

# City Currents

Summer 2022



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## After Public Town Halls, City Council Moves Forward with Proposed Facilities Master Plan

On May 9th, Council approved a contract to design a new Public Works facility on City-owned property at the corner of Dincans Street and Westpark Drive. This is the first step in implementing the City's proposed Facilities Master Plan, a recommended plan for the locations and functions of City facilities. With some facilities dating back to the 1940s, the City undertook the planning process to develop a long-term roadmap based on projections for service-level needs and current limitations.

Council previously discussed the Master Plan at four public meetings held since December 2021, in addition to holding two Town Halls on April 5th and 7th of this year to solicit public feedback. As a result of this process, Council approved the contract to design a new Public Works facility to house Public Works Operations and Parks Maintenance staff, increasing efficiencies in a centralized location. In addition, the proposed site would include an enhanced Animal Services facility.

Construction of the Public Works facility is scheduled to begin in late 2023, after design and permitting is completed. Under the proposed Master Plan, construction and renovation of facilities would be staggered so that public services, including Recreational and Senior programming, would continue to be provided at their current locations without disruption.

For information on the Facilities Master Plan, or to view presentations and listen to audio from previous meetings, please visit [www.westutx.gov/facilitiesmasterplan](http://www.westutx.gov/facilitiesmasterplan). If you have any questions regarding the plan, please email [facilitiesplan@westutx.gov](mailto:facilitiesplan@westutx.gov).

To stay up-to-date on the Facilities Master Plan and other projects across West U, visit: [www.westutx.gov/citywideprojects](http://www.westutx.gov/citywideprojects).





*Mayor Susan Sample*

# From the Mayor's Desk

## Quality of Life and Benefits You Can Count On

There are numerous reasons people choose to move to West U, from our nearby schools to the benefits of our strong zoning. However, I think that I can safely say that many people choose to stay here for the extraordinary quality of life our community offers. I wanted to highlight the types of initiatives that encourage residents to make West U their home for decades, no matter their age.

### **Edloe Street Pathway**

Council has heard enthusiastic feedback from many residents about this project and our goal of enhancing walkability in our community. The Edloe Street Pathway project will replace 150 old-growth oleanders planted along the west side of Poor Farm Ditch on Edloe Street, which unfortunately died during last year's winter storm. On February 28th, Council approved designs for a new pathway along Edloe Street between Albans Road and Georgetown Street.

This pathway will utilize recycled materials, incorporate benches and trees for shade, as well as include pet-friendly fountains to create a new asset for the entire community. Construction documents are being drawn up, and the City is currently pursuing grant funding before completing the project this year.

### **Colonial Park Pool**

With our recent warm weather, pool season could not come soon enough. With Colonial Park Pool opening to members on May 7th, it was great to see everyone on opening weekend, and we hope to see more of you through the hot months of Texas summer. Our Parks and Recreation Department will be putting on fun, family-friendly events for members throughout the season (the July 4th belly flop contest is always a favorite), so please stay tuned for those.

### **Senior Programs and Discounts**

Most people are shocked to hear that in West U, residents are eligible to participate in our outstanding senior programming at age 50. This includes health and fitness classes, group outings and special events, and learning and discussion programs that allow our residents to try everything from meditation to Shakespeare.

In addition, those who are 65 and older may be eligible for discounts on programming, solid waste billing and more. I encourage you to visit [www.westutx.gov/seniors](http://www.westutx.gov/seniors) to learn more about unique resources available to seniors.

West U is a great place to live, and all of us here at the City work daily to make sure it stays that way. As spring becomes summer, I hope you take the time to get out and explore everything that our community has to offer.

# A Message from Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery

## A Tale of Two Cities: West University Place and Southside Place, Stronger as One?

Friendship allows for candidness on important subjects. Recently, City Council had the opportunity to work through a contract restructuring that will allow the City of West University Place to continue providing Emergency Medical and Building Inspection services to the City of Southside Place. Our long history of cooperation and friendship facilitated a new agreement that will sustain our long-standing partnership at a new rate, fair to both cities.

The success of this renewal has me wondering though, has the time come to talk about joining our two great cities together as one?

Already, we work together on key issues like drainage, public safety, permit inspections, and Friends of West University Parks funding. Our kids go to school together, swim together, and of course, play youth sports together. Our senior programming is made stronger by joint participation from both cities. We enjoy each other's parks, sidewalks, and businesses. Our cities are so close physically that, for an outsider passing through, it may be difficult to discern one from the other. Critically, we help each other in times of crisis.

We face common challenges. The state legislature has limited the ability for cities to raise revenue from ad valorem taxes annually, yet we both face tremendous cost pressure from inflation, aging infrastructure, and higher funding costs related to rising interest rates. Both cities face escalating crime-related stress due to our big-city neighbor and the crowded court system. Given the financial and public safety challenges that we mutually face, one can't help but wonder if we might be stronger together?

Efficiencies could be captured from the elimination of overlapping, infrastructure, facilities, and services. Does anyone else wonder about the practicality of having two large city hall buildings 900 feet apart? Could one site be repurposed as a new community center, library, park, or green space? Elimination of redundant facilities and services translates into immediate tax saving opportunities for residents of both cities.

Our Facilities Master Plan calls for the construction of new facilities that will cost upwards of \$38,000,000. Repurposing and optimizing facilities in both cities potentially eliminates the need for a portion of these new, expensive buildings. Further, as some conscientious residents have already pointed out, wouldn't our sustainability goals be better served without having to demolish existing structures?

If not an outright combination of cities, at the very least, we should explore ways to create more formal sharing of critical services like public safety. There is existing local precedent for this type of interregional partnership on fire and police services in the Memorial Villages to our west.

But what about retaining our independent identities as cities? Yes, this is key. We need to consider a way to come together without losing our unique history or spirit. Perhaps, while combining legally, there might be a way to retain our identities in the way that other parts of Houston do, like the Heights and Southampton. Although we have differences, we have more in common than we do apart.

Please know that this is not an issue currently before City Council. Also, this article is not a call for immediate action, but rather, a call for a candid conversation. This will take time. Let both cities talk amongst their friends and neighbors, sharing their views with their respective city councils. If there is support on both sides of University Boulevard, the voters of each city may petition their Council to submit consolidation to an election.

For now, let's celebrate our long-standing friendship and partnership, and toast to many years to come either as neighbors or as one. I continue to welcome your comments in City Council meetings, as well as your emails. It is an honor to serve you.



*Mayor Pro Tem  
John Montgomery*

# Resident Resources

## Pet Etiquette

If you are a dog owner, or thinking about adding four furry legs to your family, below are the pet laws found under the City's code of ordinances. By following these laws you can protect yourself, your pets, and your community.

### Cat and Dog Registration (Sec. 14-80)

You are required to register your pet with the City's Animal Control Officer. The cost is \$20 for a lifetime registration. Bring a copy of the pet's rabies vaccination papers to the Public Works Building, 3826 Amherst, and fill out the registration form. You will receive a tag to keep as proof of registration. Put the tag along with the rabies tag on your pet's collar. Doing this will help Animal Control identify your pets should they leave your yard or become lost.

### Dogs at Large (Sec. 14-78)

Dogs must be on a leash unless they are in your fenced yard.

### Barking Dogs Prohibited (sec.14-82)

It is unlawful for any person to own, harbor, keep or possess any dog which, by loud or unusual barking or howling causing a disturbance of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.

### Disposal of Dog Droppings (Sec. 14-77)

Dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs when taking them out in public. Don't forget the waste bags when you leave your house for a walk! The City also provides waste bags and trash cans to dispose of waste while you're out on your walk.

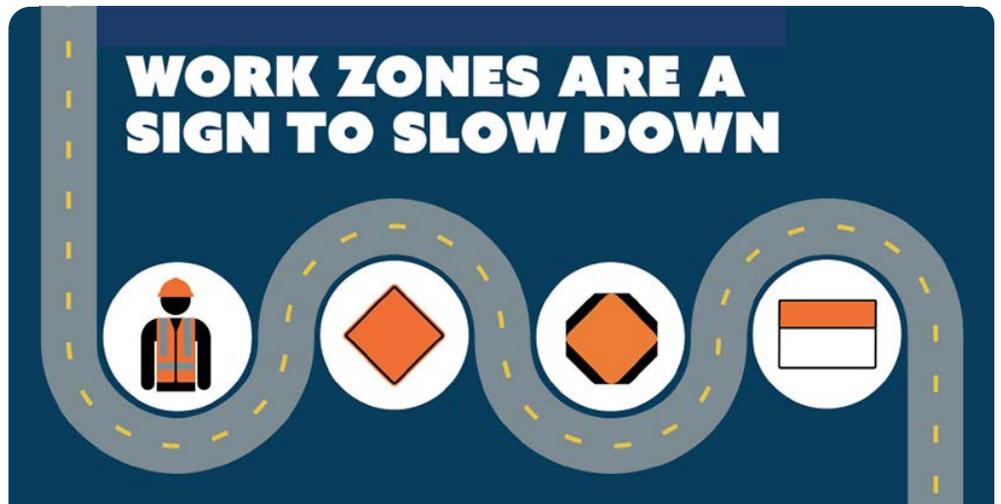
More information on the Chapter 14 ordinance can be found by visiting [www.westtx.gov/ordinances](http://www.westtx.gov/ordinances).

## Parking Etiquette Program

The West University Place Police Department would like to remind residents of the top 5 parking violations commonly seen in West U:

1. Parked blocking sidewalk
2. Parked blocking driveway
3. Parked within 15 feet of fire hydrant
4. Parked within 30 feet of stop sign
5. Parked over 18 inches from curb

For more information visit [www.westtx.gov/parking](http://www.westtx.gov/parking).



## Work Zone Safety

Roadway construction and maintenance is a dangerous necessity. It is imperative to help keep work zones safe for workers as well as other drivers and pedestrians on the roadway. So, how can you do your part?

**Plan Ahead** – Check your traffic conditions and routes before you get on the road.

**Minimize Distractions** – Avoid distractions such as eating while driving or using your cell phone.

**Look out for Workers** – Be aware of your surroundings while driving through a work zone.

**Check your Speed** – Speed is a major factor in work zone fatalities.

**Read the Signs** – Signage in and around work zones are used to provide guidance and increase the ability to safely maneuver through a work zone.

**Work zone safety is everyone's responsibility!**

# Resident Resources

## West University Place Citizens Academy

The City of West University Place is offering residents an opportunity to see, firsthand, how their city operates. This unique 6-week experience will give residents a closer look at day-to-day 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) begins on Thursday, October 6.

Your participation includes: hands-on activities, tours, presentations, light refreshments, and much more! Participation is free and will be limited to the first 12 registrants. Registration will become available on Thursday, September 1.

For more information visit, [www.westutx.gov/citizensacademy](http://www.westutx.gov/citizensacademy).



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

Tragedy can strike when you least expect it, so it is important to do what you can to protect your home. 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 with a third-party center. Enjoy features like:

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

## 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 some 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).

## 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.

To learn more about Point & Pay, please visit the system's website at [www.pointandpay.com](http://www.pointandpay.com).

## POINT & PAY REMINDERS

**Check your emails regularly, including your spam folder.  
Add a new payment method if your card on file expires.  
Report billing concerns immediately.**



**West University Place Utility Billing**  
**billinghelp@westutx.gov**  
**713-662-5824**



## 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](http://www.westutx.gov/floodinsurance). For assistance from the Public Works Department call 713-662-5839, email [pwinfo@westutx.gov](mailto:pwinfo@westutx.gov), or visit the Public Works offices located at 3826 Amherst St.

# City Spotlight

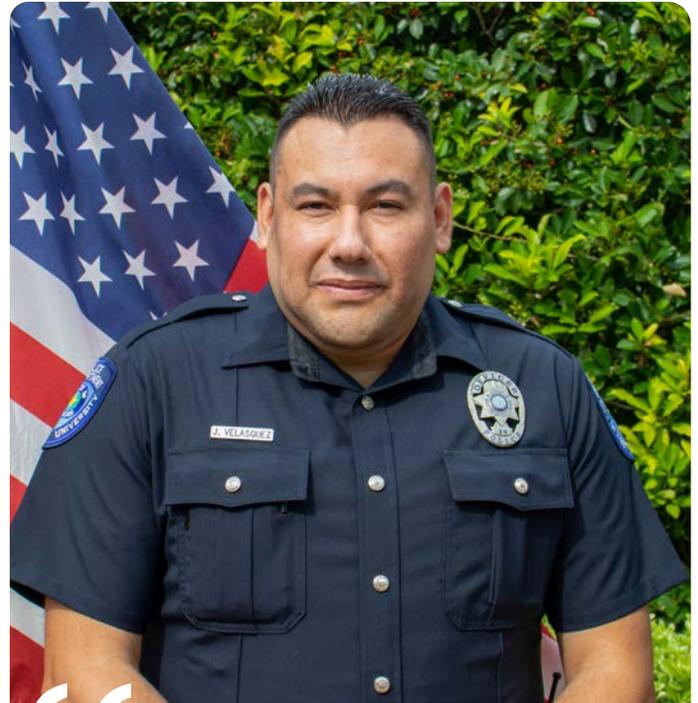
## Moving Up in the Ranks – Officer Velasquez Promotes to Sergeant

Jorge Velasquez began his career as a Jailer at the Harris County Sheriff’s Office in 2012. A few years later in 2014, he decided to change career paths by registering as a police cadet at the University of Houston Downtown Police Academy. Soon after graduation, the West University Place Police Department was honored to welcome Velasquez as the newest member to our family in blue.

Throughout his law enforcement career, Officer Velasquez has been involved in many different aspects of the department while assigned to patrol. Officer Velasquez’s knowledge of the job earned him the opportunity to become one of the department’s Field Training Officers (FTO) and the title of Officer in Charge (OIC) for his shift. During a period when there was a vacancy in a Sergeants position, Velasquez was appointed as the acting Sergeant where he fulfilled the roles and duties of a supervisor. His leadership skills, knowledge, and dedication to the department eventually earned him a more permanent roll as a supervisor. In January 2022, the West University Place Police Department proudly promoted Velasquez to the rank of Sergeant. In his new position, he supervises a group of officers assigned to night shift patrol.

“As a Sergeant, I look forward to better serving the community by engaging with residents and teaching/mentoring younger officers to become better police officers,” said Velasquez.

Congratulations to Sgt. Velasquez!



**As a Sergeant, I look forward to better serving the community by engaging with residents and teaching/mentoring younger officers to become better police officers.”**



## Ashcraft Promotes to Lieutenant

The West University Place Fire Department is happy to announce the promotion of veteran Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Ashcraft to Lieutenant. Ashcraft has served with the department for 13 years and will be an integral part of the officer core.

He served as the Field Training Officer on the A Shift which affords him the opportunity to on-board new firefighters and exemplify the customer service level that he possesses. His knowledge of Fire and EMS services makes him a respected supervisor by his peers and regularly looked to for direction and guidance to better serve the department and community.

In 2008, Ashcraft began his fire training at Lone Star College - Cy Fair in Porter, TX. Upon completion of his fire training, he was hired by the West University Place Fire Department. He was then sent for paramedic training, which he completed in 2011 at College of the Mainland in Texas City, TX. Ashcraft is currently enrolled in the nursing program at Lone Star College – Tomball where is anticipated to graduate this May.

His dedication to excellence and commitment to the continued success of the department is unwavering. The City is looking forward to having Ashcraft serve as part of the officer core, and continue to grow as a first line supervisor

# Public Safety



## Hurricane Season Preparations

It's that time of year again to start getting ready for hurricane season, which begins on June 1 and runs through November 30.

If you are going to evacuate, have a plan in place and stay informed with what is happening here in West U by downloading the MYWestU App to receive updates on when it will be safe to return home after a hurricane.

If you are not evacuating, keep supplies on hand for several days and be prepared to be without power for an extended period of time. During power outages, try to avoid carrying lit candles, and have several flashlights available with extra batteries. Never use a lit candle to check pilot lights or to assist with fueling equipment, as the flame could ignite the fumes.

Prepare the outside of your home by bringing in any outdoor furniture and also cleaning out rain gutters. Anything that can blow away could become a dangerous projectile or could block drainage outlets.

Residents should also have a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher on hand. Consider having a battery-operated radio, such as NOAA Weather Radio, in your emergency supplies. Make sure that your vehicles are full of fuel, or that they have a full electrical charge, prior to the storm's arrival.

The safest place during the hurricane is an interior room of your house with no windows. Hurricanes can spawn up tornadoes as well. Remain inside, away from windows and doors for your safety.

Keep all important papers and records in a water-safe place. Information on your pets, such as their vaccination records, are also important to include in the list of documents.

After the storm has passed, continue to listen to local news for updates. Stay away from downed power lines, broken glass, and damaged natural gas lines.

## West U READY

[www.westutx.gov/westuready](http://www.westutx.gov/westuready)

The City of West University Place is excited to announce its new emergency notification system, West U READY! Residents who sign up for West U READY will receive alerts in the event there is an emergency situation that poses an immediate risk to health, life, or property.



### West U READY Alert Indicators:

- Shelter In Place Incidents - Evacuation Incidents - Immediate danger to life and safety

If you were signed up for the City's previous emergency notification system, your information has been transferred, but you are encouraged to log into the new system to verify that your information is still current, or to add new family members to your account!

Residents should also note that West U READY alerts are not replacing the City's day-to-day notifications. Park events, office closures, and holiday trash schedules will still be sent through Notify Me.

## Emergency Supply Kit

- Prescriptions, medications, and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food, water, and medical supplies for your pet
- Important documents such as insurance policies, identification, and bank account records
- Cash and change
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches or lighters in a waterproof container
- Water
- Extra cell phone battery or charger

## Ensure that Your Home is Safe While You're Away

Summer is upon us, and for many families, this means going on vacation. Before you head out the door, don't forget to take the necessary steps to secure your home. During your trip, you won't want to receive a phone call that your home has been burglarized. When securing your home, the main objective is to make your house look as if you have never left.

Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Set automatic timers for lighting around your home and make it look natural (only the lights you would normally have on). At night, keep the perimeter of your home well lit.

Ensure that all windows and doors are locked.

Activate your home's alarm monitoring system.

Don't announce on social media that you are going on vacation.

Put your mail and newspaper deliveries on hold, or have a neighbor pick them up daily.

Put a radio or TV on a timer. You want to make it sound like someone is home.

Place your residence on Vacation House Watch with the West U Police Department. To learn more about this program, or to sign up, visit [www.westutx.gov/police](http://www.westutx.gov/police).

## Child ID & Fingerprinting Event Coming in August

WUPD wants to ensure the safety of your children by providing residents with free Child ID cards. These Child ID cards feature a child's photo and fingerprints, as well as contact information and other pertinent details needed by police in case of an emergency. At this event, West U police officers will help fingerprint children, and these Child ID cards will be given to the children's parents or guardians for safe keeping. For more information, visit [www.westutx.gov/WUPDevents](http://www.westutx.gov/WUPDevents).

# Parks and Recreation

## Pickleball Coming to West U!

Exciting news from the Parks and Recreation Department, Weir Park and Judson Park tennis courts will soon have pickleball lines added to their existing line configurations! This new layout will allow for two pickleball courts at each location. Once complete, reservations to play pickleball can be made by purchasing a membership or a walk-in reservation just like for tennis. For more information visit [www.westutx.gov/parks](http://www.westutx.gov/parks).

## Colonial Park Pool – Open for 2022 Season!

Memberships have perks! Holders of 2022 season passes will have complimentary and exclusive access to the annual Ice Cream Social, and, new this year, the “Pirates of the Colonialbean” pool party! You can purchase your 2022 membership online at [www.westutx.gov/colonial](http://www.westutx.gov/colonial), or at the Recreation Center at, 4210 Bellaire Blvd.

**Members Only Ice Cream Social**  
Friday, June 3 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Pre-Summer Schedule – June 4-7**  
Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sunday, June, 5, 12 - 7 p.m.  
Monday & Tuesday, June 6 - 7, 4 - 7 p.m.

**Summer Hours Begin June 8**  
Mondays, 4 - 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Sundays, 12 - 7:00 p.m.

**Members Only “Pirates of the Colonialbean” Pool Party**  
Saturday, July 30, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

## Edloe Street Pathway Project

Improvements were approved at the February 28, 2022, council meeting and construction documents are currently being prepared. The project start date is impacted by whether or not the city received grant funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), which we expect to receive notice from TPWD by the end of May 2022.

For more information, please email Parks and Recreation Director Susan White or call 713-662-5894.

If you would like to receive project updates, please send a request to [myparks@westutx.gov](mailto:myparks@westutx.gov).

## Judson Park Improvements

Work is set to begin this month at Judson Park! The planned improvements include repainting the current play structures and fencing, replacing the artificial safety turf, resurfacing the tennis courts with new pickleball lines, adding gaga ball, refreshing the amenities and installing solar and LED lighting. These improvements were recommended by the Parks and Recreation board members and staff in conjunction with a citizen user group.

The park will remain open during this time with only affected portions/features closed while improvements are underway.

## Senior Service Offerings

### Complex Senior Driving Issues – 1 p.m. on July 21

This presentation provides attendees with the skills necessary to help individuals (and their family members) with age-related diminished driving skills to make a smooth transition into a driving retirement, with minimal deterioration to the individual's dignity or independence. **Free**

### Caregiver's Support Group - Sponsored by Right at Home Care 1 p.m. on June 30, July 28, and August 25

Share your caregiving experiences, and gain knowledge and support, during this monthly group session that will be an encouraging resource for you. By sharing your own stories and struggles, you can possibly help others. **Free**

### NEW! Personal Training (Small Groups) - 8 - 9 a.m. on Mondays

Start your morning off with a small group personal training session that will focus on your needs for strength training, and for stamina, flexibility, and balance. Join Personal Trainer Leo Chan during four, hour-long, weekly sessions. **\$102 for four sessions.**

## Independence Day Bike Parade and Pool Party

Come together with your neighbors in celebrating the USA on July 4th! The day starts off with the annual bike parade from City Hall to the Colonial Park pool, which is then followed by a pool party. Enjoy bounce houses, games, a water balloon toss, a belly flop contest, and much more. This is sure to be fun for the entire family!

Parade Staging in front of West U Elementary - 8:45 a.m.

Parade begins - 9 a.m.

Pool Party - 9:15 a.m. - Noon



**Save the Date:**

**Annual Recreation Center Maintenance Week**  
**August 27 – September 5**

Dates subject to change pending coordination with contractors.

## Party on the Patio Summer Series

Thank you to our returning generous sponsor from the 2021 summer concert series! **Mary Frances Anderson DuMay**, Compass Real Estate Advisor, West U resident and longtime Friends of West U Parks supporter and her team have some fun surprises in store for concert attendees. The concerts will be held from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Colonial Park Pool Deck, 4130 Byron Street. The concerts are free to West U residents. Mark your calendars, dust off those lawn chairs and get ready to kick back and enjoy these fun summer concerts.

The Anderson DuMay Team of Compass Real Estate will honor these community leaders:

**June 10** - Friends of West University Parks Board and West University Parks & Recreation Board

**June 17** - Physicians, nurses and health care workers in the neighborhood

**June 24** - City Leadership - Mayor & City Council and City Staff

**July 1** - USA active duty military and Veterans

Join us in celebrating these outstanding members of our community and spread the word!



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

COMPASS

## 2022 Fathers & Flashlights Campout

Event Chairs: Kelly Beth and Charlie Haggood, Katie and Chris Hill & Sarah and Mark Knysh

The 2022 Father's and Flashlight Chairs are looking forward to another memorable night under the stars! Friends of West U Parks will continue its West U tradition by hosting this popular event on November 5-6. Be sure you are signed up to receive Friends emails for notifications on registration and sponsorship opportunities. The campout registration is open to those zoned to attend West University Elementary School.



## 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](http://www.westuparks.org) and signup for emails from Friends. Questions? Please call 713-662-7430 or email [diamond@westutx.gov](mailto:diamond@westutx.gov).



Save the  
Date:

Park Lovers' Ball  
February 11, 2023

Event Co-Chairs Whitney Walsh and Mitra Woody

# Public Works

## Buffalo Speedway Project Update

The Buffalo Speedway Project is inching closer to its tentative completion in Spring 2023, but more work is still left to be done.

### Phase 3

As part of Phase 3 - Step 1A, the contractor has completed the installation of the new storm sewer boxes on the east side of Buffalo Speedway between Cason Street and University Boulevard. The replacement of the roadway and driveways is scheduled to be completed as part of Phase 3 - Step 3.

Phase 3 - Step 1B will consist of paving and drainage storm sewer box installation between University Boulevard and Amherst Street. Due to the complexity of this work and the traffic control plan in this step, additional coordination will be required as the intersection of University Boulevard and Buffalo Speedway will likely be closed for several weeks to complete this underground work.

Phase 3 - Step 2 will shift traffic lanes to the east side of Buffalo Speedway and move the work zone to the west side. Work will include new underground storm sewer boxes, roadway and driveway paving, and installation of pedestrian ramps. This will also shift the traffic pattern to only allow one-way travel north between W. Holcombe Street and University Boulevard. Southbound traffic will be detoured east on University Boulevard to Kirby Street.

Phase 3 - Step 3 will shift traffic back to the west side in order to complete the roadway and driveway paving work. As in earlier steps, traffic will be reduced to one-way only northbound between W. Holcombe Street and University Boulevard. This is anticipated to be the last step of the project.

### Phase 4

With the completion of all underground drainage work for this phase, crews will be completing new drainage inlet installation, roadway and driveway paving and installation of pedestrian ramps. Work on Phase 4-Step 2 is anticipated to be substantially completed by Fall 2022.

A frequent question received by project staff is whether the storm sewer system is functional during construction. The answer is yes. During the installation of the new storm boxes, the contractor ensures that the underground system is always connected (through temporary connections) to ensure the conveyance of water at all times.

Project staff is working with the West U Police Dept. to address traffic enforcement matters (such as speeding and running stop signs), and also with the contractor to mitigate traffic volume through residential streets. If you have any questions regarding traffic enforcement, please contact Sgt. Phil Clark at 713-662-5337 or via email at [pclark@westutx.gov](mailto:pclark@westutx.gov).

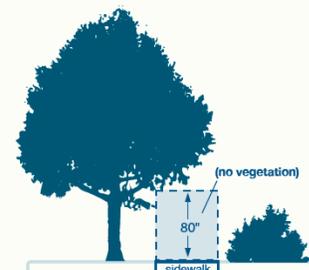
For more information on the details of Phase 3 and Phase 4 including work zone maps and traffic control plans, please visit, [www.westutx.gov/buffaloalerts](http://www.westutx.gov/buffaloalerts).

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

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](mailto:ebarreto@westutx.gov).

## Clearance Over Sidewalks

The City requires that all vegetation over sidewalks be maintained at a minimum height of at least 80 inches (6 feet 8 inches). This ensures adequate clearance for pedestrians utilizing the sidewalks.



## Conserving Water

Billions of gallons of water are wasted every day from inefficient landscape watering. Watering too heavily or too often can weaken your lawn, waste water, and can also carry soil, fertilizers, and pesticides into streams. Finding ways to use less water will not only help conserve this precious resource, but also save you money on your water bill.



### Below are ways you can help conserve water:

- Water your lawn in the early morning hours (before 5 a.m.) and late evening hours (after 7 p.m.).
- Ensure that the water from your irrigation system is going on the lawn and not on sidewalks, driveways, streets, or walls. You may need to adjust the spray angles on the sprinkler heads.
- Check your irrigation system through an entire cycle to verify that your water is staying on the lawn and soaking in, and not running down the street. You may need to water for a shorter time period and possibly more frequently, to allow the water to soak in and not run down the street.

### How to check your irrigation system for leaks:

- Turn on each watering area and then walk through the area to verify that no water is running out of the ground or shooting up into the air. If you experience either of these issues, you may have a broken pipe or a damaged sprinkler head.
- With the irrigation system off for at least 30 minutes, check the sprinkler heads and verify that no water is coming out of them. If water is coming out of the sprinkler head, this may indicate that one of the valves is not closing completely.
- Shortly after the irrigation system turns off walk through the yard and look for sand or dirt washed up by the sprinkler system. This may indicate a leak in an underground irrigation line.

### The Main Takeaway - Do Not Waste Water

Please take the time to verify that your irrigation system is working efficiently. Your actions to preserve water will make the biggest difference, and will help the City to achieve its water conservation goals.

# West U Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

## 2021 Statistics for Solid Waste, Recycling, and Yard Waste

In 2021, the City collected 4,999 tons of trash, 1,808 tons of recycling, and 825 tons of yard waste. The majority of the recycling was paper (907 tons), cardboard (384 tons), and glass (311 tons). The trash tonnage also includes curbside bulk waste. The heavy trash day program was phased out several years ago.

### Paper and Cardboard:

For almost 50 years, West U has been proving that recycling works. Paper and cardboard are key elements of our recycling efforts. As stated above, the City collected 1,291 tons of paper and cardboard in 2021 during curbside pickups. Depending on the recycling commodities market, the City receives some revenue from recycling paper and cardboard. Unfortunately, some residents still put cardboard out with their trash instead of with recycling on their normal recycling day each week. For those of you who happen to be in an area of the City where your trash day and normal recycling day are the same day, please make sure you clearly separate your trash from your recycling materials. We know old habits are hard to break, but if cardboard stays out of the trash pickup and gets diverted to recycling, it saves the City landfill disposal fees. Cardboard boxes left curbside with trash or other contaminants (e.g. plastic film, packing pillows/peanuts, etc.) will not be collected as recycling. Remember to break down corrugated boxes flat so crews can handle them easier.

**Tip on how to not contaminate paper recycling:** Food or oil contaminated paper is considered a contaminant in the paper recycling bins. Best examples of this are pizza boxes and donut boxes.

### Yard Waste:

The curbside yard waste recycling program was restarted in 2016 after the City was able to find a vendor location that was closer to the City. All grass cuttings, leaves and other yard waste should be placed in paper composting bags or compostable plastic bags (which are available at most grocery stores) and put at the curb on your regular yard waste collection day (same day as recycling collection). Please ensure that no trash, such as food wrappers or cans, get mixed in bags with yard waste. Tree trimmings too large for a bag must be cut in lengths not to exceed 4 feet, and must be no more than 4 inches in diameter in accordance with the City's tree trimmings guidelines. Note that limbs may be placed no more than 3 days before the scheduled collection day. Yard waste placed curbside in the incorrect bag will not be collected. Crews will leave a warning tag, however frequent violations may result in assessment of a special collection fee (min. \$50). Non-compostable bags are not accepted by the composter and may lead to higher processing fees for the City. For more information visit [www.westutx.gov/greenwaste](http://www.westutx.gov/greenwaste).

For more detailed information on recycling visit [www.westutx.gov/recycling](http://www.westutx.gov/recycling)

**The Board would also like to remind residents to slow down and be careful when passing garbage trucks in the City.**



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](http://www.westutx.gov/westucollects) for all the details.



## 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.

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## 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.

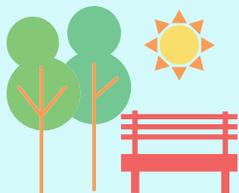
### Parks and Recreation Board

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.



## Coming Soon!

Wier Park improvement planning is about to kick off! The planning process will be completed  
in 2022, and construction is slated for 2023.

For updated project information, please visit [www.westutx.gov/parkprojects](http://www.westutx.gov/parkprojects).