

City Currents

Spring 2022



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City of West University Place Facilities Master Plan – Town Halls to be Held in April

West U encourages residents to attend two Town Hall meetings in April to provide input on the City's ongoing Facilities Master Plan project. The finalized Master Plan will serve as a long-term plan for the locations and functions of City property, ensuring a focused approach to upholding the City's high level of service for residents.

The details of the Town Hall meeting dates and locations will be posted in March.

For more information on the Facilities Master Plan, please visit www.westutx.gov/facilitiesmasterplan. If you have specific questions regarding the plan or process, please email facilitiesplan@westutx.gov.

The Mayor's Article on the following page gives more insight on the Facilities Master Plan process and the importance of public engagement.

Stay Informed on West U's Current Projects!

The City is staying busy with new projects across West U. To keep up with developments, visit www.westutx.gov/citywideprojects for the latest updates on projects including:

Buffalo Speedway Replacement – the replacement of Buffalo Speedway over its entire course through West U, along with associated drainage improvements.

Citywide Street & Drainage – planned improvements to the City's drainage system to mitigate the impact from severe weather events.

Edloe Street Pathway – the development of a footpath along the east side of Edloe Street between Georgetown Street and Albans Street.

Judson Park Redevelopment – improvements to Judson Park's aesthetics and equipment, in line with the City's Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

Virtual Gate – a system of license plate readers and cameras around the perimeter of West U to uphold public safety and dissuade potential criminals.





Mayor Susan Sample

From the Mayor's Desk

Initiatives Working for West U Residents

Over the past few months, I have been updating you regularly on the many important projects and initiatives going on at the City of West University Place. I would like to take some time to discuss one particularly significant project that will impact West U and its residents for the foreseeable future: the Facilities Master Plan.

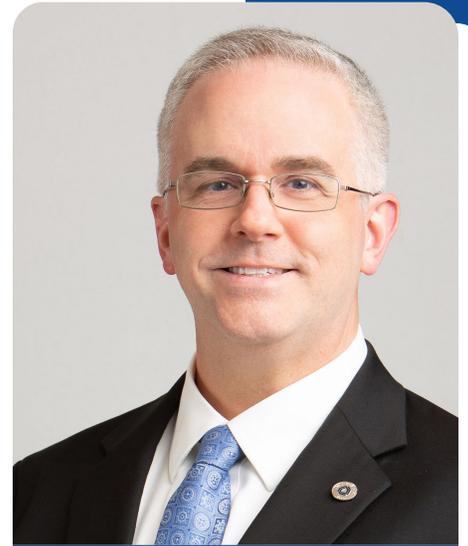
This Council approved the completion of a master plan as a top policy priority for this year, with the goal of identifying the final location and function of City facilities. This is an important step for long-range planning for the future of our City's public service model. With some of our facilities dating back to the 1940s, decisions will need to be made in the near future on repairs and renovations. In addition, factors such as the increasing cost of land in our area, changes in local government and public service practices (such as innovations in technology), and the risk of severe weather underscore the need for a guiding plan for our public facilities. Long-term planning avoids short-term mistakes, and decisions about our City's buildings will affect residents for decades to come.

Council has emphasized the importance of public engagement in this process. In line with this, we held our first discussion of the Master Plan at our Council meeting on December 13th, followed by a special meeting focused on different identified concepts on January 31st.

In order to provide opportunities for public input on the final Master Plan, we will also be holding two town hall meetings in the coming months to solicit your feedback on the future and needs of our city. These will be held in both the morning and evening to give as many residents as possible a chance to attend. We look forward to announcing more details on these meetings in the near future.

The Facilities Master Plan process will be an important step in establishing the long-term vision for our community. This includes how our local government, its buildings and operations interact with our community. I invite you all to get involved in this process to determine that vision together.

A Message from Council Member John Barnes



*Council Member
John Barnes*

As the saying goes, the flipside of crisis is opportunity. In this case, last year's winter storm, which decimated the beloved stand of oleanders bordering Poor Farm Ditch, has provided the City with the opportunity to create an exciting brand new amenity in the form of a wholly new walking and biking pathway in the heart of our City. The new pathway will, for the first time ever, provide uninterrupted, well-lit and safe transit all the way from Sunset Blvd. to Rice Blvd., improving residents' access to our City Center.

New landscaping, including vines, trees and shrubbery, will be planted alongside the path in order to provide beauty and partial shade, as well as to restore much of the green screen lost to the ravages of last year's freeze. Additional improvements, including benches and drinking fountains for both humans and dogs, will make the pathway a welcome addition for both people and pets. City staff are also working with Centerpoint to determine the viability of relocating the utility wires that run along Edloe, in order to provide additional space and add to the scenic beauty of the pathway.

Lastly, this project will replace a portion of the aged existing chain link fence alongside the pathway. In addition to enhancing resident safety, the most recent proposed fence design, a 6-foot decorative aluminum fence, was specifically selected by our Parks Board to enable residents to view the wildlife that live in and around Poor Farm Ditch, which is a major water source for the birds, mammals and other animals that call West U home. Though the final design may vary somewhat, this viewing opportunity will likely remain a feature of the project.

Thus, for those who would like to experience the biodiversity of our community first-hand, the Edloe Street Pathway and the excellent intersecting footbridges at Robinhood, Tanglely and Plumb will provide residents a wonderful selection of locations to do some year-round birdwatching. Some of the birds that residents can expect to see from time to time include:

Black-bellied Whistling Duck
(Dendrocygna autumnalis)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Archilochus colibris

American Robin
Turdus migratorius

Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus

White Ibis
(Eudocimus albus)

Rufous Hummingbird
Selasphorus rufus

Hermit Thrush
Catharus guttatus

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Poliophtila caerulea

Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens

Chimney Swift
Chaetura pelagica

Black & White Warbler
Mniotilta varia

Baltimore Oriole
Icterus galbula

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus

White-winged Dove
Zenaida asiatica

American Redstart
Setophaga ruticilla

Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus varius

Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

Wilson's Warbler
Cardellina pusilla

Eastern Screech Owl
Megascops asio

Monk Parakeet
Myiopsitta monachus

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata

Indigo Bunting
Passerina cyanea

Cooper's Hawk
Accipiter cooperii

Carolina Chickadee
Poecile carolinensis

Northern Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottus

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Regulus calendula

Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura

Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor

Eastern Wood-Peevee
Contopus virens

A special thank you to the Nature Discovery Center and the Houston Audubon Society for providing the above list of birds that nest in our area. And, as always, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Parks Director Susan White, her incredible staff, and the citizen volunteers on our Parks Board for spearheading this fantastic project.

Upcoming Events



cookies
With a Cop

MARCH 17 | 10 A.M. – 11 A.M.
WESTUTX.GOV/WUPDEVENTS



**COLONIAL PARK
OUTDOOR EVENT SERIES**

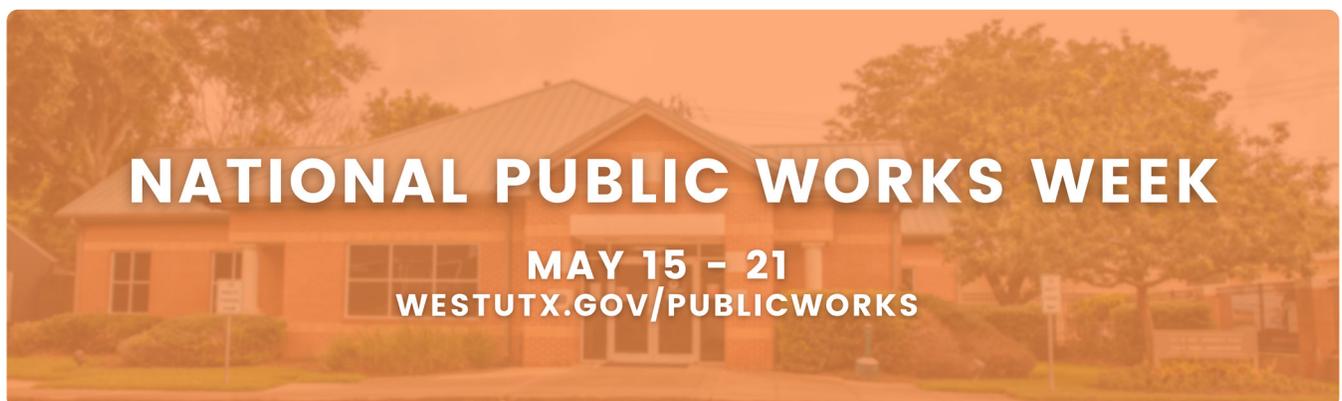
APRIL 1, 8, 22 | 7 P.M.
WESTUTX.GOV/PARKS



**COLONIAL PARK POOL
OPENING WEEKEND**

SATURDAY, MAY 7 – MEMBERS ONLY | 12 P.M. – 6 P.M.
SUNDAY, MAY 8 – ALL RESIDENTS | 12 P.M. – 6 P.M.

WESTUTX.GOV/PARKS



NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

MAY 15 – 21
WESTUTX.GOV/PUBLICWORKS



City Spotlight

Celebrating 26 Years of Service

This year marks a distinguished milestone for Assistant Fire Chief / Fire Marshal James Novak's career with the City of West University Place.

Novak graduated from the Texas A&M Fire Academy in 1994 and completed paramedic school at The Victoria College. Novak was hired by Chief Terry Stevenson in 1996 as a firefighter paramedic.

Over the years he continued his education in emergency services and attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland for EMS Quality Management. Novak was a major contributor during the startup of our Quality Assurance program for Emergency Medicine.

In 2010 Novak was promoted to Lieutenant where he became a tremendous asset to the development of many firefighters' success. In 2013 he was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal.

In this position, Chief Novak assists with many aspects of administrative and operational duties, plus all functions of the Fire Marshal's office. This includes plan reviews, commercial and residential inspections, as well as community relations and fire prevention.

"He is an absolute blessing to our department, city, and residents. His character, integrity, and moral compass is a shining example of what anyone in the fire service should aspire to," said Fire Chief Jennifer Maxwell Drake.

We look forward to many more years with Chief Novak and his continued contributions to the fire service.



He is an absolute blessing to our department, city, and residents. His character, integrity, and moral compass is a shining example of what anyone in the fire service should aspire to"



Meet the New Code Enforcement Officer

Collin Byars joins the Code Enforcement team after having recently served as a Corporal with the United States Marine Corps as a Military Police Officer. During his time with the Marine Corps he held the position of Patrol Supervisor as well as Lead Traffic Accident Investigator at Camp Courtney Okinawa, Japan. He also received a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma for his excellent service as a patrol supervisor. Byars was also a mentor and leader to his junior Marines for the Provost Marshal's Office.

Byars and his family are native to the Richmond, Texas area. He enjoys volunteering with the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, participating in motorcycle club events, as well as catching up on the latest Netflix series.

Byars is excited to be a part of the West U team and looking forward to getting to know the residents of West University Place.

Resident Resources

Apps Working for You!

MYWestU

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 they need to enjoy their community while staying engaged with local government. The MYWestU app is available in the Apple and Google app stores.

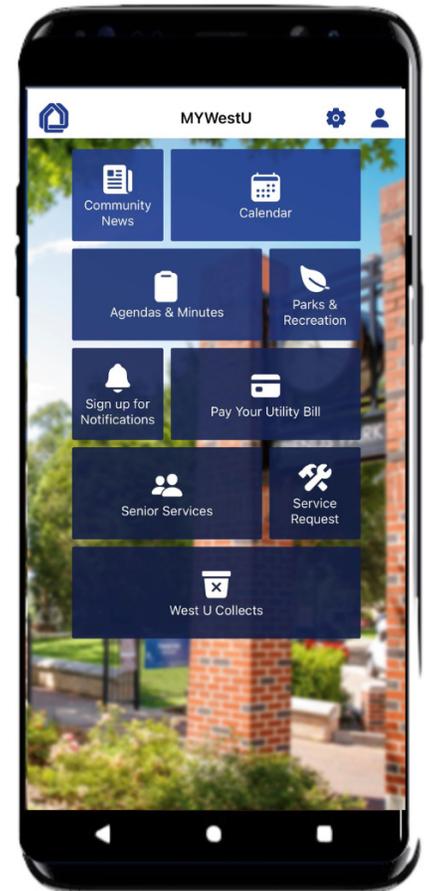
Click West U

Click West U is the City's app that allows residents to make service requests that may be needed in the community. This app also hosts a list of FAQ's that may answer your questions without needing to create a service request.

After entering a request you will receive a response with the expected turnaround time, along with a tracking number to check the status of your request. City staff will follow up with you directly, if necessary. The Click West U app is available in the Apple and Google app stores by searching "GORrequest".

Notify Me

Sign up to receive text message and email notifications from the City! Customize your notifications by selecting from the topics that are most important to you, such as community news, parks and recreation happenings, Buffalo Speedway project updates, and even agenda packets for the City Council and Commission meetings. Sign up today by visiting www.westutx.gov/notifyme.



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

Don't Miss Out on a Discount! - FEMA Risk Rating Method 2.0

The City of West University Place wants to remind residents to take the time to review your home's flood insurance coverage to ensure it is up to date.

FEMA's new Risk Rating 2.0 for flood insurance aims to bring structures to their actuarial rates based on individual risk. This program may have a direct impact on your flood insurance premiums. The City of West University Place works hard to protect its residents by participating in the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary, federal program that rewards communities for implementing higher standards in exchange for discounts on flood insurance premiums for citizens.

For more information, contact your flood insurance provider or visit www.westutx.gov/floodinsurance. For assistance from the Public Works Department or to request a one-on-one site visit, you may call 713-662-5830, email aacosta@westutx.gov, or visit the Public Works offices located at 3826 Amherst St.



Public Safety

Protect Yourself from Tax Scams

Tax scams are no joke. Individuals, businesses, and even tax professionals lose millions of dollars and personal information each year to scammers. Often pretending to be IRS agents or tax preparers, these criminals will reach out via email, mail, phone calls, text messages or even social media. Tax scams are always evolving, feeding off your sense of anxiety and urgency around taxes and private information. Indeed, anyone can be vulnerable to a tax scam, but the first step in preventing them is to become well-informed.

IRS Scams: The IRS will never email you or text you. This means that any electronic communication that you think you have received from the IRS is fraudulent. In rare incidences, the IRS will send mail via the U.S. postal service, and then call you if you fail to respond.

Taxpayer Advocate Service Scams: Another recent tax scam involves fraudulent calls that claim to be from the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), a division of the IRS. By “spoofing” on real IRS phone numbers, these criminals will call you or leave voicemail messages requesting personal information such as your Social Security Number (SSN) or your Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). They may use fake names, fake badge numbers, or know the last four digits of your SSN. Remember, the TAS would never call you without prior correspondence. If you receive such a call, hang up immediately.

Tax Preparer Scams: Yet another scam comes from fraudsters posing as tax preparers. These phony preparers may ask for payment up front, or may ask you to sign blank forms, or ask for a percentage of your returns. Real tax preparers would not do these things, and would always sign above you with their Preparer Tax Identification number (PTIN). Choosing a tax preparer from a reputable, preferably local, agency is advised.

How you can prevent tax scams: Besides being aware of common scams, taking precautions to protect your data and identity can also help prevent scams. These precautions include installing security software on your computer, using strong passwords and multi-factor authentication tools, and getting an IRS Identity Protection Pin to improve your safety.



Residential Knox Box

Residential Knox Box systems are secure, residential key safes that can only be accessed by West U first responders. Install a unit by your homes entrance and have peace of mind knowing that your property and loved ones are protected. Residents can follow the link below to order a Knox Box key safe. Once you receive and mount your key safe, call the Fire Department at 713-662-5837 and ask a member of the department to stop by and lock your keys in the box. For more information, visit www.westutx.gov/fire.



Make the Switch to Direct Link!

Have you made the switch to Direct Link? This alarm monitoring system was created exclusively for West U residents and has a wide variety of benefits to take advantage of today! With services starting at just \$35/month you can receive emergency response from the City's very own Police, Fire, and EMS departments. Residents with Direct Link will have their alarm activations sent directly to The West U Dispatch Center, bypassing the 3rd party connection, resulting in the fastest time response from emergency personnel, guaranteed. Unlike other 3rd party home alarm monitoring systems, Direct Link does not require strenuous contracts, offers convenient billing included on your utility bill, mobile app access, and all Direct Link customers receive a yard sign and window decals to display on their property. To learn more about the benefits and the peace of mind Direct Link can offer you, and to sign up for service, visit www.westutx.gov/directlink.



Parks and Recreation

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.

How Many Eggs are in the Di-Eggo Tower of Eggs?

The Easter Bunny forgot how many eggs he put inside the Di-Eggo Tower of Eggs. Can you guess how many eggs are inside? On Saturday, March 19, the Di-Eggo tower will be filled with eggs and will be on display in the lobby of the West U Rec Center at 4210 Bellaire Blvd. To enter this contest, you will need to pick up a registration form at the Customer Relations Desk at the Rec Center. Once you have registered, you can take your best guess at the number of eggs in the tower. West U residents with the correct guess will be eligible for a prize! The winner will be announced at the Easter Spring Festival on April 9.



Outdoor Event Series

On April 1, 8, and 22, the Parks and Recreation Department will host special Friday evening performances at the Colonial Park Pavilion starting at 7 p.m. Will it be a movie? A magician? A band? A piano player? A juggler? Or something even more surprising? You will have to come and see. For more information on these performances, please visit www.westutx.gov/parks or call the Recreation Center at 713-662-7420.

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

The West U Recreation Center and Colonial Park Pool are 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. For more information, visit www.westutx.gov/jobs or call 713-662-7420.

Senior Service Offerings

Pickleball Games: Pickleball 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**

iPhone Photography: Your iPhone is a fabulous tool to capture precious moments. Join this free class at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 7 to learn what your device is capable of! **Free**

Physicians Lecture Series: Dr. Johnathan N. Sellin, a neurology surgeon who is also a West U resident will visit the Community Building at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19 to provide interesting and beneficial information on minimally invasive spine surgery. **Free**

Garden Club Lecture: Join Master Gardener Beth Braun at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 25, as she discusses how gardening can be a wonderful tool for meditation. **Free**

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

Stay Prepared, Stay Safe: Medical Emergency Readiness

If you have ever had a medical emergency in your home, you recognize the importance of having your medical information at hand. "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) information and can provide helpful data to medical professionals during a crisis. This important list of information includes emergency contacts, allergies, and current medications.

Below are a few places where this critical information can be kept:

1. Medical alert bracelets
2. On your refrigerator
3. On your smartphone

If you are suffering a medical emergency, you might be unable to provide this information to paramedics. Wearing a medical alert bracelet is the easiest way for first responders to find what they need to know, such as if you are diabetic and need insulin, or your blood type. Another suggestion is to keep the information listed clearly on a note on your refrigerator in a red envelope for paramedics to find. If you have your smartphone on your person frequently, you can also store this information on your lock screen by using the iOS Health app or by going to your Android phone's settings to select "about phone", and then "emergency information".

Register for Summer Classes!

Summer class registration is right around the corner. Priority registration starts April 25 and resident registration begins April 27. Camp registration is currently ongoing and spots are filling up. Visit www.westutx.gov/camps to view offerings.

Planting New Roots at Colonial Park

The City of West University Place and the Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. (Friends) are delighted to announce that a new Mexican white oak tree was planted at Colonial Park on November 5, 2021, thanks to longtime West University Place resident and neighborhood real estate agent, Mary Frances Anderson DuMay. This new tree replaced a large tree that had to be removed following the severe freeze last February. The new tree was officially dedicated on Sunday, November 7 with her family - husband, David and their three sons Clayton, Conner and Patrick. Mary Frances and her new real estate team, The Anderson DuMay Team at Compass Real Estate, hosted a tree dedication and blessing complete with a ribbon ceremony honoring her team's West U clients, neighbors and community friends that refer new business to her team.

Mary Frances DuMay has been a devoted 'West U Park Lover' since her family moved into West U in 2007. Mary Frances and David DuMay co-chaired the Park Lovers' Ball in February of 2020 with their dear friends Kimberly and John Carr Eads. PLB 2020-A Medieval Knight in the Park was one of the most successful fundraisers ever for West U Parks and green spaces. Mary Frances also stepped up to sponsor the Party on the Patio in 2021 and has committed to the concert series again for 2022.



COMPASS

**Mary Frances
Anderson DuMay**
Sales Agent
713.724.0577
@andersondumayteam



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 greenspaces 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 and sign up for emails from Friends. Questions? Please call Friends Executive Director Donna LaMond at 713-662-7430 or email her at dlamond@westutx.gov.

Upcoming Events

Dates will be announced soon for the next Fathers & Flashlights event coming next fall. Be on the lookout for the 2023 Park Lovers' Ball date as well.



Judson Park Improvements

The Parks and Recreation Board and staff working in conjunction with a citizen user group on improvement recommendations. No major changes are recommended for the park layout; however, the park will be getting a facelift and new energy efficient lighting. The project includes repainting the current play structures and fencing, replacing the artificial safety turf, resurfacing the tennis courts with new Pickleball lines, relocating the backboard to the north side of the park, and adding a gaga ball pit for those beginning to age out of traditional play equipment.

The improvements are slated to begin in early summer, and a full park closure will not be necessary. No tax dollars will be used for this project! All improvements are made possible through generosity of the Friends of West University Place Park Fund. To learn more about the project visit www.westutx.gov/parkprojects, and to donate or to learn more about Friends and all they do for the community, please visit www.westuparks.org.

Public Works

Illicit Discharges – Remember: If It Isn't Rain, It Doesn't Go in the Drain

An illicit discharge (illegal dumping) is any discharge into a storm drain that is not composed entirely of stormwater. Examples include the illicit dumping of automotive fluids, pet waste, household hazardous waste (HHW), grass clippings, leaves, and industrial waste. Anything other than the water that falls from the sky is an illicit discharge, and it is illegal. The only exceptions are discharges from dechlorinated swimming pools, residential car washing, and fire protection water.

Common sources of illicit discharges include:

Sanitary wastewater

Household cleaners

Chlorinated pool water

Motor oil

Weed killers

Laundry wastewater

Pesticides

Paints

How Can You Help?

Stormwater picks up anything in its path as it travels across yards, driveways, and streets, and then carries it down into the storm drain. To ensure that our drains are effectively managing stormwater, be sure to properly dispose of all waste items and to:

- Avoid sweeping or blowing leaves into a storm drain. (this is also against City ordinances)
- Dispose of used motor oil, leftover paint, cleaners, and other household chemicals at an HHW or authorized facility.
- Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizers and avoid using them when rain is forecasted.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly to keep bacteria and parasites out of our creeks.

Report an Illicit Discharge

If you see someone putting anything into the storm drain, you should report it by calling 713-662-5839 or emailing pwinfo@westutx.gov. All reports are anonymous.

For further information regarding illicit discharges, visit www.westutx.gov/stormwater or contact Public Works Manager Edward Orozco at 713-662-5858 or at eorozco@westutx.gov.

Buffalo Speedway Project Update

All new storm sewer boxes have been installed for Phase 4 of the Buffalo Speedway project. As of this writing, crews are near completion of all paving of the east side, northbound travel lanes and driveway aprons. The next steps will be to switch traffic to the newly installed pavement and begin removal and replacement of the roadway surface on the west side, southbound travel lanes between Amherst and Bissonnet.

The traffic control plan has been put in place for Phase 3. This Phase will consist of installation of new storm sewer boxes from Cason to University Blvd, as well as roadway and driveway removal and replacement. Due to the complexity of work, Phase 3 will be divided into a series of steps. (e.g. Phase 3-Step 1A & 1B, Phase 3-Step 2, and Phase 3-Step 3). Visit www.westutx.gov/buffalo to view the work zone maps.

Phase 3 – Step 1A & Step 1B

Traffic Control – Traffic lanes will be reduced to one-way southbound only between University Boulevard and W. Holcombe Boulevard. Northbound traffic into West U will be detoured to Kirby Drive.

Work Zone – Construction will be a “rolling zone” on a block by block basis.

Driveway Access – Driveway access for residents on the east side of Buffalo Speedway will be impacted two separate times. The first impact will be a short period while the new storm boxes are installed. Once installation of the boxes are completed, crews will place temporary asphalt as the work zone moves northward allowing access to driveways. The second impact will last approximately 3-4 weeks when road paving is scheduled in Phase 3 Step 3. Residents impacted by Phase 3 Step 3 will be notified in advance.

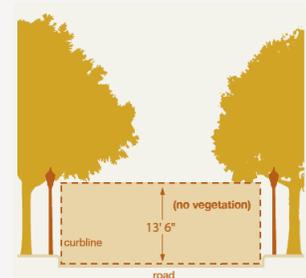
Intersections – Intersections to side streets along Buffalo Speedway will remain open until the rolling work zone reaches a particular intersection. Once the work is completed, temporary asphalt will be placed at each intersection for quicker access until paving is scheduled. Cason St. access will remain temporarily closed throughout the remainder of the project to limit cut through traffic.

All residents living in and around Buffalo Speedway are highly encouraged to sign up for news and alerts for this project. Please visit 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 713-662-5848 or via email at ebarreto@westutx.gov.

Clearance Over Streets

The City requires that vegetation over the roadway be maintained at a minimum height of 13 feet 6 inches, 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 to provide essential City services. Property owners may be held liable for any damages to vehicles caused by low-hanging tree limbs or vegetation over these roadways.



West U Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

Recycling Your Medical Devices

The City of West University Place Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board is always looking for good places for residents to recycle all items. Medical Bridges is a local non-profit group dedicated to recycling medical devices. In the past at some of the City's recycling events, Medical Bridges has been present to accept certain medical items. Do you have medical equipment, medical supplies, or even medical masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) in good condition that you no longer need? Don't just throw them away. Medical Bridges will check them out, repackage them, and ship them to a clinic or hospital serving impoverished people in the poorest countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.



Throughout the developing world, gloves are often a luxury, and simple items that we take for granted are nonexistent. Due to lack of medical supplies, people around the world are suffering from curable health problems and are dying needlessly. Meanwhile, in the U.S., \$9 billion of good medical material is thrown away every year. So, if you have any medical items that are in good condition and with a useful life over 15 months, don't throw them away.

Medical Bridges, located right off the South Loop at Almeda Rd., bridges the healthcare gap by procuring and distributing medical equipment and supplies to underserved communities. In 2020, Medical Bridges prepared, staged, and shipped 149 tons of desperately needed medical supplies and equipment valued at \$7.5 million to 21 developing countries. Additionally, in the U.S., Medical Bridges provided 131,000 masks, 10,000 gloves, and other PPE to 87 hospitals and rural clinics in 36 counties in Texas. Medical Bridges is accredited and is ranked #6 by Charity Navigator among all Houston-area nonprofit organizations.

A partial list of what Medical Bridges accepts includes the following:

Medical and dental equipment of all kinds in good working order

Supplies and PPE that have at least 15 months of life remaining

Hospital beds, wheelchairs, and refrigerators in good working order

Ventilators and oxygen concentrators

Doctor and dental implements and instruments

Please note that Medical Bridges does not accept drugs or pharmaceuticals.

Medical Bridges gives its thanks to those who keep medical items from overloading our landfills by repurposing them for those in need.

To recycle your medical equipment and supplies contact Bonnie Hughes with Medical Bridges at 713-748-8131 to arrange a pickup, or you can drop off your items at the Medical Bridges location at 2706 Magnet St. Houston, TX 77054.

For more information, visit the Medical Bridges website at www.medicalbridges.org.

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

Spring 2022



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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
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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 Susan Sample
Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery
John P. Barnes
Melanie Bell
Shannon Carroll

CITY MANAGER

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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 *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 or call the City Secretary's Office at
713-662-5813.



Save the Date!

Paper Shredding, E-Waste, Mattress Collection, and Household Metal Recycling Event

Saturday, May 7 • 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. • 3826 Milton St. • www.westutx.gov/specialevents