

City Currents

Spring 2021



IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Election Information (Información electoral)</i>	<i>Pg. 5</i>
<i>New Fire Truck Coming to West U</i>	<i>Pg. 7</i>
<i>Buffalo Speedway Project Updates</i>	<i>Pg. 10</i>
<i>And More Helpful Information About Your City!</i>	

2021 Projects Working for West U Citizens

Spring is a time for growth and renewal, and the City of West University Place is continuing to develop through innovative projects to support the community. City Council and staff are working on transportation, public safety, and infrastructure initiatives to uphold residents' quality of life and to invest in the future of West U.

Water Reclamation

West University Place has implemented a recycling program since 1972. Building on this history of environmental stewardship, on April 26, the City Council will award a contract to begin preliminary design work on the Effluent Water Reclamation Project. This project will treat and divert wastewater for safe, non-potable uses outside of the city limits, which will help conserve the region's water supply and reduce West U's impact on the Buffalo Bayou watershed.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

As part of the City's five-year Community Improvement Plan, on April 12, the City Council will allocate \$1.8 million for design work for improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project builds on the 2019 Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan as part of the City's long-term plan to enhance infrastructure and service delivery for residents. These improvements will optimize the treatment process, ensure that the City exceeds all standards of filtration and flood prevention.

Virtual Gate

The City is continuing to move forward with the Virtual Gate Project, an initiative to install security cameras at strategic locations around the city's perimeter. Phase I is nearing completion, with seven of 15 cameras installed within the City limits. After this initial period, Phase II will involve the installation of 25 additional camera locations. This system will help to deter criminals and aid in solving crime. For more information on this project, please visit www.westutx.gov/virtualgate.

Buffalo Speedway Rehabilitation

This \$35 million project involves the complete resurfacing of the 65-year-old roadway over its course from Bissonnet Street to West Holcombe Boulevard, along with associated drainage improvements. This project broke ground in March at the drainage system's outfall on Poor Farm Ditch, south of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Drainage and road work within the city limits is expected to begin by October.

Also, in March, at the city's north end, replacement of the water line along the east side of Buffalo Speedway began at Bissonnet Street. This rehabilitation project will improve drainage for homeowners in the Buffalo Speedway area and mitigate future disruptions for all drivers who use this arterial roadway. For more information on this project, please visit www.westutx.gov/buffalo.

Traffic Study

In 2020, the City Council commissioned a Citywide Speed and Safety Traffic Study. After a delay caused by decreased traffic as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council received the study results and recommendations from the traffic engineers at the Council's meeting on April 12. This study will inform decisions about the implementation of traffic-calming measures and speed limit adjustments to promote public safety.

From the Mayor's Desk

Thank You, West U: Four Years of Public Service

Dear Neighbors,

It has been a tremendous honor for me to serve as a Council Member, then as Mayor during the past four years. Working alongside this extraordinarily talented Council was the epitome of how a democratically elected body should function alongside its equally essential service model partner at City Hall. We worked together at a quick-march pace for these 24 months – finding opportunities to make improvements for the community in many areas.

West U City Council consists of the mayor and four Council members. So, how did these five individuals manage to accomplish so much, under such extraordinary conditions, in just 24 months? In brief, we wasted no time in planning our work, and we worked cooperatively to arrive at unanimous votes. We closely examined every issue, while staying true to our mission – which is to always put the taxpaying homeowners of West U at the center of every decision. We have continuously worked hard for all of the citizens of West University Place.



Mayor Bob Higley

Public Safety

We all know that we are fortunate to call West U home. What we value most are our city's small-town feel and its safe atmosphere.

These values were tested over the past two years, however, as the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to distance ourselves from our neighbors – even as we braced, time after time, against the threat of hurricanes, and, most recently, endured a freezing winter storm that left many of our homes without power. In response to these challenges, this Council continued to place the safety of West U homeowners and their families first. This included directing staff to, for the first time, open the Rec Center as a warming center in order to help hundreds of families escape the freezing temperatures.

Additionally, this Council has authorized the purchase of a new, much-improved high-water vehicle, along with a new fire truck for West University Place. The Council has also directed the installation of the Virtual Gate security camera system around the city to assist our police and emergency services. Collectively, these investments will help protect homeowners and their property from harm, ensuring that our city continues to be a special place to live.

West U does not exist in a bubble, and none of us gets a free pass on public safety. We must continue to respond fast and hard to invasion by natural and criminal elements. We and our property values will suffer if we lose our edge. It takes a village to keep everyone safe.

Tax Dollars Working for You

During my term as mayor, the City Council has consistently emphasized revitalizing fiscal responsibility as a high priority – thus protecting our credit rating, lowering taxes when homeowners need relief, and ensuring that all homeowners receive maximum value from every tax dollar.

In 2020, this Council lowered our property tax rate for the first time in three years. Again in 2021, we lowered the tax rate for the second year in a row. Now, for the encore: this was in addition to avoiding increases in water, sewer, or solid waste fees. All of this was achieved at a time when many other cities in the area had to raise taxes to compensate for lost revenue. This application of budget discipline is one way to create lasting value for West U!

Infrastructure Improvements

In addition to short-term goals, this Council has maintained focus on the long-term success of West U. This includes approving a \$27 million bond program in 2020 to fund infrastructure projects that will benefit the community, such as the replacement of Buffalo Speedway and the preliminary design work for comprehensive citywide streets and drainage improvements. These projects will improve transportation and also mitigate flooding for generations to come.

Quality of Life

Can we prove that West University Place is the “best small town in America”? This Council and City staff continue to work hard to uphold our quality of life and to ensure that our property values remain proof positive that West U is a great place to live.

On this Council's watch, the City has completed improvements to the Colonial Park pool and playground, and to Whitt Johnson Park. In March of this year, we also approved the redevelopment of Huffington Park to further support our city's family-friendly atmosphere.

Going further, our City Council also proudly reaffirmed our community's values by establishing Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an official City of West University Place holiday. In addition, we made common-sense updates to our Code of Ordinances in a variety of areas, including revisions to our lighting and noise ordinances.

Thanks to the Council and the Community

As this will be the last newsletter published as mayor, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you, my bosses, and the dedicated Council and City staff – for your assistance, diligence, care, and support during my term.

On a personal note, my wife Laura and I have a shared appreciation for your willingness to allow us the privilege to serve all of our friends and neighbors in West U. This lovely city has been our “home base” for almost 50 years. Laura and I have always prayed that, whenever it is time for us to leave West U, that we will leave this city better than when we found it, having done no harm. In the years to come, we look forward to our continued participation in the positive growth of our beloved West University Place.

A Message from Council Member John Barnes

West U is unquestionably a great place to live, but it is not an inexpensive one. While many West U citizens are in the upper echelon of income earners, we have just as many who live on fixed incomes, are single parents, are small business owners, or are paying off student loans. And, as with the rest of the country, the City has residents who have lost employment or found their incomes considerably reduced in the past year and wonder what the future holds for them. Though high property values fund the excellent services and amenities that our City provides, in any year, the arrival of the annual tax bill forces a good number of our residents, both new arrivals and those who have been here for decades, to wonder just how much longer they will be able to continue to live here. As such, the funds taken from our taxpayers are not a “bucket of money” to be used at will, but rather a sacred public trust, of which the City’s elected officials must ever be watchful guardians.

That, more than anything, is why Council is committed to being diligent stewards of the taxpayers’ money, even declining the compensation provided for under the City’s ordinances, and why I am proud of what our City has been able to achieve over the past two years. In spite of new state laws imposing unfunded mandates and either capping or eliminating revenues, our City has continued to move forward to make sure that it can continue to deliver the high standard of service and quality of life that our citizens rightly expect. Though there are many examples, notable achievements include the following:

Heightening neighborhood security through the implementation of the Virtual Gate program in partnership with the City of Houston.

Revising our Code of Ordinances to address long-standing issues affecting quality of life, including noise and light pollution.

Expanding recreational programming to include virtual classes and events.

Enhancing amenities at Colonial and Whitt Johnson Parks, and throughout our parks system.

Initiating long-needed capital improvements, including replacement of major components at the wastewater treatment plant and the design and implementation of substantial upgrades to our drainage system to safeguard residents’ homes and mitigate future flooding.

Overhauling our City’s employee compensation system to increase our ability to recruit and retain the best and brightest.

All of the foregoing projects were accomplished in spite of the financial impact of COVID, and while still delivering both a balanced budget and a lowered effective tax rate for each of the past two years.

This achievement was not easy, as it involved the collective sacrifice of thousands upon thousands of hours on the part of many people in addition to the members of your Council, including the citizen volunteers on our civic boards and commissions and our City’s incredible staff, all of whom went way above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of our residents. Nor was the process always pleasant, as both legal constraints and sound fiscal policy sometimes required us to say “no” in whole or in part to causes that we would otherwise like to be able to support. But it was the right thing to do, and it has set this City on an even better and more secure course for the future, and for that we should all feel proud. For more information, residents should visit the City’s 2021 Budget page, which may be found at the following link: <http://www.westutx.gov/2021budget>.



City Spotlight

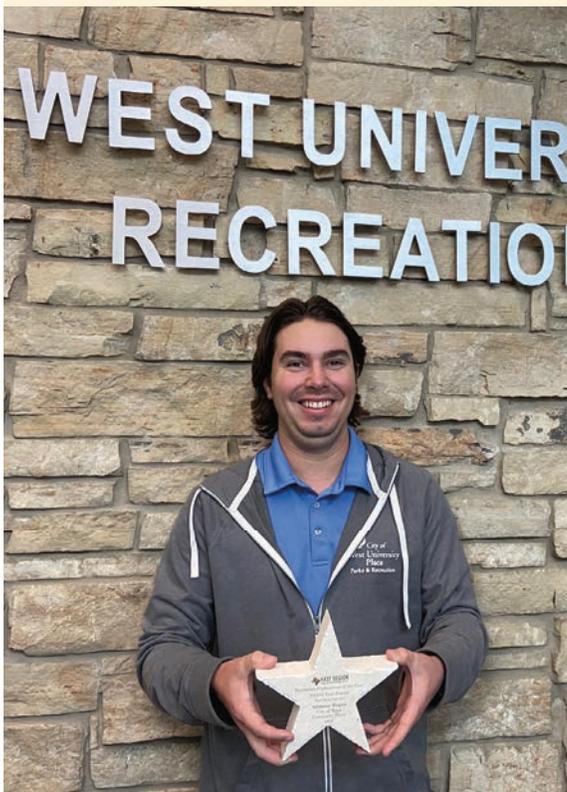
Meet West University Police Department's New Community Resource Officer

Get to Know Katie Wilson

Katie Wilson has served 12 years with the West University Police Department and has recently transitioned into the role of Community Resource Officer, where her responsibilities include - providing safety and crime prevention resources to the community through programs, presentations, and events. In this role, Katie serves as the liaison between the Police Department and the public. Katie said, "I look forward to creating meaningful relationships with the citizens of the community, while providing educational programs, resources, and crime prevention tips to enhance the safety and quality of life for the residents."



“ I look forward to creating meaningful relationships with the citizens of the community...”



West U Parks and Recreation Staff Member Brings Home the Gold

TRAPS East Region Names Hagan as Recreation Professional of the Year

The Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) East Region has named Anthony Hagan, Assistant Recreation Manager, as the Recreation Professional of the Year. Recipients of this award must have made an outstanding contribution to their department or community, or have been responsible for exemplary advancement of the recreation and parks profession. Anthony has fulfilled these requirements and beyond. He has made operational changes that will save the City \$7,500 annually. He also took on the project manager role for the \$250,000 renovation project at Colonial Park Pool, and, although he had never led a project of this magnitude, he did so flawlessly and completed the project under budget.

Anthony brings a youthful, modern perspective that has enriched every aspect of operations. The Parks and Recreation Department is extremely grateful for his hard work and dedication over the years to the City.

Election Information

Registered voters of West University Place will vote on May 1, in the general election to elect a mayor and four City Council members.

When to vote on Election Day:

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where to vote on Election Day:

Residents can vote at any polling location throughout Harris County. The locations and hours of operation for all locations will be posted on the City's website (www.westutx.gov) after confirmation from Harris County or visit the County's website at www.harrisvotes.com.

Ballot Information

(In the order and language as they will appear on the ballot)

MAYOR (Vote for none or one)

- Susan Sample
- Kevin Trautner

COUNCIL MEMBER (Vote for none, one, two, three, or four)

- Melanie Bell
- Rich Beck
- John P. Barnes
- John Montgomery
- Sam Parikh
- Mardi Turner
- Shannon Carroll
- Lauri Lankford
- Ed Sobash

April 16

Deadline to Submit Application for Ballot by Mail (in person by 5:00 p.m.)

Application for ballot by mail must be received **in person** no later than at the close of business.

April 20

Deadline to Submit Application for Ballot by Mail (by mail by 5:00 p.m.)

Application for a ballot by mail must be received **by mail** no later than at the close of business.

April 19 – 27

Early Voting by Personal Appearance

The hours and additional polling locations were not available at the time of printing but will be posted on the City's website after confirmation from Harris County.

For more information, or to obtain this and other election information in Spanish, contact one of the following:

Para obtener más información, o para obtener esta y otra información sobre las elecciones en español, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes:

Harris County Clerk's Office

713-755-6965
www.harrisvotes.com

City Secretary Thelma Gilliam

713-662-5813
tgilliam@westutx.gov

West U Happenings

Point & Pay Payment System and Electronic Statements



It's never too late to sign up for Point & Pay – a faster, easier way to pay your West U utility bill.

Signing up for Point & Pay Systems will allow you to make your payments through a computer, phone, or tablet – and to also:

- **Update account information and settings**
- **Schedule recurring or future-dated payments**
- **View payment and statement histories**

To register, visit the City's website at www.westutx.gov and click on the "Online Payments" button and then on the "Pay Water Bill" button.

Go green! Help the City save paper, while also reducing the amount of your incoming mail, by signing up to receive e-statements. Simply choose the electronic statement option on your Point & Pay dashboard. You may also contact Utility Billing at 713-662-5824 or billinghelp@westutx.gov for assistance.

To learn more about Point & Pay, please visit the system's website: www.pointandpay.com

Home Repair Programs

Looking for home repair help? These resources are available to assist West U residents:

Rebuilding Together Houston

This nonprofit uses licensed contractors and community volunteers to complete home repairs and safety modifications for qualifying Harris County residents at no cost.

Phone: 713-659-2511
www.rebuildinghouston.org

2-1-1 Texas

This Texas Health and Human Services Commission program provides referrals for local services available to Texas residents.

Phone: 2-1-1 OR 877-541-7905
www.211texas.org

West U Handymen

This West U program, administered by Senior Services, connects resident seniors with volunteers to perform minor home repairs.

Phone: 713-662-5895
www.westutx.gov/seniors

Harris County Area Agency on Aging

This program, administered by the Houston Health Department, provides supporting services for Harris County seniors and caregivers, including referrals for home improvement service providers.

Phone: 832-393-4301
www.houstontx.gov/health/Aging/

Please note: Some services may be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Contact the service providers for more information.

Municipal Court

The West University Place Municipal Court has jurisdiction over Class C misdemeanors, along with City ordinance violations punishable by fine only.

If you receive a citation, you may be able to resolve it without appearing in court. Please see the Court's website www.westutx.gov/court for more information, or use the QR code below.

You may also call 713-662-5825 or email court@westutx.gov



The Countdown Continues for the Launch of West U's New Utility Statements!

The City of West University Place is launching new utility statements that cater to what residents need to know! New statements will include a detailed breakdown of service charges, along with a usage history graph that allows residents to compare their monthly water usage from previous statements by using an easy to read design concept.

Noise Ordinance

At its meeting of July 27, 2020, the West U City Council amended the noise ordinance to better protect the quality of life for residents by expanding residential quiet hours and establishing a decibel noise limit for leaf blowers – 70 d(B).

Enforcement of the new ordinance begins May 3, 2021. For more detailed information and frequently asked questions, visit westutx.gov/noise.

Flood Insurance – Don't Miss Out on a Discount

The City of West U wants to remind everyone to take the time to review your home's insurance coverages to ensure that you are up to date, and, if you have flood insurance, that you may be eligible for a discount. This is because of the City's high Class 7 rating in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. The City of West University Place strives to protect its residents and their property.

For more information, go to www.westutx.gov/insurance or contact the West U Community Development Division at cchew@westutx.gov or 713-662-5830.



Public Safety

A New Fire Truck is Coming to West U This Spring

One little known fact about West U's fire trucks is how many years of service they provide the community. The current first-out engine, Engine 1, was built in 2007 and is expected to remain in service for another 12 years.

The newest engine is being custom made, at the Pierce Manufacturing plant in Appleton, Wisconsin. The building process for this engine began in January 2019 with an initial planning committee meeting to determine a list of essential items and must haves. Over the next year, several more meetings were held as the design phase began.

The committee continued to work through 2019 and into 2020, pouring over the specifications to ensure that the new engine would be exactly what would best serve the community for the next 25 years. The engine was scheduled for delivery in the fall of 2020, but, due to COVID-19, production has been delayed.

This engine will have the classic, two-toned design, with a white cab at the top of a traditional candy-apple red body. "West University Fire Department" will be displayed on both sides of the engine in gold, and the Texas flag will be painted onto the front grill to represent our Lone Star State.

The new truck utilizes several options from the national "Clean Cab initiative" to reduce firefighter exposure to workplace carcinogens. These features include- high-impact HVAC filtration, easily cleanable apparatus seats, flooring, and other interior surfaces. The new truck will also have more storage capacity for emergency equipment, along with a shorter wheelbase that will allow the driver to maneuver down our narrow streets with precision.



DirectLink Alarm-Monitoring Service Provides New Mobile Accessibility



You spoke and we listened. DirectLink has made several enhancements to better assist the alarm-monitoring needs of residents. One of the biggest changes is the addition of a mobile app that is compatible with smart phones or tablets. The mobile app will allow residents to remotely arm/disarm their systems and receive text/email notifications. With the Pro Video addition, residents can monitor videos with compatible equipment. The DirectLink logo, signs, and decals have also been refreshed.

Although changes have been made, DirectLink has maintained its uniqueness by offering the system's alarm-monitoring services to only residents of West University Place. Another unique advantage of having DirectLink is the ability for alarm signals/activations to bypass the third-party provider, sending the activation directly to the West University Place dispatch center. This provides the fastest emergency response time in West U. Additionally, DirectLink has no contracts and has convenient billing on utility statement, starting at \$35 a month. For your peace of mind, choose DirectLink, the best home security service in West University Place.

For more information on the DirectLink system, please visit our website at www.westutx.gov/directlink or call our DirectLink coordinator at 713-662-5860.

Parks and Recreation

Colonial Park Pool 'Members Only' Opening

Join us on Saturday, May 1, for a special Colonial Park Pool "Members Only" swim time! Don't have a membership yet? There is still time to go online and purchase your membership for the 2021 season! For more information visit, www.westutx.gov/colonial.

Colonial Park Pool opens to all West University Place residents on Sunday, May 2.



Want to Join a Fantastic Team and Make Money While Having a Blast?

Do you want to be part of a fantastic team – and make money while having fun? The West University Recreation Center and Colonial Park Pool are hiring part-time employees. Available positions include Customer Service Team Member, Swim Instructor, and Lifeguard.

If you are interested in excellent starting pay, a flexible schedule, 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, or visit www.westutx.gov/jobs.

Virtual and Drive-Thru Senior Services Programs

To view all of the great virtual and drive-thru activities that Senior Services has planned, please visit www.westutx.gov/seniors or call 713-662-5895.

Recreation Center Programs

Spring classes* are available for registration at the Recreation Center. To view all class offerings, visit www.westutx.gov/activities. Check out the classes that are going on now:

Adult/Children's Tennis

Aqua Cross Fit

Ballet

E-Sports

Karate

Pickleball

Pilates

Private Swim Lessons

Tippi Toes

Youth Swim Fit

Yoga

*All classes follow recommendations put forth by local, state, and federal entities. These parameters will be updated as new recommendations or mandates are distributed.

Colonial Park Improvements are Complete!

Colonial Park is now fully open and ready for your athletic skills. The installation of the Youth Fitness Challenge course, along with solar lighting in the park and solar bollards around the pathway are now complete, providing lighting for additional hours of park utilization.



These improvements were funded through the generosity of the Friends of West University Parks Fund (Friends), which is pleased to announce that Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital is the sponsor for the new Youth Fitness Challenge course. For more information on Friends and all that it does for West U's parks, please visit www.westuparks.org. For complete project information, please visit www.westutx.gov/parkprojects.

Huffington Park Improvements

In March, City Council approved the improvement plans for Huffington Park. The improvements include - new playground equipment, a drinking fountain, expansion of open green space, and improvements to the drainage system. The improvements will ensure that Huffington Park continues to be a valuable asset to the community for years to come.

For complete project information, please visit www.westutx.gov/parkprojects.

Friends of West U Parks

Park Lovers' Golf Ball Tournament and Auction

Join your friends and neighbors in supporting the Friends of West University Parks Fund (Friends) at the Park Lovers' Golf Ball Tournament and Auction! Scheduled for Friday, April 16, this tournament will replace the 2021 Park Lovers' Ball, which is traditionally the largest Friends fundraising event of the year.

"It was so important for us to find a way to connect safely as neighbors, while supporting our parks," said Christine Parker, tournament co-chair. "With the cancellation of Fathers & Flashlights in 2020 and, more recently, our annual Park Lovers' Ball, Friends will have gone more than a year without hosting any of our traditional fundraising efforts. The Park Lovers' Golf Ball Tournament and Auction was just the right solution under these circumstances." Co-Chair Sami Morrison added "Our parks and green spaces have become an even bigger part of our daily lives during this challenging time, and it's important that we continue to maintain and improve them for the enjoyment of our community. Projects such as the recent renovation of Colonial Park East are made possible by Friends' fundraising efforts and we need to continue these initiatives."



There are many ways to participate in the golf tournament:

Sponsorships and donations

Register to play

Register as an individual, twosome, or foursome.

Silent auction

Auction will be held online April 11 – 16; stay tuned for more details!

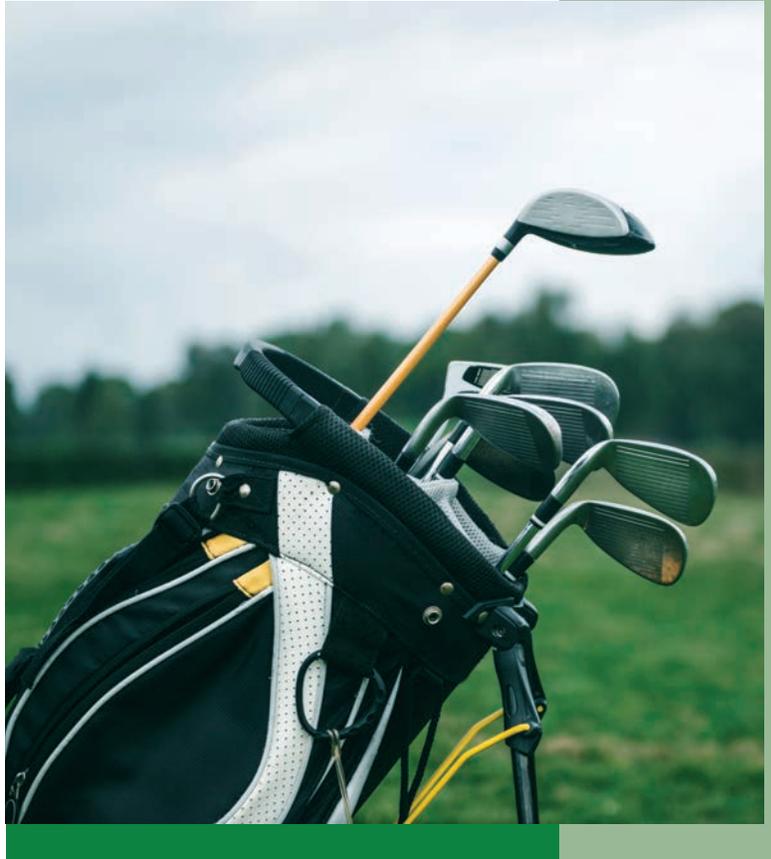
Participate in the Whiskey Putt event

Chance to win fabulous whiskeys during post-tournament award reception

Raffle

Chance to win fabulous prizes during post-tournament award reception

Volunteer



Email us at golftournament@westuparks.org for further information about any of the above activities. For more information, visit www.westuparks.org, or contact Donna LaMond at 713-662-7430 or dlamond@westutx.gov.

Thank you to:

Kristine Martinez

Realtor • Top Producer

832.736.8095

kristine.martinez@sothebys.realty

Martha Turner | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Friends of West U Parks Wine Wagon Sponsor

Friends fundraising continues year-round, with business partnerships, memorials and honorariums, pavers, benches, and tree sales.

Public Works

Buffalo Speedway Rehabilitation Project Starts Construction in March

The project to resurface and improve the drainage of Buffalo Speedway along its entire course through West U is scheduled to begin in March. Construction will commence at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, and will work down Buffalo Speedway into West U approximately in August. During each phase, there may be lane closures around the construction site. For more information regarding the Buffalo Speedway project or to sign up to receive email and text alerts, please visit www.westutx.gov/buffalo.

Key components of the Buffalo Speedway Reconstruction Project include:

Installation of box culverts to improve drainage from Bissonnet Street to south of West Holcombe Boulevard to connect to the Poor Farm Ditch

Removal and replacement of the roadway pavement between Bissonnet Street and West Holcombe Boulevard, with the majority of the construction remaining within the footprint of the existing roadway

Installation of a new water line on the west side of Buffalo Speedway from Wroxton Road to Amherst Street

Other potential improvements, including traffic signals, intersections, and upgraded streetlights

This extensive project will be completed in a series of phases. The following is an approximate timeline for each phase of the project:

- 01 Waterline Replacement**
March 2021 – May 2021
- 02 P.F.D. Outfall to South of Cason St.**
March 2021 – November 2021
- 03 Cason St. to Amherst St.**
November 2021 – October 2022
- 04 Amherst St. to Wroxton Dr.**
October 2022 – May 2023
- ★ Final Punchlist & Site Cleanup**
May 2023 – August 2023

'Prevention is the Best Medicine' Also Applies to Food Waste

When it comes to food waste, the most effective reduction occurs when you follow the three R's in order:

Reduce: Eat everything you buy.

Reuse: If you don't finish a meal, save it for leftovers the next day.

Recycle: Compost whatever is left.

Here's the bad news - Americans throw away 25% of domestically produced food, wasting 25% of all water used and 4% of oil consumed each year. A family of four throws away approximately \$1,600/year in food waste, contributing to the methane emissions from landfills that account for 34% of all methane emissions in the U.S.

The good news is that cutting down on food waste and then composting the rest can make a big difference to each of us financially and to our society – and it's easy to do.

U.S. food waste accounts for:



Household food waste is a combination of the unavoidable: the inedible parts of food, such as peels and stems, pits, and bones, as well as the food that rots before we eat it.

All of us have let something rot from time to time. Start thinking about what you could do if you saved \$1,600 each year, and follow these easy tips on how to avoid food waste in the future:

- 01** Check the fridge to see what you already have on hand before heading to the grocery store.
- 02** Plan meals for the week, incorporating what you've already got. Purchase only necessary ingredients. Avoid impulse buys.
- 03** Prolong freshness by following online advice about food storage.
Start preparation ahead of time, so that making prep-heavy meals is easier. Foods like meats will last longer once cooked. Prep snack foods like carrot sticks in advance, packing them in accessible containers, so that you have enough for a few days.
- 04** Use your freezer to store meals that you have prepared in advance or to preserve something that you might not get to before it would spoil in the fridge.
- 05**
- 06** Write dates on perishable items and store them with the oldest items placed in the front of the fridge, and the newest in the back, so that you eat older items first. Clearly label nonperishable items with their expiration dates and arrange them with the oldest in front.
- 07** Go through canned and boxed goods periodically, and donate what you don't plan on consuming soon to a food bank.
- 08** Compost what you can't eat. In addition to contributing to recycling, composting also upcycles food waste into a better product (a nutrient rich compost), all while avoiding the methane production that occurs if food waste is landfilled. If you can't compost in your backyard, there are numerous curbside pick-up and drop-off services for food waste in our area that you can use for a small fee.

Public Works

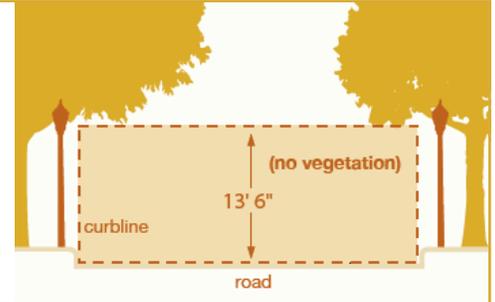
Residents' Responsibilities for Tree and Vegetation Maintenance in Right-of-Way Areas

Property owners are responsible for the care of and maintenance of trees and vegetation in West U's right-of-way areas. Homeowners may be held responsible for any damages caused by low hanging tree limbs, vegetation hanging over the roadway and/or sidewalk, or vegetation obstructing regulatory signs (such as stop signs – see image) with obstruction resulting in an accident or damages.

Clearance Over Streets

The City requires that vegetation over the roadway be maintained at a minimum height of 13.5 feet, extending from curb to curb. This ensures adequate clearance for all types of vehicles (including fire trucks, ambulances, garbage trucks, and street sweepers) that are on the road daily providing essential City services.

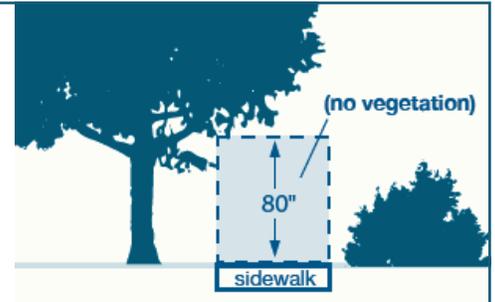
Please check trees quarterly to ensure that the proper clearance requirement is maintained.



Clearance Over Sidewalks

The City requires that all vegetation over sidewalks be maintained at a minimum height of at least 80 inches (6 feet 8 inches) and not block the width of the sidewalk. This ensures adequate clearance for pedestrians utilizing the sidewalks.

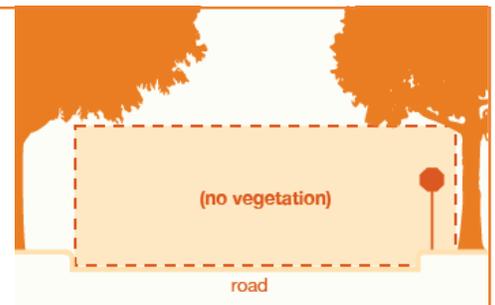
Please check trees and shrubs monthly to ensure that the proper clearance requirement is maintained at sidewalks fronting your property.



Regulatory Sign Obstruction

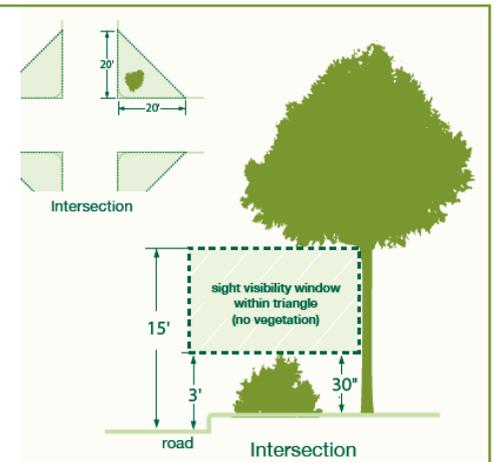
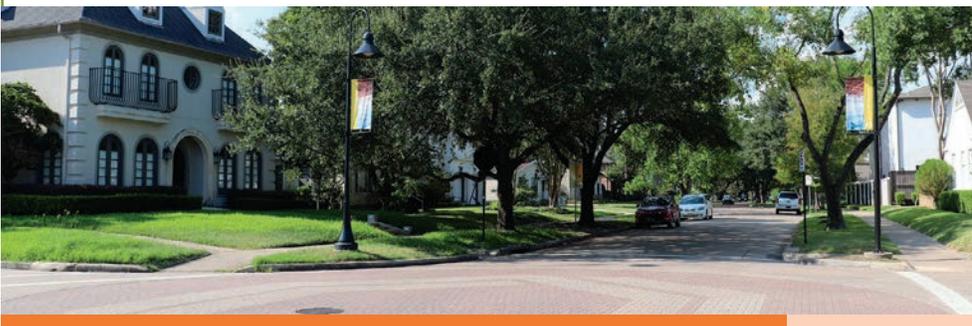
A good way to verify if vegetation needs to be trimmed near or around regulatory signs is to look at the sign from four property lots away (approximately 200 feet). If the full sign cannot be seen, then trimming of the vegetation is needed.

Please check trees and shrubs quarterly to ensure that the proper clearance requirement is maintained.



Sight Visibility Triangle

The sight visibility triangle exists at every intersection throughout the city. The visibility triangle is a 20x20 foot triangle at every intersection that is designated by the City to be free of vegetation with the exception of grass. All vegetation within this sight visibility window should have growth below 3 feet from the road (30 inches from ground level).



City Currents

Spring 2021



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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT NO. 134

A Newsletter for the Residents of the City of West University Place

City of West U Officials

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Bob Higley
Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Trautner
John Barnes
Lauri Lankford
Ed Sobash

CITY MANAGER

Dave Beach
dbeach@westutx.gov

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

For questions and comments about *City Currents*,
contact Communications Coordinator Bianca Cuccerre at
bcuccerre@westutx.gov or 713-662-5350.

Design by Minor Design

Meeting Reminder for City Council, Boards and Commissions

City Council

Meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month
Starting at 6:30 pm

Building and Standards Commission

Meetings are the first Thursday of each month
Starting at 6:00 pm

Zoning and Planning Commission

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month
Starting at 6:15 pm

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month
Starting at 6:30 pm

Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month
Starting at 6:00 pm

Parks and Recreation Board

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month
Starting at 6:30 pm

Senior Services Board

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month
Starting at 2:00 pm

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the federal government's recommendations regarding social distancing measures, **meetings are currently being held via teleconference**. For more information on how to attend these meetings, please visit <https://www.westutx.gov/280/Boards-Commissions> or call the City Secretary's Office at 713-662-5812.



Save the Date!

Paper Shredding and E-Waste/Mattress Collection Event

When: Saturday, May 1
Hours: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Where: 3826 Milton St.
www.westutx.gov/specialevents