The Unsung Hero of Recycling

Yard waste is the unsung hero! When you put your yard waste curbside in a compostable bag (either the kraft paper bags or the plastic compostable bags certified by the City of Houston), or set out tree and hedge clippings or limbs in untied (bundles in stacks no longer than 4 foot long) on your recycling day, you are a hero for keeping all of it from going to the landfill and helping save a part of the planet!



And when all your neighbors do the same, it can equal about 15 or more tons of waste that is not going to the landfill every week!

Since the City restarted the yard waste recycling program in March 2016, the City's residents have diverted approximately 715 tons of yard waste from the landfill (March 2016 – January 2017).

Note: It is anticipated that once the program has been up and running for 18 months, the results will assist in better estimating future tonnage.

So where does it go? The City's Public Works Department takes all this good organic material to Living Earth, where specialized equipment turns it into mulch to be used in parks, medians and other areas.

The City has used numerous methods to educate its residents on the City's requirements regarding yard waste recycling, including educational articles, e-mail blasts and leaving notices at homes that were not complying with proper yard waste placement requirements.

Yes, this is yard waste	No, this is not!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> branches leaves dead/old flowers christmas trees (seasonal) grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> man-made stuff, household trash food animal waste dirt, rocks or construction items

If you don't want to recycle your yard waste, you can turn it into backyard compost which is FREE and EASY! When you compost, you're tapping into the natural nutrient cycle. In nature, organic waste from plants is recycled by decomposition. Composting is controlling that decomposition to speed it up and produce a stable and odorless material for plants to use to grow healthy and strong.

Composting your kitchen scraps (no meat or animal products) and yard waste at home can provide good quality mulch for use in your yard and garden (and it's cheaper than buying mulch from the store). Minimal effort is required for success.

For more yard waste information, please visit www.westutx.gov/greenwaste or call the Public Works Department at (713) 662-5839 or email pwinfo@westutx.gov

Do I Need a Permit?

This is one of the main questions we receive, and typically it is asked after the work has already started. The reason a permit is required is to ensure that the work being done meets the Building Code. Failure to obtain permits can lead to the work being stopped and in some cases being removed.

A comment we hear from residents all the time is that the contractor said I didn't need a permit, that it will cost too much or will slow down the work. Neither is true. Permit fees are reasonable and cover the cost of inspection and we can typically complete the inspections the day after initial request.

Below is a list of the most common work that requires a permit:

Interior

- Any additions
- Any demolition
- New/ close up space replacement windows
- Removing or relocating walls
- New window or door openings

Exterior

- New Fence or replacement of more than 10 feet of an existing fence
- New roof or replacement of more than 200 square feet of an existing roof
- Outdoor kitchens
- New concrete walks, driveways, patios or retaining walls
- Siding
- Decks
- Porches
- Gazebos
- Awnings
- Drainage systems
- Fixed playground equipment
- Basketball goals
- Pools/Spas
- Lawn irrigation
- Fountains
- Flagpoles
- Storage pods

Plumbing

- New plumbing except for fixtures in the same location
- Relocating existing plumbing
- Whirlpool tub, sauna, or shower
- Water heaters

Electrical

- New electrical work except replacing outlets or fixtures in the same location
- New electrical service or panel
- Generators
- Solar panels

HVAC

- Any work on A/C – furnace, coils, condenser or ducts

Commercial

- Commercial occupancy
- Commercial build-out
- Signs

If you do not see your item listed or if you have a question, please contact the Public Works Department at (713) 662-5839.

City Currents

A Newsletter for the citizens of
City of West University Place

Spring 2017



City of West University Place
3800 University Blvd.
West University Place, TX 77005

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CITY OF WEST U OFFICIALS

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS Mayor Susan Sample
Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Kelly
Burt Ballanfant
Brennan Reilly
Mardi Turner

CITY MANAGER Chris Peifer
cpeifer@westutx.gov

GENERAL INFORMATION (713) 668-4441

CITY WEBSITE www.westutx.gov

City Currents is a quarterly publication
and is printed on recycled paper.

For questions and comments about *City Currents*,
contact Anna Evelyn at (713) 662-5812 or
aevelyn@westutx.gov.

Design by Minor Design

Public Works releases new “West U Collects” web and mobile services app!

Whether you use the internet on a computer, tablet or smart phone, the new “West U Collects” app makes it easier to find out information about your trash, recycling, yard waste and bulk trash collection and street sweeper schedule.

This new service provides you with the following options:

- Search using your address to find out your schedule for trash, recycling, yard waste and bulk trash collection and street sweeping.
- Use a simple search feature to find out where to dispose of or recycle items not collected curbside.
- Receive notifications on your smart phone. (App only)
- Sign up for service reminders by email, phone call and/or text message. (Service sign-up through website only)
- Download the service schedule into your personal iCal, Google or Microsoft Outlook calendar. (Service sign-up through website only)
- Print out your personalized collection schedule.

How to Sign Up:

Website Only:

1. Visit www.westutx.gov/westucollects
2. Under the “My Schedule” tab, enter a home address for access and review of the service calendar.
3. Click the “Get a reminder” tab to select a method of service reminders and whether you want to download or print your calendar.

App Store: (Available for Apple and Android)

Search “West U Collects” in your app store and look for the icon shown here at the right. You can select to receive a notification at a specified time on the day before or the day of collection.



Having trouble finding the app or have other questions on trash or recycling? Contact our Public Works Department at (713) 662-5839 or email us at pwinfo@westutx.gov.

SAVE THE DATE! Paper Shredding / E-Waste / Mattress Collection Event

WHEN: Saturday May 6, 2017
WHERE: 3826 Milton Street
HOURS: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Shredding is limited to five (5) banker boxes per household. No business or commercial shredding is accepted. This event is open to West University Place residents only. Proof of residency is required.