

# City Currents

Winter 2022

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## 2022 Budget: City Council Lowers Tax Rate for Third Year in a Row

On September 27, City Council adopted the City's 2022 Operating Budget, establishing the City's priorities for the year. This budget is based on Council's adopted goals for 2021-2022:

1. A financially sound City providing superior services valued by the community
2. "Best-in-class" City infrastructure and facilities
3. West U quality of life – ensuring a great place to experience and live
4. High-performing City team that produces results for the West U community
5. Best residential suburban city in the Houston metro area

The adopted budget maintains the City's high service level while lowering the property tax rate for the third year in a row, from \$0.297066 to \$0.278522 per \$100 assessed value. It also avoids increasing fees for water and sewer service.

In reflection of the community's priorities, this budget emphasizes public safety and strengthening our residential character, including through the addition of a new position in the Police Department for parking enforcement and animal control services. It also increases funding for citywide communications efforts to keep residents informed and engaged.

The 2022 budget invests approximately \$24.4 million in the City's 2022 Capital Improvement Program, funding important infrastructure projects that include:

- Sidewalk repairs and replacement
- Construction of the Edloe Street pathway
- Construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements and flood protection
- Design work on citywide street and drainage improvements

Residents will experience the benefits of these investments in the coming years through enhanced infrastructure, fewer service disruptions, and less water in the streets during severe weather events.

For more information on the 2022 Budget, please visit [www.westutx.gov/2022budget](http://www.westutx.gov/2022budget)



# From the Mayor's Desk

## Initiatives Working for West U Residents



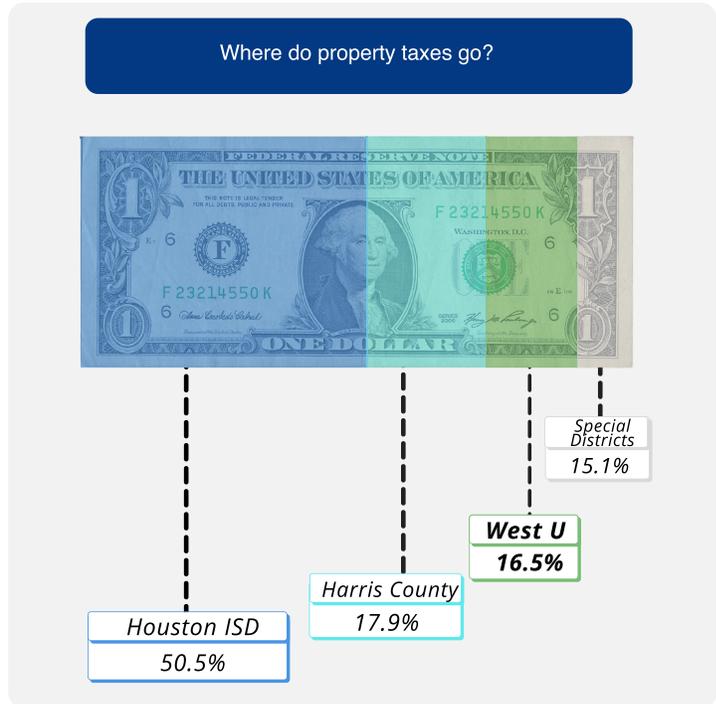
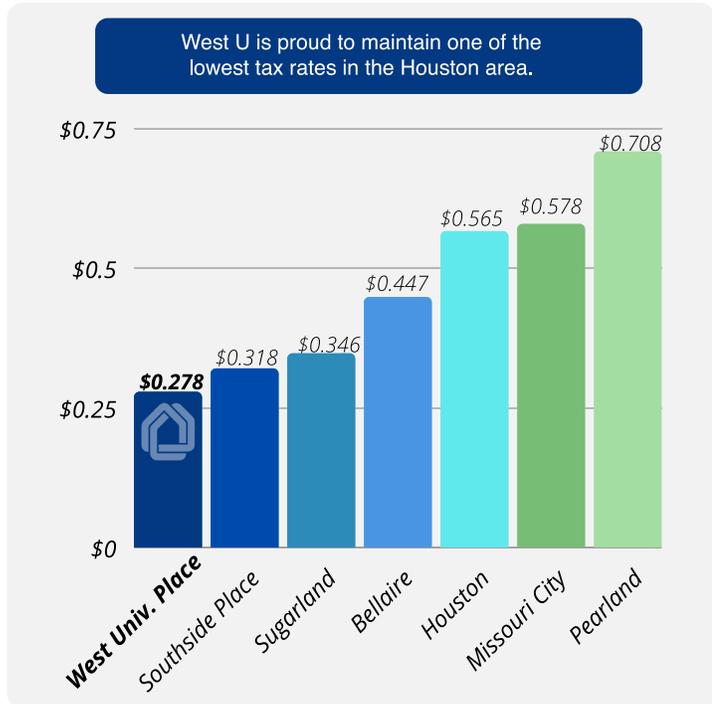
Cooler weather is here, and many of us are taking time to be with our families after a long and difficult couple of years. The holiday season is a slower time for most residents, but the city remains busy with initiatives and projects working for West U. I thought I would take the time to highlight a few of the community priorities we are working on.

### Public Safety

Since taking office, our Council has consistently emphasized the importance of public safety and the need to preserve our community's small-town atmosphere. In reflection of this, the 2022 budget devotes over 44% of General Fund expenditures to our City's exemplary Police and Fire Departments, in addition to implementing changes that will make it easier to recruit and retain highly qualified public safety personnel.

The City has also continued with the installation of the Virtual Gate, a system of license plate readers and cameras at 40 locations around the perimeter of West U. This system has already identified multiple stolen vehicles and assisted in locating missing persons. When fully completed within the next couple of months, the Virtual Gate will be an invaluable tool for dissuading criminals and solving crimes.

## FY 2022 City of West University Place Budget at a Glance



## Improved Infrastructure

The City continues to reinvest in our infrastructure to uphold property values and quality of life, and many of our larger projects will be hitting important milestones next year. This includes:

- Construction design on improvements and floodwater protection at the wastewater treatment plant
- The redevelopment of Judson Park will be completed
- Work continues on Buffalo Speedway, which will provide significant drainage improvements for homeowners in the area
- Construction design on the citywide streets and drainage improvements to mitigate the impacts of severe weather on drivers and homeowners

## Sustainability

Each one of us has an impact on and a responsibility for our city’s future, and this Council has made the promotion of sustainability a priority. As such, we created West U’s first Sustainability Task Force, which will build on existing initiatives and identify opportunities to adopt additional sustainable practices. We are all looking forward to receiving the Task Force’s report in 2022.

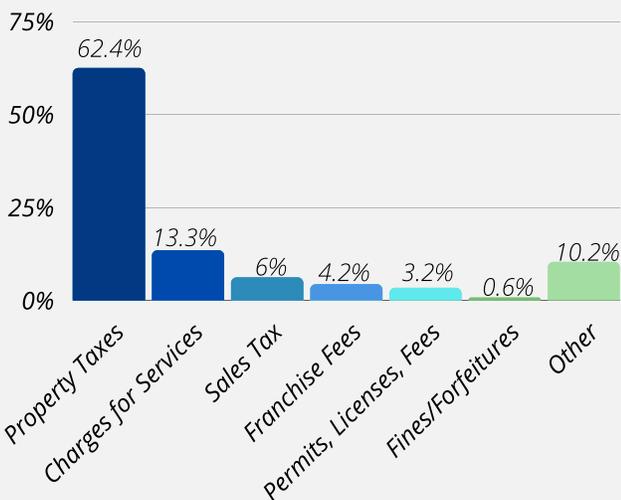
Along these lines, we are also moving forward with the Wastewater Reclamation Project. This innovative plan will transfer treated wastewater for safe, non-potable use outside of West U, diverting almost a million gallons of wastewater each day that would otherwise be discharged into the Brays Bayou watershed, as well as lessening the demand on our region’s drinking water. We look forward to continuing advancing 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.

I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season, and I look forward to more progress for our community in 2022.

# WWW.WESTUTX.GOV/2022BUDGET

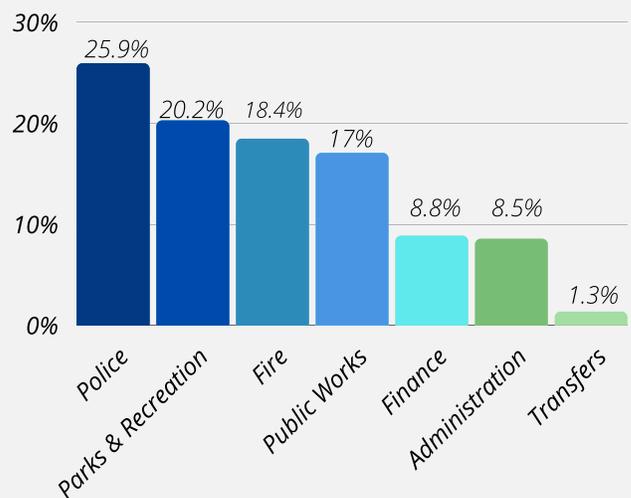
### General Fund Revenue Types

General Fund Total Revenue  
\$21.67 Million



### General Fund Expenditures By Department

General Fund Budget  
\$21.50 Million



## A Message from Council Member Shannon Carroll

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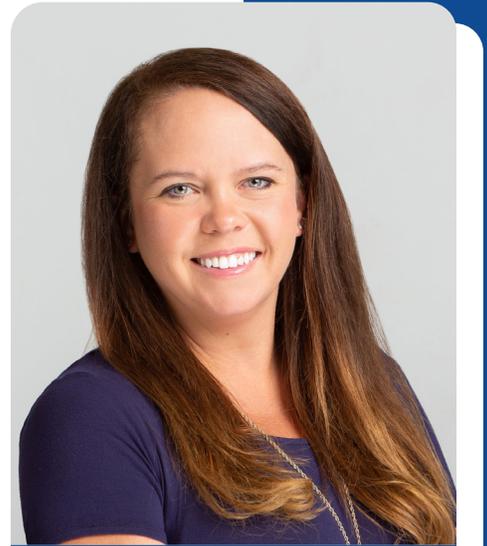
As we move into a new year, it is a time to reflect on the past and to look forward with hopeful anticipation toward the future and I am overcome with a sense of gratitude. As a member of your West University Place City Council, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you. Over the past year, I have appreciated the opportunity to meet City staff and to interact with neighbors new and old.

During our first months as Council members, we were able to come together to define our goals and outline a strategic vision for our city. We created the first Sustainability Task Force in West U, comprised of citizens who will review and recommend ways for the city to improve its energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. We also worked to pass an annual budget. Recently, we appointed members to our City boards, and we were encouraged with the level of interest and numbers of both new and experienced applicants and their enthusiasm to serve.

Looking toward the future, we are anticipating the completion of the Buffalo Speedway construction project. We continue to receive regular updates on the eastside and westside drainage projects that are designed to help with flooding in West U, and on the initial phases of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are also working on identifying future improvements to Poor Farm Ditch. This drainage ditch that runs through our city is in need of repair, and we have made it a priority to explore options to improve and enhance its functionality, working with our neighbors in Southside Place and with Harris County officials to do so.

The future here in West University Place is bright! The ability of our citizens, friends, employees, and neighbors to come together and work with an eye toward the future is nothing short of impressive. I am grateful to live in and represent this city that we all call home, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together in the New Year!

- Council Member Shannon Carroll



*Council Member  
Shannon Carroll*

# City Spotlight

## Fire Chief Aaron Taylor Retires

On October 1, West University Place Fire Chief Aaron Taylor notified the City that he will be retiring effective January 4, 2022. After 20 years of fire service, Taylor will transition to the private sector to support his family's business.

Taylor began his fire service career in 2001 as a Firefighter/EMT with the Bryan, TX Fire Department. In 2003, Taylor completed the Paramedic program located at the Texas Engineering Extension Service in College Station, TX. Upon relocation to the Houston area, Taylor worked for the City of Humble Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic before beginning his tenure with the West University Place Fire Department in July 2005. Taylor served the West U community as a Firefighter/Paramedic before promoting to Fire Lieutenant in 2008. In 2010 Taylor was named Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal & Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. In 2013 Taylor was appointed to Fire Chief/ Emergency Management Coordinator in April 2013. Throughout his career, Aaron earned a Bachelor's degree from West Texas A&M in Emergency Management Administration and also graduated from the Texas Fire Chief's Academy earning the Certified Fire Executive (CFE) designation.

In his retirement letter Chief Taylor stated, "I sincerely appreciate all that the City has done for me and my family throughout my career and will certainly miss all of my West U friends that I have made along the way. It has been an honor to serve the City as Fire Chief and I will be forever grateful of the support from the West U staff.



Outgoing Fire Chief Aaron Taylor



**“It is my honor, privilege, and great fortune to be selected for this opportunity.”**

**- Incoming Fire Chief Jennifer Drake**

## Jennifer Drake Appointed as New Fire Chief

City Manager Dave Beach has appointed Fire Captain Jennifer Maxwell Drake to the position of Fire Chief following the impending retirement of Chief Taylor. City Council approved the appointment at its November 8, 2021 meeting. The change in leadership will take effect January 4, 2022.

Captain Drake began her career in emergency services in 2000 as a volunteer for Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department where she served the community responding to emergency medical service (EMS) calls while at the same time continuing her education to become a Texas State Licensed Paramedic in February 2001.

Drake landed her first full-time job as a paramedic in April 2001, with the City of Galveston's Emergency Medical Services (EMS). While serving and learning the ropes in Galveston, Drake continued in-class learning and in December 2002, graduated from the Fire Academy at College of the Mainland. Drake joined the West University Place Fire Department in April 2004 as a Firefighter/Paramedic and later promoted to Lieutenant in 2018 and Captain in 2020.

In addition to bringing with her strong skill set, experience and, numerous fire and paramedic certifications, Captain Drake recently completed the Texas Fire Chief's Association Academy to become a Certified Fire Executive. She has been instrumental to the Fire Department's growth implementing community engagement programs like educational classes for the West U Senior Services program. She also established the department's new member and newly promoted officer onboarding task books, as well as works with the Bellaire and Southside Place Fire Departments to coordinate multi-agency trainings. Drake has also managed all EMS operations for West U including supply inventory, protocols, and field training.

As she looks forward, Drake said, "It is my honor, privilege, and great fortune to be selected for this opportunity. The members of the West U Fire Department are extraordinary and possess the core values and skills needed to obtain the Fire Department's mission of excellence. I look forward to leading the department as we continue to execute this vision."

# Resident Resources

## Edloe Pathway Project

Planning is underway for a pathway and landscaping improvements on Edloe bordering Poor Farm Ditch from Albans to north of Rice Blvd. For more information and to sign up for project updates, visit [www.westutx.gov/parkprojects](http://www.westutx.gov/parkprojects) or contact Parks and Recreation Director Susan White at [swhite@westutx.gov](mailto:swhite@westutx.gov).



## Solid-Waste Rate Increase

Notice of Solid-Waste Rates

Effective January 1, West University Place solid-waste rates will increase 3%.

### New Rates:

Standard rate - \$33.96

Senior/Disabled - \$17.25

## 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 long as appropriate documentation is provided.

For assistance, contact Utility Billing at 713-662-5824 or [billinghelp@westutx.gov](mailto:billinghelp@westutx.gov).

## MYWestU App

Download the official app for the City of West University Place! With the MYWestU app, residents can easily stay up to date with city happenings. Enjoy the features of paying your utility bill or submitting a service request from the palm of your hands. The

MYWestU app connects residents with the services and information needed to enjoy the community while staying engaged with local government. MYWestU is available in the Apple and Google App Stores.

## Flood Insurance – Did You Know...

As part of the City's ongoing efforts to provide residents with the knowledge and resources to protect themselves from potential hazards, residents may contact the City's Floodplain Administrator to ask if a permit is required before making any repairs or improvements to a home/property. City staff can provide advice on drainage issues, along with information on grant opportunities in order to elevate your home, and other flood protection assistance including sources for financial assistance.

Residents can also contact the Community Development Division to obtain information such as Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) floodplain and floodway locations, flood problems not shown on the FIRM, and historical flooding issues. Copies of elevation certificates and site specific data are available upon request.

Remember to do your part to reduce potential flooding by:

**Keeping debris and trash out of the streams and ditches**

**Preventing trash from being dumped in the water drains, as the drains lead to Galveston Bay**

**Reporting any issues that you see to the City's Public Works Department**

## Don't Miss Out on a Discount!

Please take the time to review your home's flood insurance coverage to ensure that it is up to date. If you have flood insurance, you may be eligible for a discount due to the City's high Class 7 rating in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. This high rating reflects on how diligently the City of West U strives to protect its residents and their property.

FEMA has updated the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) risk rating methodology by implementing a new pricing strategy called Risk Rating 2.0, which is designed to enable FEMA to deliver rates that better reflect a property's flood risk. This new rating system will have a direct impact on your flood insurance premiums.

For more information, contact your flood insurance provider, or go to [www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/risk-rating](http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/risk-rating) or [www.westutx.gov/245/Flood-Protection-Information](http://www.westutx.gov/245/Flood-Protection-Information). You can also call 713-662-5830, email [pwinfo@westutx.gov](mailto:pwinfo@westutx.gov), or visit the Public Works offices at 3826 Amherst St. to request a site visit.



# Public Safety



## Sirens and Lights – Pull to the Right

The West University Place Police Department offers the following tips to motorists when they encounter emergency lights and sirens. When flashing emergency lights and loud sirens are fast approaching behind your vehicle, chances are it is an emergency vehicle that needs to quickly move past you. Slow your speed, look ahead for a safe spot to pull over, and then use your blinkers to signal your move. Once the emergency vehicle has passed, take a moment to reassess the situation before pulling back out into traffic, as there may be other emergency vehicles following behind the first one.

At an intersection, sometimes you will hear the siren before you see the emergency vehicle and you may be unable to determine the direction of the siren. If this occurs take extra time and locate the source of the siren before proceeding through the intersection.



### At an intersection, if you hear a siren or see flashing lights, you should:

- Stop at the limit line or at the crosswalk.
- Yield the right of way when safely able to do so, which may mean driving through the intersection on a green light prior to pulling to the right.
- Wait for all emergency vehicles to pass before pulling back onto the road.

### On a street, if you hear a siren or see flashing lights, you should:

- Pull over to the right when safely able to do so.
- Slow down and stop to ensure a safe lane of passage for the emergency vehicle. Never stop in the middle of the road.

### On a freeway, if you hear a siren or see flashing lights, you should:

- Pull over to the right when safely able to do so.
- Continue to move forward at a safe speed.

If you are being followed by a police officer who requires you to stop, find a safe place to pull over, and, once stopped, turn off your engine. Remain calm and courteous to the police officer at all times and be prepared to produce your driver's license, proof of insurance, car registration, and any other requested documents.

## Direct Link – Home Alarm Monitoring Exclusive to West U Residents

Tragedy can strike when you least expect it, so it is important to prepare. A good security system can provide you with peace of mind, but a great one will help you sleep well at night. The Direct Link home alarm service connects you directly with the West University Place dispatch center instead of a third-party center.

### Enjoy features like:

- No contract
- No middlemen
- Only \$35/month
- Simple billing
- Mobile app \*at an additional cost

For more information about the Direct Link Alarm Monitoring System visit, [www.westutx.gov/directlink](http://www.westutx.gov/directlink).



## Speed Limit Reduction

The West University Place Speed Reduction Project is now complete, and the public is advised to pay attention to the revised speed limit signage located throughout the city. While a majority of City streets are now 25 mph, school and park zones will remain at 20 mph. Additionally, Buffalo Speedway will remain at 30 mph, and the 4100 – 4200 blocks of Bissonnet will remain at 35 mph.

To learn more about the Speed and Traffic Study, please visit, [www.westutx.gov/speedlimit](http://www.westutx.gov/speedlimit).

## Save the Date!



### Bingo with Badges

February 25 at the Community Building  
Registration opens February 1 at [www.westutx.gov/police](http://www.westutx.gov/police)



# Parks and Recreation

## Outdoor Event Series

On April 1, April 8, and April 22, the Parks and Recreation Department will have special Friday evening performances at the Colonial Park Pavilion from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Will it be a movie? A magician? A band? A piano player? A juggler? Or something even better? You will have to come and see. For more information on these performances, please visit [www.westutx.gov/events](http://www.westutx.gov/events) or call the Recreation Center at 713-662-7420.

## Easter Spring Festival

The Easter Bunny is coming to West U! In April, the Parks and Recreation Department will host an Easter/Spring Celebration, with a special visit from the Easter Bunny and his good friend Wally the Walrus. This event will be held on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the athletic fields next to the Recreation Center at 4210 Bellaire Blvd. Admission to this event is free for West U residents.

## Now Hiring: Recreation Center Attendants, Lifeguards, & Swim Instructors

The West U Recreation Center and Colonial Park Pool staff is now accepting applications for part-time Customer Service team members, along with lifeguards, and swim instructors. The Parks and Recreation Department offers competitive pay, flexible schedules, and a fun atmosphere! Certifications are necessary for some positions, and quality customer service is a must for all employees. Be a part of fantastic team! For more information, visit [www.westutx.gov/jobs](http://www.westutx.gov/jobs) or call 713-662-7420.

## Summer Camp Registration Mark Your Calendars!

Does your child have summer plans? The West University Place Parks and Recreation Department will be offering multiple camps that will cover a variety of kids' interests. Among these camps will be the Building Brains LEGO Camp, Dance Camp, iKids Camp, Tennis Camp, and Kidventure! Spaces will be limited. Visit [www.westutx.gov/camps](http://www.westutx.gov/camps) for a complete listing of camp descriptions, dates, and times – or call 713-662-7420 for more information.

**Priority Registration** – Must have been enrolled in a 2021 camp to qualify for 2022 Priority Registration: Monday, January 31

**Resident Summer Camp Registration:** Wednesday, February 2

**Open Summer Camp Registration:** Friday, February 4

**Kidventure Camps:** Please visit [www.kidventure.com](http://www.kidventure.com) for more info.

## Senior Service Offerings

**AARP Tax Help:** The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program anticipates restarting regular in-person service next tax season. You must schedule your appointment through Senior Services by calling 713-662-5895. Appointments will be on the hour from 9 a.m. – noon on Fridays in February.

**NEW - Conversational French:** Learn the French language with instructor Carolyn Lazar, who will teach you common interactions of conversational French. Excellent for travelers! Six-week course begins Wednesday, January 5 - February 9. 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. \$110

**NEW – Lunch-Time Yoga:** With the help of Certified Kripalu Yoga Instructor Molly Hammond, this class will enable you to boost your mood, stretch, strengthen your body and balance, and rejuvenate yourself on the mat. Class level: Gentle/Moderate. Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. \$40 per month.

**Pickle Ball Games:** Pickle Ball is an indoor paddle sport that was created for all ages and skill levels. While the rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, pickleball can be a quick, fast-paced, and competitive game. Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Fridays at 1 p.m. Free

**Beginning Watercolor Classes:** This fun eight-week class series will start Friday, January 7, at 1:30 p.m. Learn about the color wheel, along with the initial stages of watercolor painting, with instructor Sheila Lipkin. \$99

**Casino Day:** Are you feeling lucky? On Thursday, December 30, come join us at 1 p.m. to enjoy blackjack, craps, poker, and all the Vegas trappings for a fun afternoon of gambling (but not for money). The National Charity League's (NCL's) Heart of Texas chapter will be assisting with this fun event. Prizes and food will be provided. Free

**Precinct Trip to League City:** On Wednesday, January 12, at 9 a.m., we will travel to the Butler Longhorn Museum, previously the home of Walter Hill. League City now owns this property. Join us for this fun outing, which will be followed by lunch on your own at the Red River BBQ & Grill restaurant. \$18

**Opera Talks:** Starting on Friday, January 21, at 9:30 a.m., this 11-week program will feature talks on a wide range of opera-related subjects, including the preparations for upcoming productions. These talks, enlivened by video snippets, will be presented by Ann Thompson. \$33

**Exploring Shakespeare:** Starting on Friday, January 21, at 11:15 a.m., this friendly educational group, led by instructor Kate Pogue, will gather for 11 weeks to read Shakespeare's plays, study his life, and learn relevant historical information about him. \$33

**Precinct Trip to Navasota:** On Wednesday, February 23, at 8 a.m., we will travel to the BeeWeaver Honey Farm in Navasota to tour the farm's established colonies of honey bees, enjoy sample tastings (similar to wine tastings) of fresh Texas honey, and visit the one-stop bee shop. Lunch will be on your own at Herrera's Mexican Restaurant. \$23

**Precinct Trip to Austin:** On Wednesday, March 9, at 8 a.m., come with us to enjoy a colorfully landscaped bus trip to Austin, where we will receive a docent-led tour of the grounds of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, which was co-founded by actress Helen Hayes. Lunch will be on your own at the Wildflower Café, which is located within the center. \$29

**Precinct Trip to Nacogdoches:** Join us on Wednesday, April 27, or Thursday, April 28, at 8 a.m., when we will travel by bus to experience the Pineywoods Barn Quilt Trail, followed by lunch on your own at Auntie Pasta's Italian restaurant. We will end the day at the Stephen F. Austin Gardens to explore the 11-acre trail of the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden. Space will be limited, so sign up early. \$16

**Volunteer Today:** Submit your application to join West U Senior Services in providing top-tier amenities to senior residents! [www.westutx.gov/seniors](http://www.westutx.gov/seniors)

## Park Lovers' Ball 2022

On Saturday, February 5, the Friends of West University Parks Fund (Friends) will celebrate 30 years of the Park Lovers' Ball as we present "The Pearl Gala" at Hotel ZaZa in the Museum District. Gala co-chairs Kimberly Ang and Kelly Hill are excited about hosting Park Lovers' Ball and are busy planning a memorable evening of FUNdraising. Auction Co-chairs are Jordan Jewett and Buckley Morlot. To volunteer to help with the gala, please contact Friends Executive Director Donna LaMond at 713-662-7430 or [DLaMond@WestUTX.gov](mailto:DLaMond@WestUTX.gov). In addition to



the fabulous auction packages, the event will feature the popular wine pull, whiskey blackjack, dinner and dancing to the high energy tunes of Password. We hope you will join Friends of West University Parks in celebrating our parks. To become an underwriter or sponsor/purchase seats or tables for the gala, please visit [www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org) or scan the QR code.

## Fathers & Flashlights

Congratulations and a huge thank you to the 2021 Fathers & Flashlights co-chairs, Katie and Chris Hill, Michelle and Doug Huth and Sarah and Mark Knysch, for planning and organizing another tremendously successful camp out and fundraiser for our beloved West U parks last October 23 and 24. We could not have pulled it off without our generous underwriters and sponsors. Thank you especially to our Camp Founder Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital and Camp Hero Gibson Dunn. Special thanks also to our top tier underwriters and sponsors, Frost Bank, Kirkland & Ellis and Vinglace`.

We are grateful to ALL of our underwriters, sponsors and in-kind donors, plus the many volunteers who make this event possible each year. Other generous donors included:



**King of the Hill:** Goodsmith Home Care & Repair • Maggie Garza/Compass & Elizabeth Borski/Old Republic Title • Russo Services Remodeling & Painting • The Pit Room • Truist Financial Corporation.

**Trail Blazers:** Cammarata Pediatric Dentistry Group • Chick Fil A Holcombe & Buffalo Speedway • David B. Atkins, Stormy Hayes-Knipe, Kristine Martinez/Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty • Heidi Dugan/Greenwood King Properties • Hungry's • Lauren & Brandon DeFrehn • The Schaeffer Family • Village Plumbing & Air • West U Smiles by Dr. Julie Longoria & Dr. Stephen Chen • The Woman's Hospital of Texas • The Wommack Family.

**Outback:** Jennifer & Scott Allison • Aon • Butler-Cohen/Kelly & Sean Butler • The Barrett Family • Elite Care 24 Hour Emergency Center • iKids, Inc. • JS Lopez Law Firm • The Kuhl Family • Laura Mayer/Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty • Meredith & Ben Marshall • The Morrison Family • Amina & Shad Rahman • Tiny's Milk & Cookies.

**Backpacker:** Mary Frances DuMay/Compass Real Estate Advisor • The Field Family • The Parker Family • Lone-Star Roofing.

For a full listing of our donors and funds raised, please see our website [www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org).



GIBSON DUNN

## Fundraising Year-Round

While Fathers & Flashlights and Park Lovers' Ball are the largest Friends fundraising events, there are also other ways to support parks and green spaces year around. These include business and community partnerships, memorials, honorariums, pavers, benches and tree sales.

To receive Friends information or to update your email address with us, please visit [www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org). Questions? Please call 713-662-7430 or email [diamond@westutx.gov](mailto:diamond@westutx.gov).



# Public Works

## Buffalo Speedway Project Update

Construction on Buffalo Speedway is happening simultaneously on two phases of the project, Phase 2 and Phase 4. Both phases involve drainage improvement and roadway pavement replacement on two opposite ends of the city.

### Phase 2

As previously reported, the outfall behind St. Vincent's church has been completed and was followed by the installation of 1,194 linear feet of storm sewer boxes from the outfall to Buffalo Speedway. Once on Buffalo Speedway, the project proceeded north toward the intersection of W. Holcombe. The work at this intersection is further divided into a series of steps based on the complexity of the underground work and private utility conflicts that must be adjusted to accommodate room for the new storm sewer boxes. The contractor (SER) is anticipated to complete Phase 2 at the end of the first quarter in 2022.

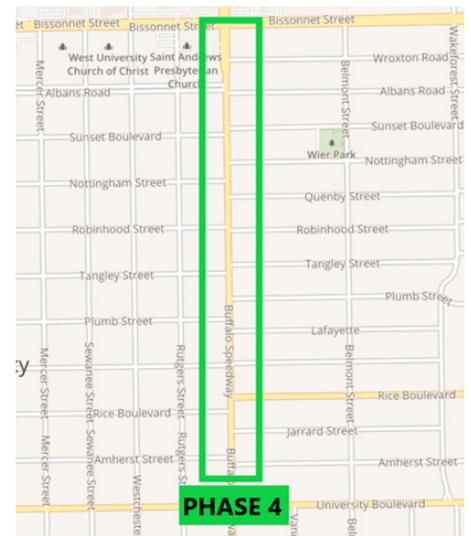
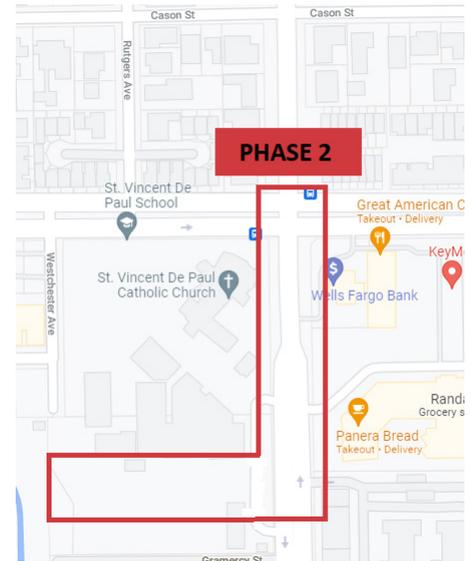
### Phase 4

This phase covers the area spanning from Amherst St. to Wroxton Rd., and involves new underground storm boxes, storm sewer inlets, roadway paving replacements, and traffic signal upgrades. As of January 2022, water connections to the newly installed waterline should be completed, with approximately 1,000 linear feet of pipe installed. This phase is anticipated to be finished by late Spring 2022.

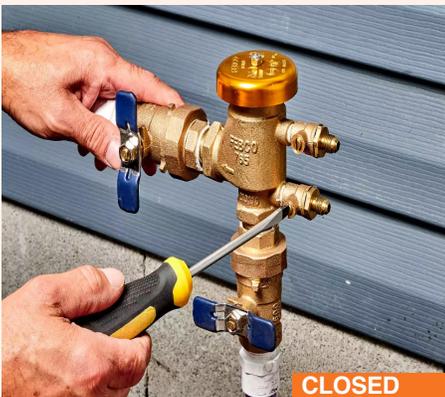
Residents are urged to pack their patience during construction and abide by all traffic speed and safety laws for the well-being of themselves, their passengers, and construction workers. Construction can be disruptive however staff is working diligently with the contractor and engineers to mitigate issues to minimize disruptions whenever possible.

All residents living in and around Buffalo Speedway are highly encouraged to sign up for news and alerts about this project. Please visit [www.westutx.gov/buffalo](http://www.westutx.gov/buffalo) for more details.

If you have any questions regarding the Buffalo Speedway Project, please contact Capital Projects Manager Eduardo Barreto at 713-662-5847 or via email at [ebarreto@westutx.gov](mailto:ebarreto@westutx.gov).



OPEN



CLOSED

## Winterizing Your Irrigation System

February 2021 showed us that we are vulnerable to cold and freezing temperatures here on the Gulf Coast. Now is a good time to ensure that you know some basics about the irrigation system around your home. Please remember that the irrigation system is the responsibility of the property owner and that city staff cannot work on private systems.

A simple precaution to prevent costly repairs and the wasting of water is to turn off your irrigation system at the backflow preventer and to also make sure that all pipes and are properly insulated. Insulation alone may not prevent breaks, so be sure to drain your system and turn off your sprinkler system at the control panel. Systems that remain charged or with water in the column may cause the water to expand when frozen, causing the pipe to burst.

Most systems can be turned off by rotating the irrigation valve handle clockwise to the closed position. The handle will be perpendicular to the pipe when closed. If your system has a separate isolation valve in the ground near the backflow preventer, it is a good idea to close it as well.

If you are unsure of how to drain your irrigation system, please consult your irrigation service provider for further information. You may also search for "how-to" videos online.

Remember to plan ahead and to wrap all exposed pipes and outdoor faucets. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

# West U Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

## Recycling Guidelines 2021

### Curbside Household Recycling

Place all items in your BLUE BIN, cardboard box, or paper bag. NO PLASTIC BAGS. Need an additional blue bin? Stop by Public Works, 3826 Amherst Street, 7:30 am–5:30 pm.

For additional information regarding acceptable and unacceptable items, scan the provided QR code.



## ITEMS ACCEPTED



### CANS

Aluminum, Steel, and Tin Cans

Empty and rinse



### CARTONS

Food and Beverage Cartons

Empty and replace cap



### GLASS

Bottles and Jars

Empty and rinse  
No caps or tops



### PAPER

Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Cereal Boxes, and Flattened Cardboard



### PLASTIC

Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers

Empty and replace cap



## Items Not Accepted



Do not bag recyclables in plastic bags

No garbage



No plastic bags

Recycle at retail store bins: Randall's, Kroger, HEB



No food or liquid

Empty all containers



No  plastic containers or Styrofoam



No clothing or linens

Use donation programs



No tanglers

No hoses, wires, chains, or electronics

## YARD WASTE

What's included: leaves, grass clippings, and small tree and hedge trimmings bagged in kraft paper or compostable plastic bags.

Larger items may be stacked no greater than two 4' x 4' x 3' piles with limbs no greater than 3" in diameter.

### ONLY USE:



USE KRAFT PAPER BAGS

OR



COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC BAGS

# City Currents

Winter 2022



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](mailto: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](mailto:bcuccerre@westutx.gov) or 713-662-5350.

Design by Minor Design

## Meeting Reminder for City Council, Boards and Commissions

### City Council \*currently available in person and via Zoom

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 typically held 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.

For more information on how to attend these meetings, please visit  
[www.westutx.gov/agendacenter](http://www.westutx.gov/agendacenter) or call the City Secretary's Office at  
713-662-5813.



## Download the MYWestU App Today!

With the MYWestU app, residents can easily stay up to date with city happenings.  
Enjoy the features of paying your utility bill or submitting a service request from  
the palm of your hands.