

City Currents

Summer 2021



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City Council Lowers Speed Limits across West U

On May 10, City Council voted to implement the Citywide Speed and Safety Plan Ordinance. This initiative lowers the speed limit for the majority of streets in the city from 30 mph to 25 mph.

- Buffalo Speedway will remain at 30 mph
- The 4100 and 4200 blocks of Bissonnet will remain at 35 mph
- School zones and park zones will remain at 20 mph

This ordinance builds on the Citywide Speed and Safety Traffic Study, which was commissioned in February 2020 to assess existing speed limits in West U, gather data for recommendations, and identify areas for safety enhancements. This study looked at the overall safety of the city's transportation network and determined the best options for speed management in the city limits. To ensure that recommendations were data-driven, completion of this study was delayed until earlier this year due to lower levels of traffic resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The speed limit changes will go into effect in fall of this year. City staff is in the process of planning for implementation, including identifying all locations where new signage will need to be installed, informing residents of the changes, and planning for the enforcement of the new speed limits.

Public safety is a priority for the City, and staff continues to evaluate the need for any further changes or traffic calming measures to ensure the safety of drivers and pedestrians in West U.

For more information on the Speed and Safety Traffic Study, please contact Public Works Director Gerardo Barrera at 713-662-5845 or gbarrera@westutx.gov or visit www.westutx.gov/speedlimit.

For information on the City's enforcement of the speed limit changes, please contact Community Resource Officer Katie Wilson at 713-662-5866 or kwilson@westutx.gov.



From the Mayor's Desk

An Exciting Two Years Ahead for West U

Dear Neighbors,

It is an honor and a privilege to have been selected to serve as your Mayor again. After a long campaign season, I know that West University Place residents are eager for this Council to begin implementing initiatives on behalf of all of our citizens.

While your new Council works on our collective priorities for the next year, I am also happy to provide a quick update on some of the ongoing projects that this Council and City staff are working on:

Buffalo Speedway Rehabilitation

Many of you have probably noticed the ongoing work at Buffalo Speedway near St. Vincent's Church, which began in April. June is the official start of hurricane season, underscoring the importance of drainage in West U, and this project combines the replacement of the 65-year old roadway with drainage improvements over the road's entire course through the city. This will mitigate the impacts of severe weather on homeowners who live in the drainage area, and underlines the City's commitment to protecting residents' property.

This project is on-schedule, with work within the city limits to begin in the fall of this year. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by August 2023.

Virtual Gate

I am excited to return for the completion of the Virtual Gate project by the end of this year, which will add an additional level of service to our community, serve as a deterrent to those looking to commit criminal acts, and provide an additional resource to help solve crimes that occur.

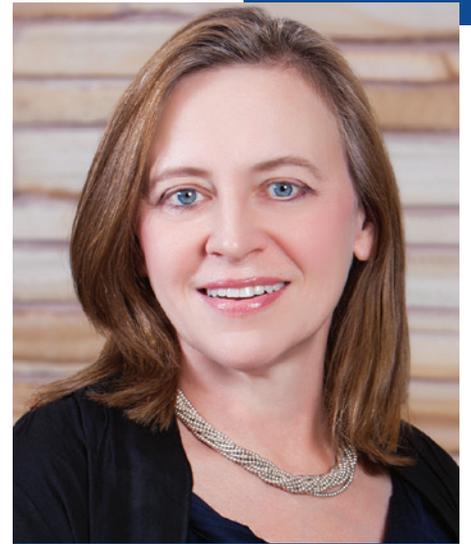
Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan Implementation

In 2020, the City completed a master plan for the future of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant at Braes Bayou, which will ensure that it continues to meet and exceed all regulatory requirements, as well as install floodwater protection to ensure continuity of service during severe weather events. Preliminary design for the project will be completed later this year and I look forward to this Council's decision on moving forward with construction design that will upgrade our treatment plant and ensure that we never have to suspend sewer service due to flooding again.

Effluent Water Reclamation Project

This innovative project will transfer treated wastewater for safe, non-potable use outside of West U, diverting approximately one million gallons of wastewater each day that would otherwise be discharged into the Brays Bayou watershed. I look forward to moving this project towards completion, which will reduce our city's environmental footprint while generating revenue that can be reinvested in the water and wastewater system.

Once again, thank you for placing your trust in me to serve as your Mayor, and I look forward to working with my fellow councilmembers, staff and residents over the next two years to uphold our quality of life in West U!



Mayor Susan Sample

A Message from Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery

We invite you to come see a small exhibit at City Hall showcasing an antique steel combat helmet. A plaque inside the exhibit case describes the helmet as authentic safety equipment worn by West University Air Raid Wardens during World War II. Although our city was far from the front lines, West University Place, like many communities, played its part during the war effort. While some families were affected more directly by the war than others, blackout drills helped to reinforce the notion that, as a community, *they were all in it together*.

This helmet serves as a reminder that our community has endured long disruptions to our way of life before. Like the war, the pandemic has been ubiquitous, touching every home. Sequestered for months, we have all felt the impact of loneliness and isolation from our community. If you have been weathering the pandemic with children at home, you have faced the near-impossible challenge of balancing your career with child care, and education. For healthcare workers on the front lines, the reality of this crisis has followed them home each day, creating tremendous personal strain. In short, the human element of this pandemic has been inescapable, even if you have not been directly affected by the virus. *We are all in this together ...*

As the vaccination rollout progresses, green shoots of hope are emerging. West University Place is gradually returning to the vibrant, socially connected community that it was before. This summer, you will soon see, and hear, our community coming together. For example, Colonial Park has returned to reservation-less pool access. Block parties are being scheduled, and, upon invitation, the West U Fire Department will attend to display an impressive new fire engine.

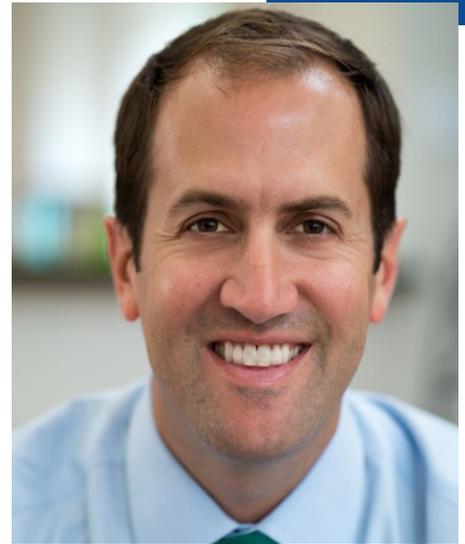
As our city and our lives resume their normal pace, please stop by the Community Building or the Recreation Center to pick up a copy of our long list of in-person youth and senior activities, or click on the "Notify Me" link on the city's website to be informed about activities that are important to you.

Additionally, our City Council meetings will be returning to their traditional in-person format at City Hall, although online participation remains an option as allowed by the State of Texas. We welcome everyone to participate in our meetings and to make your voices heard.

This year, West U will continue to press forward with its efforts to emerge, to reconnect. While some people will approach this return to normalcy more enthusiastically than others, we must respect the fact that this pandemic has left trauma in its wake for many. Healing will take time. Please continue to look out for each other. Our community started this journey together, and we must emerge from it together as well.

I am honored to have been chosen to represent you as a City Council member, and I look forward to the next two years in your service.

-Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery



*Mayor Pro Tem
John Montgomery*



Get to Know your City Council

This Council's term runs from June 2021 through May 2023



Mayor Susan Sample

Elected in 2021, Susan Sample is serving her third term as Mayor of the City of West University Place. She previously served two terms as Mayor from 2015 to 2019, and was on the City Council, serving as Mayor Pro Tem in both terms, before being elected for her first term as Mayor. She is a native Houstonian and has been a West U resident since 2005. A product of HISD schools, Susan went on to do her undergraduate work at Rice University and obtained a law degree and a masters in accounting from University of Texas. She is currently shareholder in the law firm of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. and previously worked for Norton Rose Fulbright in the Tax Controversy section.

Prior to being elected to city council, Susan served on the board of directors of Friends of West U Parks. She currently serves on the board of SPARK Park as vice president and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston. Professionally, she serves on the boards of the Houston CPA Society and the Texas Society of CPAs. Susan is married to Michael Larsson and has nine-year old twins.

John Montgomery has lived in West University Place for 15 years. He and his wife have three young children, and both feel strongly that West University Place's combination of safety, parks, services, friendliness, and youth activities make it the best neighborhood in Texas in which to raise their family.

John is the Vice President of Risk and Commercial Development for a Houston-based, independent natural gas production company. During his 25-year career in energy trading and finance, he has held leadership positions at Shell and Citibank, as well as owning a risk management advisory business. John is registered with the Commodities Trading Futures Commission as a Commodities Trade Advisor, and has successfully passed the Series 3 National Commodities Futures Exam. John received a BA from Emory University, and an MBA from Rice University.



Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery

John P. Barnes is a third-generation resident of the City of West University Place, residing since 2003 on the property purchased in 1941 by his grandparents.

A graduate of both Vanderbilt University and South Texas College of Law, John has practiced law in the Houston area for more than 20 years, serving a diverse array of clients, in the real estate, construction, financial, energy, retail and non-profit industries.

Now serving his second consecutive term on City Council, John led several initiatives in his first term, including the successful effort in 2020 to establish Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an official city holiday and the establishment of a warming center in response to the winter storm in February 2021. John and his wife are members of St. Luke's United Methodist Church.



John P. Barnes

Melanie Bell moved to West University Place in 2003 when she bought a 1939 bungalow. She has previously lived in Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Angola and Australia. She retired in 2019 from working as a technical IT professional and manager in the oil and gas industry. Her area of expertise is in using emerging technologies to apply data and information to key technical workflows. She has an applied mathematics degree from Texas A&M University.

Melanie is an avid runner and bicyclist. She is also an aerialist in trapeze and silks. She volunteers at Dress for Success Houston. She serves as the chair of the External Advisory Council for the Computer Science and Engineering Department at Texas A&M. She enjoys spending time in her yard keeping the weeds at bay without the use of pesticides.



Melanie Bell

Shannon Carroll lives in West U with her husband and family. She was born and raised in Jackson, TN and attended The University of Mississippi, where she earned a B.A. in Biology with a minor in Psychology. Following graduation, she lived in Louisiana for 7 years prior to moving to Houston in 2012. Shannon is currently a Senior Litigation Adjuster for QEO Insurance Group, where she has worked for nearly five years. Prior to that, she held the same position with Deep South Insurance Group, where she worked for over eight years.

Shannon enjoys sporting events, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. She enjoys volunteering with Susan G. Komen and Meals on Wheels, among other charities she supports. Shannon and her family are active members at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where she also teaches children's Sunday School.



Shannon Carroll

City Spotlight

Capt. Derek Elkins Retires

Hanging up your helmet to retire from the fire service is not an easy decision to make - especially for Capt. Derek Elkins of the West University Place Fire Department, who has devoted most of his life to the fire service. Capt. Elkins retired at the end of April after dedicating over 22 years to emergency services for the City of West University Place.

Capt. Elkins began his career at the age of 16 as a junior firefighter for the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department. He graduated from Crosby High School and then joined the Army serving the military for the next six years. After leaving the military, Capt. Elkins continued his dream of becoming a firefighter. He enrolled in the San Jacinto Community College Fire Academy to complete his basic fire education. In 1997, the Liberty Fire Department hired Derek Elkins for his first career firefighter position.

The following year, Elkins joined the West University Place Fire Department as a firefighter/paramedic. Over the next two decades, he played several key roles in the development of the City's fire department, including participating in the Safe-T Clown fire prevention program as our beloved "Tap Out." He also coordinated fire department training for many years, both in-house and out of state.

Over the course of his career, he also worked 11 years on a part-time basis at the Channelview Fire Department, along with two years part-time for Bellaire Fire Department and 17 years at the Harris County Community College as a Fire Academy instructor. Additionally, he gave back to his hometown community by volunteering for over 20 years at the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department.

Now, even in his "retirement years," Capt. Elkins will still continue dedicating his time to the fire service. Over the years, he has taken his passion for training and built a very successful online continuing education company. These classes allow firefighters to cultivate their leadership skills, take next-level officer classes, and learn how to become a fire investigator.



Left to right: Lt. Rosenfield, Capt. Elkins, Capt. Breaux

Next-Generation Leadership

As we turn the page on one career we open a new chapter in the West U Fire Department for two others. Lt. John Breaux was promoted to the role of B Shift Captain starting in May. Lt. Breaux has been with the department for eight years and has been a valuable asset working on many projects. One of these projects includes being a part of the new fire truck committee, which has designed and monitored the production of the department's new fire truck.

We are also pleased to announce the promotion of Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Rosenfield to Lieutenant. Rosenfield came to the West U Fire Department in 2017 from the Florida fire service. He brings valuable experience to our officer cadre, and has started as the Lieutenant on the B Shift in May as well. John and Aaron, congratulations to you both. Your hard work and dedication are shining examples of leadership.

“Capt. Elkins, the City of West University Place is forever grateful for everything you have contributed over the years and we wish you all the best!”

Resident Resources

West University Place Citizens Academy

The City of West University Place is offering citizens an opportunity to see, firsthand, how their city operates. This unique experience will give residents a closer look at day-to-day City operations, including how services are provided, and what it takes to run a city of approximately 15,000 people. The West University Place Citizens Academy (WUPCA) is a seven week program that will take place starting on Thursday, September 16. Your participation will include: hands-on activities, tours, presentations, a light dinner, and much more! Participation is free and will be limited to the first 10 registrants. Registration will become available on August 2, and can be done online at www.westutx.gov/citizensacademy.



Solid-Waste Service Discount for Seniors and Disabled Persons

The City reduces the cost of solid-waste pickup for customers who are over 65 or disabled. To obtain this discount, senior residents are required to provide a copy of their driver's license or other valid identification as age verification.

Residents who get a disability exemption for property tax purposes qualify to receive the discounted rate as well, as long as appropriate documentation is provided.

For assistance, contact Utility Billing at 713-662-5824 or billinghelp@westutx.gov.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

The City of West University Place offers a voucher program for residents to dispose of residential household hazardous waste (HHW) at City of Houston facilities. This program is offered to all West U residents with proof of residency. These vouchers are provided on a "first come, first served" basis. Each household can obtain one voucher in a 12-month period.

Residents can request a voucher from the Public Works Department by calling 713-662-5839 or emailing requests to hww@westutx.gov. The City is unable to mail or fax the vouchers, as the City of Houston requires the original voucher to be presented at the time of delivery. Vouchers can be picked up Monday – Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Public Works Administration Building located at 3826 Amherst St.

Acceptable materials for this program include: pool chemicals, paint, fertilizers, fuel, motor oils, cooking oils, and propane and helium tanks. For a full list of acceptable materials please visit www.westutx.gov/hwwvoucher.

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 Community Development Division at cchew@westutx.gov or 713-662-5830.

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



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 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. For assistance 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



Public Safety

Creating a Stronger Community

The Community C.A.R.E.S. (Connect, Attention, Respect, Engage, and Service) program is a tremendous opportunity for West University Place first responders, of our police and fire departments, as well as our residents, to form a united partnership to create a safe and strong community. This program encourages residents to become active in emergency preparedness, and in the fight against crime and community disasters.



Community C.A.R.E.S. is designed to:

- ✓ Increase public safety awareness
- ✓ Keep participants informed of issues and events related to public safety
- ✓ Provide educational programs, resources, and tips to participants that will enhance the safety and quality of life for the community
- ✓ Increase effective communication between first responders and the participants
- ✓ Build community pride and unity by encouraging neighbors to get to know each other
- ✓ Identifying and addressing public concerns to build a safe and confident community

To receive more information about this program and to become an active participant in the Community C.A.R.E.S program, visit www.westutx.gov/communitycares.

Be sure to follow and like the official Facebook page of the West University Place Police Department. We strive to be your first source for news and announcements from the department!

 **West University Place Police Department**

Hurricane Season is Here

Does your family have a disaster supply kit ready for hurricane season? The City of West University Place encourages residents to prepare a disaster kit in the case of extended inclement weather. Avoid panic buying by stocking up on these items over the entire year. This is safer, more efficient, and less expensive than waiting until disaster strikes. Visit www.westutx.gov/emergencypreparedness for more information.

- ✓ **Water**
At least one gallon per person/per day
- ✓ **Food**
At least a seven-day supply of nonperishables/canned food
- ✓ **First aid kit**
- ✓ **Flashlights with extra batteries**
- ✓ **Medications**
- ✓ **Sanitation/hygiene supplies**
- ✓ **Important family documents**
- ✓ **Pet care items**

 **West University Place Fire Department**



For more information about the Direct Link Alarm Monitoring System visit, www.westutx.gov/directlink.

Parks and Recreation

Fall 2021 Class Registration

Fall will be here before you know it, and the West University Place Parks and Recreation Department has the perfect class just for you! Classes range from fitness for adults to chess for children. Spaces are limited. For more information, visit www.westutx.gov/activities or call 713-662-7420 for a complete listing of class description, dates, and times.

*Priority Registration

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

Monday, August 9 and Tuesday, August 10

Resident Registration

Wednesday, August 11

Open Registration

Friday, August 13

Complete your registration online at www.westutx.gov/reg or stop by the Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire Blvd. To view a copy of the "West U at Your Leisure" guide for the fall season, visit www.westutx.gov/parks or call 713-662-7420 for more information.

Dive-In Movies

Join us at the Colonial Park Pool for this year's Dive-In Movies. These movies begin at 8 p.m. The first showing will be on Friday, July 30, for VIP customers and our Colonial Park Pool members! The featured movie for that evening will be Sonic the Hedgehog (PG).

The second showing will be held on Friday, August 13, featuring Trolls (PG). Admission to the movie will be complimentary. Regular pool admission fees will apply to those who would like to enjoy the movie in the pool.

For more information visit, www.westutx.gov/events or call the Colonial Park Pool at 713-662-7460 or the West U Recreation Center at 713-662-7420.

Community Building Offerings

Residents 50 years of age and older are invited to participate in any number of programs or services offered at the Community Building. Among the many programs offered are: Yoga, Pilates, Best Stretch, Water Aerobics, Bingo, Guest Speakers, Tai Chi, and Zumba. There are also a variety of outings and trips scheduled. For a complete listing, visit www.westutx.gov/seniors.

Did you know that the City also provides transportation to medical and dental appointments, as well as a weekly run to the grocery store? If you don't drive and you need a ride for any of these services call 713-662-5895 for more details.



Facility Maintenance

– Dates Subject to Change

The West University Place Recreation Center will be closing soon for its annual maintenance. The pool will be closed August 22 through September 6, and the entire Recreation Center will be closed August 29 through September 6. These dates are subject to change, pending coordination with contractors. Staff will be available at Colonial Park Pool from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., during the closure to assist customers with day-to-day business. For more information please visit www.westutx.gov/reccenter.

The Parks and Recreation Department is hiring!

Do you want to be part of a fantastic team – and make money while having fun? The West University Place Recreation Center and the Colonial Park Pool are hiring part-time employees. For more information, visit www.westutx.gov/jobs.

Friends of West U Parks

 Friends of West University Parks Fund

 FriendsofWestUParks

Park Lovers' Golf Ball Tournament and Auction

The Park Lovers' Golf Ball Tournament and Auction took place on April 16 at Wildcat Golf Club and was chaired by Sami & Jud Morrison and Christine & Owen Parker.

Thank you to our sponsors who helped us raise much-needed funds for our parks. **We are especially grateful to Rani Puranik, our top premium sponsor at the Head Pro level.**

We would also like to thank our other premium-level sponsors:

Lloyd Engineering; Kirkland & Ellis; Jane and Harry Pefanis; BB&T now Truist/Brannon Fitch; Kristine Martinez, Realtor, Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty.

Other generous sponsors included:

The Elite Care Emergency Center; Cammarata Pediatric Dentistry Group; Greater Houston Orthodontics; Mary Frances DuMay, Realtor; Compass; the Morrison and Parker Families; Heidi Dugan, Realtor, Greenwood King Properties; Kim and Reid Wilson; Lauren DeFrehn Photography; Conway MacKenzie, Mendocino Farms; CenterPoint Energy; Daniel Energy; Jill and Frank Stagg; Laura Mayer Cyprow and Stormy Hayes-Knipe, Realtors, Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty; 987 Aesthetics & Wellness; Caroline and Peter Billipp; Butler-Cohen; Chicago Title Houston; DonateStock; Droubi Construction & Consulting; Russo Services, Inc.; the Sterling Group; and Village Plumbing & Air.

Thanks also to the golfers who participated in the tournament, and to the wonderful volunteers who helped make it all happen.



Joaquin Martinez



Bhakti Salunkhe and Myra Johnson



Jud and Sami Morrison and Christine and Owen Parker

Fundraising Update

Fundraising by the Friends of West University Parks Fund (Friends) continues year-round with offerings of business partnerships, memorials and honorariums, pavers, benches, and tree sales. Sign up for Friends emails at www.westuparks.org to receive email alerts about Friends including registration for this year's Fathers & Flashlights event and for information on the 2022 Park Lovers' Ball. For other information about Friends and upcoming events, contact Friends Executive Director Donna LaMond at 713-662-7430 or diamond@westutx.gov.

Party on the Patio Summer 2021 Concert Series

Thank you to our friend and neighbor, Mary Frances DuMay, for generously sponsoring the popular Party on the Patio Summer 2021 Concert Series held on Friday evenings in June.



Mary Frances DuMay
713.724.0577

COMPASS



Fathers & Flashlights 2021 Campout!

Event Chairs: Katie and Chris Hill, Michelle and Doug Huth and Sarah and Mark Knysch

The chairs of the 2021 Fathers & Flashlights are looking forward to a memorable night under the stars! On the evening of Saturday, October 23rd, participants for the Fathers & Flashlights event will continue this West U tradition, while keeping in mind current safety recommendations. Registration for this fun night will open in the fall. If you are interested in being a sponsor for this extremely popular event, contact Friends Executive Director Donna LaMond at 713-662-7430 or diamond@westutx.gov.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Park Lovers' Ball
at Hotel ZaZa

February 5, 2022
Details coming soon!

Public Works

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Could you be contributing to storm-water pollution without even knowing it? Storm-water is rainwater and, anything it collects when draining, such as pollutants, trash, and sediment. Unlike sanitary sewage, storm-water is not treated, and it discharges directly into Braes Bayou before it ultimately ends up in Galveston Bay. It is important to avoid potential contamination at your property from entering the storm sewer system. Here are some simple steps that can help:

- 01** Utilize Commercial Carwashes instead of washing your car at home. At a minimum, use a neutral or biodegradable soap and apply water sparingly.
- 02** Check your vehicles or other equipment for oil or automotive fluid leaks.
- 03** Pick up after your pet outside as pet waste left on the ground may wash into the storm drains during rains.
- 04** Do not apply pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides before it rains. The rain won't help the chemicals soak into the ground.
- 05** Drain your pool to the sanitary sewer system whenever possible. If backwashing, ensure to de-chlorinate the pool water before discharging.
- 06** Dispose of paint and other household hazardous waste by requesting a voucher through Public Works or by utilizing the free drop-off facility operated by Harris County.
- 07** Keep storm drains free of grass and yard waste.

The City maintains approximately 34 miles of storm sewer pipes and is regulated per Permit TXR040000 issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

For more information regarding the City's storm sewer system, please visit www.westutx.gov/stormwater.

If you have questions regarding the City's storm sewer system, contact Public Works Manager Edward Orozco at 713-662-5858 or eorozco@westutx.gov.

Temporary Free-Chlorine Conversion Scheduled for Fall 2021

This is a pre-announcement to inform residents that as part of required water distribution maintenance, the City is currently planning to temporarily convert the disinfectant used in the water treatment process from chloramine to free chlorine. This change is tentatively scheduled for sometime late in the fall.

The City's main water system currently uses chloramines (a combination of free chlorine and ammonia) to disinfect its drinking water supply prior to customer distribution. This is a reliable disinfection process that has been recommended by the TCEQ for systems treating surface water, such as West U's main water system. It is standard industry practice to periodically convert chloramines back to free chlorine in order to improve and maintain the highest water quality standards. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the TCEQ support this process as a necessary and effective measure for maintaining water quality.

When will this temporary change take place?

The conversion to free chlorine is tentatively scheduled for late fall, and the duration of this conversion will last approximately 7-21 days. A reminder notice will be sent out to residents 30 days in advance prior to this treatment conversion.

What to expect.

Generally, there will be no changes in water quality; however, some individuals may notice taste and/or, odor changes, as well as a slight discoloration to the water during the transition period. Noticeable water quality changes associated with conversions are normally short-lived and are not a public health risk. The water will be safe to drink, and to use for cooking, bathing, and for other everyday uses. During this period, the City will implement directional flushing, combined with routine water quality monitoring, to maintain the highest water quality for customers during the conversion. The City will notify residents once the free chlorine disinfection process has been completed and returned to the chloramine disinfection process.

For additional information on the City's water quality or questions regarding this temporary change in treatment, contact Public Works Manager Edward Orozco at 713- 662-5858 or eorozco@westutx.gov.

For a list of frequently asked questions and other details please visit: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/disinfection/temporary-free-chlorine-conversion

Buffalo Speedway Project

The following is an approximate project timeline:

- 01** **Waterline Replacement**
Completed
- 02** **P.F.D. Outfall to South of Cason St.**
April 2021 – November 2021
- 03** **Cason St. to Amherst St.**
November 2021 – October 2022

West U Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

To Bin or Not to Bin: Preventing Contamination in West U Recycling Bins

Many of us in West U are avid and proud recyclers, which is great! However, sometimes in our zeal to recycle as much as possible, we undermine the effectiveness of our efforts by putting materials in our bins that are not recyclable. Contamination is considered any material that is not recyclable. If contamination is excessive, entire loads of recyclables are rejected.

Waste Management is West U's recycling contractor, and, in 2020, audits found that West U's contamination rate had risen from 9% to 11.3%, which is lower than the national average, but is still a problem.

So, what are the contaminants in West U bins?

Any items placed in plastic bags and/or plastic film are not recyclable.

These are the most common and worst contaminants in our bins because they get tangled, causing the entire sorting process to halt while they are removed.

If you want to recycle items like plastic bags, newspaper and magazine packaging, dry cleaning bags, and (deflated) shipping pillows, please take them to one of the local grocery stores that accept them or you can throw them away, but do not put them or recyclables inside plastic bags in your bin. Recyclables in plastic bags will not be sorted and recycled. Tied plastic bags containing any items should be thrown out as trash.

Avoid food and liquid contamination in recyclables.

This includes cheesy pizza boxes, soft drink cans with remaining liquid, glass jars with spaghetti sauce still inside, and ketchup bottles with ketchup. Please empty and rinse all liquids and food debris from recyclables before putting them in your bin. A little grease on your pizza box is okay, but if it is extra cheesy, put it in the trash or compost it.

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam, commonly called Styrofoam, is not recyclable curbside.

Please remove EPS foam from your recyclable cardboard boxes and do not put this EPS foam in your recycling bin. You can take clean EPS foam blocks and food-service Styrofoam items to the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center on Westpark between Chimney Rock and Fountain View. Residents can also contact local packaging and shipment stores to verify if they accept packing peanuts.

Some items are too small to be recycled.

Recyclables need to be at least 3" x 3" in size, or they fall through the sorting screens and become trash, which generates landfill costs in addition to the recycling processing fee.

Remember: When in doubt, throw it out.

We all want to reduce the amount that we send to landfills, but it is better to throw items in the trash than to contaminate your recycling bins.

▶▶▶ For a complete list of curbside-accepted recyclables, visit www.westutx.gov/recycle.

Don't forget to download the West U Collects app!

- Do you want to know your trash, recycling and yard waste collection schedule?
- Do you want to know what you can recycle or where you can recycle it?
- Want to receive changes in the collection due to holidays?

Then don't delay and download West U Collects app and enter your address. Visit www.westutx.gov/westucollects for all the details.



City Currents

Summer 2021



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

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

City of West U Officials

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Susan Sample
Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery
John P. Barnes
Melanie Bell
Shannon Carroll

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 p.m.

Building and Standards Commission

Meetings are the first Thursday of each month
Starting at 6:00 p.m.

Zoning and Planning Commission

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month
Starting at 6:15 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month
Starting at 6:00 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Board

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Senior Services Board

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month
Starting at 2:00 p.m.

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 www.westutx.gov/agendacenter or call the City Secretary's Office at 713-662-5813.



Save the Date! National Night Out

When: Tuesday, October 5 Hours: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
www.westutx.gov/nno