



City Currents

Summer 2018





Just in time for fall, West U will have a wonderful new park for residents to enjoy! Thanks to the generous bequest of lifelong resident James Hughes and additional development funding from the Friends of West U Parks Fund, Inc., the property at 6446 Sewanee will be the latest gem in West U's Park system. The 15,000-square-foot passive park is named in memory of Mr. Hughes' mother, Jennie Elizabeth, and it is located in the perfect spot — a sector identified in the 2015 Parks and Open Space Master Plan as one in need of a park within a ½ mile walking distance from residents' homes.

City staff and its consultant met with a 19-member citizen Task Force composed of neighbors, Parks/Friends/Senior Board members, and various user groups met over a 10-month period to develop a concept for the new park. In addition, a Town Hall meeting was held and all residents had an opportunity to provide input. This process resulted in a concept, which pays homage to one of Mr. Hughes' favorite pastimes of sitting underneath his backyard gazebo.

The marquee entry at the corner of Pittsburg and Sewanee sets the tone for this lovely park by respecting the quiet nature of this park while serving the community's needs by adding a large amount of unstructured, open greenspace which has been identified as a high priority by West U residents. You enter the main entry through a covered front porch complete with a ceiling fan, recessed lighting, and four rocking chairs looking out to a central lawn with 8,000 square feet of open greenspace. In addition, the park features a dry-stream bed with a button-activated water feature, four benches, five log seats, a picnic table, twelve new trees, a donor area, and beautiful landscaping enhancements. Thoughtful consideration was given to the neighboring properties with the incorporation of an eight-foot wooden fence and tall hedge along the park perimeter. The park will have unobtrusive moon lighting in the trees to provide pedestrians with a view into the park after dark.



From Council Member Wayne J. Franklin



Summer has arrived in West University Place! For many of us in West U, summer is a time to relax and unwind from the busy pace of work and school. Our city offers some fantastic ways to enjoy some family time and also “beat the heat.” The Colonial Park Pool summer season is off to a great start, and the highlight will be the Independence Day Pool Party immediately following the Bike Parade on July 4. The pool is open daily until August 24 and weekends through September 15. New to Colonial Pool this summer, families will notice Jami’s Fine Foods, which will offer fresh and healthy poolside food options. Please see the Colonial Pool website for more details, www.westutx.gov/colonial. More options for summer activities around the city can be found in the Parks and Recreation Summer 2018 Activity Guide, also known as “West U At Your Leisure.” Here, you will find options from swim classes for all ages, to day camps, to jazzercise, to yoga ... something for everyone! Lastly, the City again offers the “Dive in Movies”, the popular family-friendly movie series that takes place Fridays July 27 and August 3 at Colonial Park Pool’s West End.

While many West U families plan to travel out of town in the summer, the security of our homes and neighborhood is always high priority. One thing that the City has undertaken is the installation of police cameras. The planning and design of this “virtual gate,” as it has been called, has been ongoing since 2017. Over the next two years (or less), you will notice the installation of cameras along every major entry and exit point in and around West U. These cameras will have license plate readers that automatically monitor and analyze data 24 hours a day and will send an alert to the West U Police Department if a plate matches a person or vehicle that they are looking for. This should add to our peace of mind knowing that our Police Department is using the latest in modern technology in order to help prevent and fight crime.

Construction is underway for the City’s new park, Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park, the greenspace on the corner of Sewanee Ave and Pittsburg St. Please also see Mayor Sample’s article on Hughes park from this same issue. The City Council recently approved the use of funds raised by the nonprofit board, Friends of West University Parks Fund, Inc. (www.westuparks.org). In addition, the Council approved the latest plans for the new park’s layout, a blend of the preferences from the Hughes family and input from the Hughes Park Citizens’ Task Force advisory group. I think the new park will be a wonderful new addition to our City and provide an enjoyable greenspace that everyone may use for years to come.

Have fun this summer!

Parks and Recreation

Friends of West U Parks



William and Jennifer Swallen and Jennifer and Daniel Blum, 2018 Star Citizens



The Williams, Moorhead and Woody Families

Star Citizen Awards were presented at the May 9 Friends board meeting and annual appreciation luncheon hosted by the City of West University Place held at Cyclone Anaya's in Rice Village. Mayor Susan Sample presented awards to Jennifer and Daniel Blum and Jennifer and William Swallen for co-chairing Park Lovers' Ball 2018, held last February, which raised well over \$400,000 for our parks.

October 20 and 21 is the weekend for the next highly anticipated Fathers & Flashlights campout known throughout our community and beyond.



Since its inaugural year in 2007, the campout has become instrumental in raising funds for the continued improvement and development of West U parks while also providing a great opportunity for fathers and their children to spend some quality time together. Campers can look forward to an afternoon of fun activities, such as live catch-and-release fishing, obstacle courses, a bungee run and some new activities and entertainment this year. Thank you

to Friends underwriters, sponsors and in-kind donors who make this event possible. Alison and Gary Moorhead, Julia and Carl Williams, and Mitra and Josh Woody are the returning event co-chairs for Fathers & Flashlights 2018. "We are excited to have these amazing couples to again co-chair one of the neighborhoods' most popular events," says Friends Executive Director Donna LaMond. Registration for the campout will be online only. To be eligible to participate in the event as a camper, you must be zoned to attend West University Elementary School or be an underwriter or sponsor at qualifying levels. Returning 2017 camper registration will be online only in August; the date will be announced soon. New camper registration will also be online. Registration details will be emailed and available on the Friends website, www.westuparks.org. To receive any Fathers & Flashlights information and other Friends emails, please visit the Friends website and sign up for emails. If you have received emails in the past from Friends and your email address has changed, please email or call the Friends office with updates at (713) 662-7430 or email Donna LaMond at DLaMond@WestUTX.gov.

Park Lovers' Ball 2019 — Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 2, 2019. The ball will be held at Hilton Americas-Houston. Event chairs will be announced soon.

Friends fundraising continues year-round with community and business partnerships, memorials and honorariums, pavers, benches and tree sales. For more information, please visit the Friends website, www.westuparks.org, call (713) 662-7430 or stop by the Friends of West U Parks office located in the West U Rec Center, 4210 Bellaire Blvd.



Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. Appoints New Board Member

Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. is delighted to announce the appointment of Peyton Popp to the Friends' Board of Directors. Peyton was appointed to the Board at the April 26 City Council meeting.

Peyton and her family moved to West University Place six years ago primarily for the parks and to become part of a truly family-oriented community. She and her husband, Alex, have three children, Henry (6), Hadley (4) and Harper (2), all of whom can be found at Wier Park on a daily basis. While keeping up with her young kids is certainly a top priority, Peyton also dedicates time to various volunteer roles at each of her children's schools and volunteers at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Peyton served as the Park Lovers' Ball Co-Chair in 2017 and is thrilled to continue her involvement with Friends by serving on the board. Peyton has accepted a role as the social media chair and is part of the Public Relations team for the board.

"It is wonderful to have an energetic and talented person like Peyton willing to share her time with Friends," commented Donna LaMond, Friends Executive Director. "It never fails to amaze me about how passionately these volunteers approach Friends projects and events. Peyton did a magnificent job as Park Lovers' Ball Co-Chair in 2017. I am very proud of our Board and Friends in general. Such a dedicated group of volunteers!"

Special Events

Independence Day Bike Parade

Families and kids of all ages are invited to participate in the Independence Day Bike Parade on Wednesday, July 4. Decorate bicycles, tricycles and wagons! The parade lines up on University Boulevard in front of West U Elementary at 8:45 am. The parade begins promptly at 9:00 am, proceeding west on University, turning south on Academy, then heading west on Byron and ending at Colonial Park, 4130 Byron Street. There will be plenty of food, fun and festivities for everyone to enjoy. Games take place from 9:15 am – 12:00 pm at Colonial Park Pool. For more information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (713) 662-7420.

Members Only Dive-In Movie

The pool will close at 7:00 pm on Friday, July 20 and reopen at 7:30 pm for Colonial Park Pool Members Only Dive-In Movie, which will begin at 8:00 pm. All attendees must have a current Colonial Park Pool membership in order to enter the facility. Like other Dive-In Movies, the whole family can enjoy the movie from either the grass or the pool, but unlike other dive-in movies, members have it all to themselves.

Dive-In Movie Series

Join us at Colonial Park Pool from 8:00 – 10:00 pm on July 27 and August 3 for this year's Dive-in Movie Series. Enjoy a family-friendly movie from the grass or pool and grab a snack at the concessions. Admission to the movie will be complimentary, but if you or your children would like to enjoy the movie from the pool, regular pool admission fees do apply. For more information about scheduled movies, fees and event details please visit www.westutx.gov/events or call at Colonial Park Pool (713) 662-7460 or the West U Recreation Center at (713) 662-7420.

Halloween Dash and Kids Fun Run

Register now for the 8th annual West U Halloween Dash and Kids Fun Run on Saturday, October 27, 2018. The Dash is a chip-timed 5K race through the beautiful tree-lined streets of West U. The Kids Fun Run is a non-competitive 1 mile run or walk. All fun run finishers will receive a medal. Proceeds from the event benefit West U Parks and Recreation Department. You can register at www.westutx.gov/fun.

Looking for a Job?

Hey, you! Yes, you! The West University Recreation Center is hiring part-time employees. Positions available are Customer Service Team Member, 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 at 4210 Bellaire Blvd.

Events to Look Forward to

Full Moon Fest

Colonial Park, 4130 Byron at 5:30 pm
October 19

Movies in the Park

Colonial Park Pavilion, 4130 Byron at 7:00 pm
October 19, following Full Moon Fest!
October 26

Fall 2018 Class Registration

Discover a new craft or polish a skill for great benefits without investing a lot of time or money. Most fall classes begin in September. They include dance, tennis, pilates, yoga, swimming, gymnastics and so much more!

*Priority Registration

(for those currently enrolled in the same classes within the past 30 days)

Tuesday, July 24 – Monday, July 30

*online registration is not available

Resident Registration

Tuesday, July 31

Non-Resident Registration

Thursday, August 2

Complete your registration online at www.westutx.gov/reg or come by the Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire, to sign up. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, personal checks and cash are accepted. To view a copy of the fall "West U at Your Leisure" guide, visit www.westutx.gov/parks or call (713) 662-7420 for more information.

Facility Maintenance

Dates Subject to Change

The West University Place Recreation Center will be closed August 25 through September 3 for annual maintenance. Please also note the pool will tentatively close August 19 for re-plastering and remain closed until facility re-opens on September 3. Dates are subject to change, pending coordination with contractors.

West U Recreation Center swimming pool users may use the UTHealth Auxiliary Enterprises Recreation Center swimming pool, located at 7779 Knight Road in Houston, during the closure per our exchange agreement. You must show your valid West U Rec Center Membership Card for entry. Log onto www.uthouston.edu/recreation-center, or call (713) 500-8420 for hours and updated pool schedule information. Please note this exchange is for pool and locker room use and not valid for weight room, cardio room, racquetball membership or other areas of use.

During the closure, customers may call or visit Colonial Park Pool to sign up for classes, make tennis/racquetball/pavilion reservations, purchase memberships or get general Parks and Recreation information. Recreation Center staff will be temporarily relocated on site at Colonial Park Pool, 4130 Byron, to conduct day-to-day business during the closure week.

The West University Place Recreation Center will resume normal operational schedule at noon on September 3, 2018 (subject to change).

For more information, please visit www.westutx.gov or call:

- West U Rec Center: (713) 662-7420 (this number will be rolled over to Colonial Park Pool during the closure week)
- Colonial Park Pool: (713) 662-7460

Safety and Public Works

QUICK TIP!

Avoid a special collection fee for early/late placement

City staff is actively conducting enforcement every week (and on weekends) for early and late placement of trash, recycling and yard waste. Do you want to know how to avoid a special collection fee? It is as simple as knowing the proper curbside placement requirements.

All trash, recycling and yard waste must be placed curbside:

- No sooner than 6:00 pm the day before the scheduled collection day
- No later than 8:00 am the day of collection

Not sure of your collection schedule or need to share it with your lawn maintenance crew? Please visit www.westutx.gov/westucollects for more details.

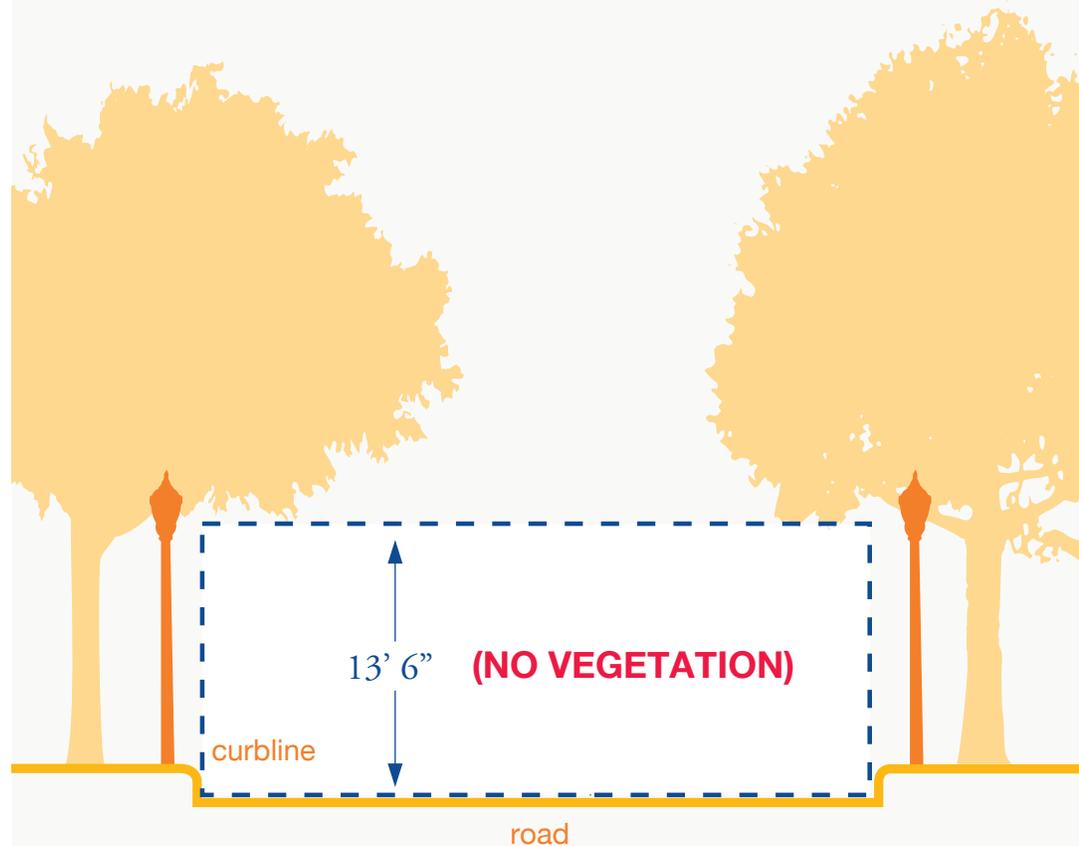
Still have questions? Contact our Public Works Dept at (713) 662-5839 or email us at pwinfo@westutx.gov.

Reminder to Trim Low Hanging Vegetation

Tree Height Clearance Over Roadways

The City requires a minimum clearance over the roadway of 13'-6" in. from curb to curb. Low hanging limbs over the roadway are dangerous to drivers and interfere with providing effective City services (i.e. paramedics, fire, trash/recycling collection and street sweeping).

Not sure how high 13'-6" is? A good rule of thumb is if vegetation growth is below the height of the streetlight globe located along your street, then they need to be trimmed.



We encourage residents to keep West U friendly for the motoring public by maintaining your trees and shrubs. Note that you may be assessed a fee (min. \$150) after being issued multiple warnings regarding proper maintenance of vegetation.

For more information, please contact the West U Public Works Department at (713) 662-5839 or email pwinfo@westutx.gov.

Stop Contaminating Your Recycling (and Everyone Else's)

Brought to you by the Recycling & Solid Waste Reduction Board and the Public Works Department

Do you know that you could be contributing to contaminating the recycling material that is collected curbside every week in West U? Products and packaging have become more complex over the last 15 years. More and more non-recyclables are finding their way into single-stream recycle bins. Contamination rates — or the percentage of trash mixed with recyclables — have steadily climbed over the years. While the contamination rate in West U is low when compared to the national average, it is still important to avoid contributing to the contamination rate as it significantly increases the cost to process recyclables.

It is time to get back to basics by following a few simple rules:

1. **Recycle all empty bottles cans, paper and cardboard.**
(plastic containers should be ♻️ 1 ♻️ 2 ♻️ 3 ♻️ 4 ♻️ 5 ♻️ 7 — do not include ♻️ 6 with other recyclables)
2. **Keep food and liquids out of your recycling.**
3. **Keep all plastic bags out of your recycling bin.**

ITEMS ACCEPTED



Aluminum and Steel Cans
Empty and rinse



Food and Beverage Cartons
Empty and replace cap



Bottles and Jars
Empty and rinse



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, and Flattened Cardboard



Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers
Empty and replace cap

NOT ACCEPTED



Do not bag recyclables; no garbage



No plastic bags
return to retail



No food or liquid
empty all containers



No clothing or linens
use donation programs



No tangles
(no hoses, wires, chains, or electronics)

Please ensure you are doing your part to avoid contamination in West U's recycling stream.

For more information, visit www.westutx.gov/recycle.

Still have questions? Contact our Public Works Department by calling (713) 662-5839 or email recycle@westutx.gov.

City Currents

A Newsletter for the citizens of
City of West University Place

Summer 2018



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

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CITY MANAGER Chris Peifer
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GENERAL INFORMATION (713) 668-4441

CITY WEBSITE www.westutx.gov

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For questions and comments about *City Currents*,
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aevelyn@westutx.gov.

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Don't Forget to Check Out the West U Collects App!

Visit www.westutx.gov/westucollects for all the details.

via Internet



www.westutx.gov/westucollects

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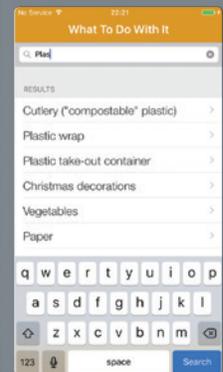
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Enter Your Address To:

- View collection calendars
- Set up service reminders
- Search the "What To Do With It" disposal/recycle guide



USE