

# City Currents

Summer 2023



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## Building Resilience Through Infrastructure!

### Projects Underway or on the Horizon

One of the major takeaways from the recent citizen satisfaction survey, where 90% of our residents responded that they believe West U is progressing in the right direction, including identifying areas of importance for our residents.

In the survey, the top five areas of importance were:

- 1 Police service
- 2 Maintaining our water and sewer infrastructure
- 3 Fire and EMS services
- 4 Upgrading our storm drainage system
- 5 Disaster preparedness

To see the results of this survey, please visit: [www.westutx.gov/2022survey](http://www.westutx.gov/2022survey)

The good news is that the following projects were recently completed, or are underway, to make West U more resilient.

### Projects/Initiatives Underway:

#### Sidewalk, Street, and Drainage System Improvements

- Buffalo Speedway Drainage and Street Improvements – Replacing a 65-year-old roadway and upgrading the 1940s-era drainage system. This project will be completed this summer.
- East Side Paving and Drainage Improvements – Constructing drainage and paving improvements in two phases along University Blvd., Wakeforest Ave., Duke St., and Rice Blvd. Phase 1 improvements began in April, and Phase 2 will begin this winter.
- West Side Paving and Drainage Improvements – Constructing drainage and paving improvements throughout the west side of the city from Community Dr. to College St. and the 3800 block south of University Blvd. to Bellaire Blvd. Proposed improvements include a new trunk line running from the city to Brays Bayou, along with upgrades to the drainage system and paving improvements. Preliminary engineering will be completed by the end of August, with construction design to begin by this winter.
- Poor Farm Ditch – Working with Harris County and Southside Place to secure funding for the County to replace the portion of the ditch between Bellaire Blvd. and University Blvd.



City of  
West University  
Place

### **Sidewalk, Street, and Drainage System Improvements (Cont.)**

- Annual Sidewalk Repair and Replacement – Continuing work on this four-phase project to correct issues with our sidewalks and improve pedestrian mobility. Phase 2 of 4 will be completed in 2023, with Phase 3 and 4 to be completed by the end of 2025.
- Annual Street Repairs – Working on an eight-year plan, based on a recent street assessment, to make repairs on all West U streets. Year 1 repairs will be completed in 2023, and repairs in years 2–7 will be completed by 2030.
- Edloe Street Pathway – Constructing a new pathway along the east side of Edloe St. from Albans St. to the City Center. Work is underway and is expected to be completed in June.

### **Water System Improvements**

- Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) – Proposing improvements to this critical system, which includes finding redundancy in groundwater production, along with increasing storage and pumping capacity in order to meet our future needs. The PER will be completed in 2023, with possible improvements starting in 2024.
- Law Street Waterline Project – Working to connect the final 24 homes to the city’s water system along the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Law St. Work began in May, and is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2023.

### **Sewer System Improvements**

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – Planning changes to the 41-year-old plant that will improve the treatment process, energy efficiency, and floodwater resiliency. This project is currently in the permitting/review phase with the City of Houston. Construction is expected to begin either at the end of 2023 or in early 2024.

### **Technology Improvements**

- Financial Software Replacement – Replacing this critical software, with implementation to begin in June and to be completed in the summer of 2024. This new software will provide the foundation for the planned software improvements throughout our City offices, as we continue to migrate our existing paper-reliant services to the digital world.

### **Facility Improvements**

- New Public Works Maintenance Facility – Designing this facility, with construction expected to begin in 2024. This new facility will be located on City-owned property at the corner of Dincans St. and Westpark Ave.
- New Community Building / Senior Center / Library – Commencing design work on these new facilities is expected in the fall/winter of 2023. This will include a public engagement process for residents to provide feedback on the preliminary design of these new facilities.

To learn more about these projects, please visit: [www.westutx.gov/citywideprojects](http://www.westutx.gov/citywideprojects).

# Meet your City Council Members

Members will serve from June 2023 to May 2025

## **Susan Sample - *Mayor***

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



Prior to being elected to city council, Susan served on the board of directors of Friends of West U Parks. She currently serves on the board of SPARK Park as vice president and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston. Professionally, she serves on the boards of the Houston CPA Society and the Texas Society of CPAs. Susan is married to Michael Larsson and has 11 year old twins.



## **Clay Brett - *Council Member***

Clay is a partner at Millennial Energy Partners, an energy investment firm. Clay serves on the Investment Committee of Millennial's affiliated York Tactical Energy Fund. Prior to Millennial, Clay was a corporate attorney at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP and Bracewell LLP. Clay has also served on the boards of the Houston Center for Literacy, Shelters to Shutters – Houston and the West University Place Zoning Board of Adjustment. He is the founder of HSC National Golf Club, a golf matchplay society with members in 13 states, and plays out of Westwood Golf Club in Houston.

Clay was born in El Paso, Texas, and grew up in Beavercreek, Ohio, attending Archbishop Carroll High School. Clay and his mother Bernice Brett recently endowed the inaugural Brett Family Scholarship at Archbishop Carroll to promote the Catholic tradition of service in education. He is a graduate of the University of Florida, where he was a member of Florida Blue Key and received the William Rion Most Outstanding Graduate Award, and Vanderbilt Law School.

Clay lives on the 3700 block of Albans with his wife, Lindsay, and children, John Wright Brett and Caroline Clayton Donovan Brett. They have lived in West U since 2016.

### **Shannon Carroll - *Council Member***

Shannon Carroll is serving her second consecutive term as a City Council member in West University Place, having also served as Council Liaison to the Senior Services Board during her first term. She lives in West U with her husband and three young children and feels strongly that the safety, parks, friendly neighborhood environment, and activities and amenities offered to residents, from youth to seniors alike, make West U the best city in America in which to live, raise a family, and age in place.

Shannon is currently a Senior Adjuster for a private commercial insurer, where she specializes in overseeing litigated and high complexity cases involving liability and policy language disputes. She has worked exclusively in the commercial insurance industry for more than 15 years for multiple companies, across both the public and private sectors. She graduated from The University of Mississippi with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a minor in Psychology. She volunteers with numerous area charities and attends St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where she and her husband teach children's Sunday School. She enjoys attending her children's school and sports activities, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.



### **Matt Hart - *Council Member***

Matt Hart has resided in West U since 2018, with his wife, Charlotte, and three children. Together, they enjoy walking with their dog around West U, participating in West U Little League, the piranhas and Rise soccer and enjoying time with friends and neighbors in parks and around the city. Matt works as a corporate attorney with Simpson Thacher, concentrating on finance, energy and infrastructure and project matters. He also teaches as an adjunct law professor at the University of Houston. Matt previously clerked for Judge Carolyn King of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in Houston. He received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and his M.A. in Applied Economics and B.S. in Electrical Engineering from The Johns Hopkins University.

### **John Montgomery - *Council Member***

John Montgomery has lived in West University Place for 17 years. He and his wife have three young children, and both feel strongly that West University Place's combination of safety, parks, services, friendliness, and youth activities make it the best neighborhood in Texas in which to raise their family.

John serves as West University Place's Mayor Pro Tempore and sits on the Parks and Recreation Board as the Council Liaison. John has voted to support initiatives that enhance the safety and small-town feel of West U including youth sports funding, park enhancements, sidewalk improvements, road safety signage, and increases in fire and police funding.

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



A former amateur racecar driver and track instructor, John is more often found now playing with his kids in many of West U's spectacular parks on weekends. Additionally, he and his wife enjoy travel, cooking, collecting wine, and walking their Airedale Terrier.

# Resident Resources

## Simple Steps to Summer Sustainability

Whether you plan to take a vacation or spend the summer in town, these small decisions can create a better planet for us all.



- Use natural light – Tackle the day by opening blinds and curtains instead of using artificial lights in your home.
- Adjust your thermostat – If you plan on being gone for an extended amount of time, adjusting your central air conditioning by a few degrees will help your wallet and conserve energy.
- Conserve water – Summer is the peak time for water usage. Regularly check your irrigation system for leaks to prevent wasting water.
- Use a reusable water bottle – Don't leave the house without your keys, wallet, and water bottle!

### Participate in Food Waste Diversion

West U is committed to promoting sustainable living and reducing waste in the community. One way to do this is by separating your food waste for composting to prevent food waste from going to the landfill. The City has vetted two qualified vendors for food waste disposal: Moonshot Composting and Zero Waste Houston. Both vendors offer a composting service where they will collect food scraps and other organic materials from your home and drop them off at a facility that will turn them into a nutrient-rich product. Both companies are fully licensed and insured, and they meet all necessary regulations and standards. We encourage residents to consider using these vendors for their food waste collection. Are you ready to take on backyard composting? Residents can now purchase a compost tumbler from the Public Works Department for \$37. Tumblers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information about the vendors and tumblers, visit [www.westutx.gov/foodwaste](http://www.westutx.gov/foodwaste).



### H2Online - A New Way to Track Your Water Consumption

The city is thrilled to unveil its latest service, H2Online, which enables residents to monitor their water usage. With the ability to set usage limits, receive alerts, and track usage trends, residents can stay informed in real-time and detect water leaks early on. By being more mindful of their water consumption, residents can work towards conservation efforts.

Please note that Customer Connect will be replaced by H2Online, and users will be required to create a new account. For more details and to sign up, visit [www.westutx.gov/billing](http://www.westutx.gov/billing).

### Point & Pay Payment System and Electronic Statements



It's never too late to sign up for Point & Pay, a faster and easier way to pay your utility bill! To sign up for this system, visit the City's website at [www.westutx.gov/pay](http://www.westutx.gov/pay).

Current Point & Pay customers should remember to regularly check their email inboxes (and their spam folders) for e-statements and report any billing concerns immediately.

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

### FEMA Risk Rating Method 2.0

The City of West University Place wants to remind you to take time to review your home's flood insurance coverage to ensure that 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 FEMA's 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, you may call 713-662-5839, email [pwinfo@westutx.gov](mailto:pwinfo@westutx.gov), or visit the Public Works offices located at 3826 Amherst St.

### Join The 100 Crew!

The City of West University Place is about to hit a major milestone – our centennial! The city has a few plans up its sleeves to bring the community together to commemorate this monumental time. Join in the efforts by contributing \$100 that will go towards the grand celebrations. For more information or to complete this underwriting opportunity, please visit [www.westutx.gov/centennial](http://www.westutx.gov/centennial).



# Public Safety



West University Place Police Department



West University Place Fire Department

## Fighting Crime with Home Maintenance

While summer is a time for relaxation, it's important to remember that criminals don't take a break. Protecting your property and valuables should be a priority, and there are simple measures you can take to deter potential lawbreakers.



First, good lighting is known to be an effective deterrent to crime. In addition to making your property safer, good lighting also makes it harder for intruders to remain hidden.

Consider installing lighting in areas that are difficult for intruders to access, and aim to light up entry doors, carports, and garages. Motion detection lights can also be useful for those who tend to forget to turn them on and off.

Landscaping and plant materials can also play a role in deterring criminals. Trees, bushes, and shrubbery can provide cover for intruders as they attempt to enter your property, so it's important to keep them well-trimmed. Plants that are within 4 feet of sidewalks, driveways, doors, or gates should be no taller than 2 feet. Plants under windows should be kept below the windowsill, and the trees should have low branches that are more than 6 feet off the ground. To discourage potential burglars, it's a good idea to plant spiny or thorny plants along fences and your windows.

Locking windows and doors when you are not at home is a simple and effective way to protect your property. It's also important to stay alert and to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. By watching out for your neighbors and reporting any concerns to the police, you can help keep your community safe.

## Fire Up Your Barbecue Pit, Not Your Property

Outdoor grilling is one of the most popular activities during the summer, but a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. Outdoor grills and barbecue pits can get very hot, causing burn injuries. The West University Place Fire Department wants to remind residents how to safely enjoy their grilling experience.



When using a charcoal grill, be sure to only use a charcoal starter fluid and never add this or any other flammable liquid to the open flames. After the grilling is complete, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container. Do not place hot coals in a plastic container or other material that is combustible.

When using a propane grill, check the gas tank hose for deterioration and leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose and verify that no bubbles form, which would indicate leakage. If you determine that a leak exists while using the grill, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

Some safety tips while grilling, whether with charcoal with or propane, are as follows:

Place the grill well away from the home and deck railings, and out from under leaves and overhanging branches.

Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and also from the trays below the grill.

Never leave your grill unattended.

Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.



## 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)

## Save the Date:

**National Night Out**  
Tuesday, October 3

Mark your calendars for one grand block party hosted by West U first responders!

# Parks and Recreation

## July is National Park and Recreation Month!

This July, West U's Parks and Recreation Department is celebrating with the National Recreation and Park Association with the theme "Where Community Grows". All month long, we'll be highlighting ways that our community is stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient because of parks and recreation. Join West U for Park and Recreation Month, as we celebrate how our West U parks and recreation programs are so important for our overall health and well-being. A variety of activities are planned in July for residents of all ages and abilities – including our July 4th Parade to kick off Park and Recreation Month, and a members-only party at Colonial Park Pool that will cap off this month-long celebration. For more information on the festivities, visit [www.westutx.gov/parks](http://www.westutx.gov/parks).



### Christmas in July - Members Only Pool Party

We will have a merry time at this summer event! Colonial Park Pool will transform into a Christmas wonderland on Saturday, July 29, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Get your snow (cones) and play in melted ice (pool water) at this fun event for the entire family. And, of course, we have sent an invitation to the North Pole for Santa Claus to join us for a swim.

### Independence Day Bike Parade and Pool Party

Join us in celebrating the USA on Tuesday, July 4. The day starts off with the bike parade from City Hall to Colonial Park Pool, where the parade will join the annual pool party. Enjoy bounce houses, games, water balloon toss, belly flop contests, and much more. This is fun for the entire family.

The July 4th Parade will promptly leave City Hall at 9:00 am and the pool party follows will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 pm.

### Fall Registration Coming Soon!

The West University Place Parks & Recreation Department is proud to offer a variety of programs, classes, and camps that offer something for everyone! To view a complete listing of classes and class details, visit [www.westutx.gov/reg](http://www.westutx.gov/reg).

### Maintenance Week at the Recreation Center

The Recreation Center will be closed from August 27 – September 4 for annual maintenance. Regular operations will resume on September 5. Schedule subject to change.

### Wier Park Improvements

The Parks and Recreation Board, citizen user group, and staff are working with Burditt Landscape Architects on the development of a Master Plan for Wier Park. If you are interested in receiving communications about the project, please email Administrative Coordinator Charlotte Herling at [cherling@westutx.gov](mailto:cherling@westutx.gov).



# Parks and Recreation

## Junior Lifeguard Program

Is your future whistle worthy? Children ages 10 – 14 can join this program and train with West U lifeguards on what it takes to be whistle worthy. Participants must be able to swim the length of the swimming pool. To register for this program, visit [www.westutx.gov/reg](http://www.westutx.gov/reg).

Sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following dates:

June 26 – June 30 | July 17 – July 21 | Fee: \$45 R, \$55 NR



## Edloe Street Pathway Project

Get ready to walk, run, or stroll on this joint friendly pathway! The path is along the east side of Edloe St. between Albans St. and Georgetown St. The project is scheduled to be completed in June, weather permitting, just in time for summer!

### The project includes:

- A pervious pathway using recycled materials. For product information see Genan Safe Trail (color mix brown, green, black recycled rubber and pebbles)
- 6-foot high aluminum fencing along west side of Poor Farm Ditch; including an update to the existing fencing located near the three pedestrian bridges to ensure a uniform look and feel.
- Irrigation system
- Benches
- Drinking fountain with pet watering spot
- Pet baggie and refuse station
- Landscaping – Sod around trail with enhanced landscaping beds at pedestrian bridges and ground cover to enhance areas visible from perpendicular streets.

For questions regarding this project, please contact Capital Project Manager Eduardo Barreto at 713-662-5848 or via email at [ebarreto@westutx.gov](mailto:ebarreto@westutx.gov). For more information on the Edloe Street Pathway Project, please visit [www.westutx.gov/parkprojects](http://www.westutx.gov/parkprojects).

## Fun Over 50

[www.westutx.gov/seniors](http://www.westutx.gov/seniors) 713-662-5896

**West U Transportation for Senior Residents:** West U Senior Services provides transportation to residents for appointments with doctors, dentists, beauty shops, drug stores, banks, and the post office by appointment only, schedule permitting. Participants must have the cognitive and physical ability to get to and from the vehicle and their appointment site on their own. If not, a caretaker must be present. Grocery shopping transportation is provided on Thursdays. To schedule an appointment, call the Senior Services office at 713-662-5895.

**NEW! Parkinson's Boxing:** Join Aaron Frank for these innovative, non-contact boxing/fitness classes that are getting amazing results, including slowing the progression of Parkinson's disease. For more details contact the Senior Services office. These classes will be offered at 9 a.m. on Thursdays, and the cost will be \$132 for six, hour-long sessions.

**Ukulele Classes:** Dust off your ukulele and learn the basics using James Hill's music curriculum, Level 1. Students will learn how to play chords, along with how to play solo or with an ensemble. This class is appropriate for new students. Ukulele required. This eight-week class begins Tuesday, June 6, and will meet at 10 a.m. The fee is \$78.

**Annual Father's Day Concert:** Join us for this annual West U family favorite event, with cheerful, lively music to celebrate Father's Day. Featuring the Houston Concert Band with Conductor Chuck Throckmorton. This free event will be held in the Community Building Auditorium at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 18.

**Technology Help:** Join Post Oak National Charity League (NCL) volunteers as they provide individual assistance with your devices. There will be 30-minute appointments beginning at 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. every Monday in July.

**X10 Archery:** Try your hand at this Robin Hood sport that is sure to bring back memories of camp during this 90-minute adventure. A professional will guide you through this course which will take place on Wednesday, July 12 at 10 a.m. The cost is \$42, including your equipment rental.

**Destination Lunch:** Houston Restaurant Weeks, which is the largest annual fundraiser for the Houston Food Bank, will be taking place August 1 through September 4. Some of the best restaurants in the Houston area will be participating with special menus at a discounted rate. Join us on Wednesday, August 16 to celebrate this annual event. The group will leave the Community Building at 11 a.m., and the cost will be \$6 plus lunch on your own.

**Precinct Trip to Lone Star Flight Museum:** Come along on Wednesday, August 22 to enjoy a tour of the Lone Star Flight Museum and to hear stories of adventures in flight, all presented by amazing docents with diverse backgrounds in aviation. The group will leave the Community Building at 9 a.m., and the cost is \$16, plus lunch on your own at Gringos Mexican Kitchen.

West U Senior Services has a variety of exercise classes available at the Community Building. Try a sample class to see if it will be a good fit for you! A full list of offerings is available in the Hi, Neighbor newsletter on the City's website.

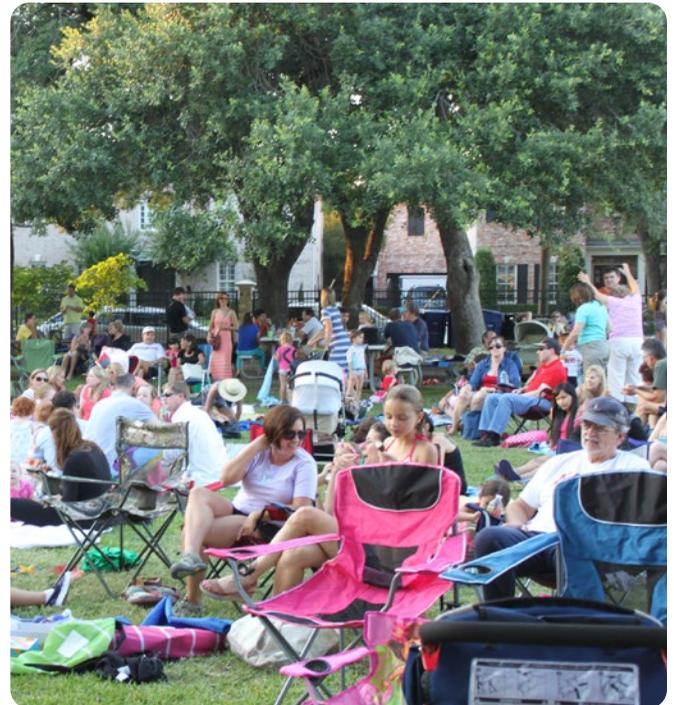
# Friends of West U Parks

 Friends of West University Parks Fund

 FriendsOfWestUParks

## Party on the Patio Summer Concert Series

Thank you to our returning generous sponsor from the 2021 and 2022 summer concert series! Mary Frances A. DuMay, Real Estate Advisor, The Anderson DuMay Team at Compass Real Estate, West U resident and longtime Friends of West U Parks supporter has some fun surprises in store for concert attendees. The concerts are scheduled for June 2, 9, 16 and 23 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



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

COMPASS

## Fathers & Flashlights 2023 Campout!

Event Chairs: Kelly Beth and Charlie Hapgood, Megan and Nick Nicodemus, Katy and Chris Turner

The 2023 Father's & 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. 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.



**November 4 - 5**

## Fundraising Year-Round

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

Sign up for Friends emails at [www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org) and receive email alerts about Friends including registration for Fathers & Flashlights and information on Park Lovers' Ball. For other information about Friends and upcoming events, please contact Friends Executive Director, Donna LaMond, at 713-662-7430 or [diamond@westutx.gov](mailto:diamond@westutx.gov).



**Save the  
Date:**

**Park Lovers' Ball**  
**February 10, 2024** at the Post Oak Hotel

**Event Co-Chairs Sarah Covington and Jordan Jewett**

# Public Works

## Law Street Water Line Project

Residents on the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Law Street currently receive their water from the City of Houston. Since 2021, the City of West University Place has been working with the City of Houston on planning the installation of a new water line that will connect these homes to the West U water distribution system. In December of 2022, the City of Houston approved the design plans, and West U staff are moving forward with soliciting formal bids for construction. The project broke ground in May.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for alerts about this project by visiting, [www.westutx.gov/lawstreet](http://www.westutx.gov/lawstreet).

## Water Conservation During Summer Months

Billions of gallons of water are wasted every day from inefficient landscape watering. Watering too heavily or too often can weaken your lawn and, waste water, as well as carry soil, fertilizers, and pesticides into streams. Finding ways to use less water will help to conserve this precious resource and to save money on your water bill. Below are ways you can help conserve water.

- Irrigate your lawn between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.
- Check your irrigation system to verify that your water is going on the lawn and not on your 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 allowing for the water to soak into the lawn and not run down the street.

### Check your irrigation system for leaks by doing the following:

- Turn on water in each zone and monitor the area to verify that no water is flowing out of the ground or spraying straight up into the air. If that is happening, you may have a broken pipe or a damaged sprinkler head.
- Shortly after the irrigation system turns off, walk through the yard and look for dirt or sand that has been washed out by the sprinkler system, which could indicate an underground leak.
- After the irrigation system has been off for at least 30 minutes, check each sprinkler head and verify that no water is still coming out of the sprinkler head. If water is coming out of the sprinkler head, this indicates that one of the valves is not closing completely.

## East Side Paving & Drainage Improvements

Package One broke ground on April 24th and is estimated to be completed in Summer 2024. As of June 2023 the contractor (Conrad Construction) has excavated the roadway and installed the new storm sewer pipe at the 3000 & 3100 blocks of University. The Contractor is continuing to work east towards Kirby Drive. In 2021, the city completed a City Wide Drainage modeling study and a preliminary report. Both studies recommended improvements to the drainage system east of Buffalo Speedway.

The improvements will be separated into two packages:

- Package 1 includes paving and drainage upgrades along University Boulevard from Buffalo Speedway to Kirby Drive.
- Package 2 includes paving and drainage upgrades along Wakeforest Avenue from Plumb Street to Pemberton Street, Rice Blvd. from Wakeforest to Kirby Dr., and Duke Street from Buffalo Speedway to Wakeforest.

The Public Works Department would like to remind residents of the traffic control plan in the project area. At this time traffic is one way east bound on on University Blvd. from Buffalo Speedway to Kirby. For more information about this project, and to sign up for important construction alerts, scan the QR code to visit the City's website.



## Driving Safely Through Work Zones

- There are plenty of resources available to research your routes and check for upcoming work zones. Make sure you know of any road work before embarking on your route and when possible, use detours to avoid having to pass through these areas.
- Reduce speed while traveling through Texas work zones, paying close attention to signs and signals.
- Be aware of passenger vehicle drivers around you, who may not be aware of commercial vehicle driving challenges, including large blind spots and longer stopping distances.
- Be prepared to stop or slow unexpectedly, and when doing so, activate emergency flashers to alert vehicles behind you.

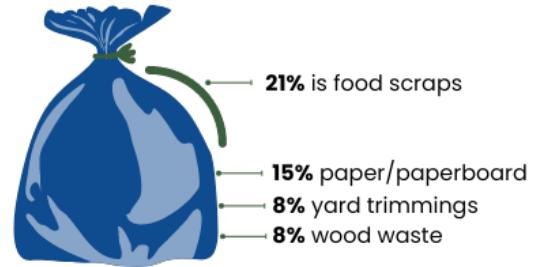
# West U Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

## Food Composting Reduces Landfill Waste

West U has a strong history of protecting the environment through recycling and sustainability practices since the 1970s. In keeping with this commitment, numerous steps have been taken over the years to increase the City's recycling and solid waste landfill diversion rate. West U generates about 7,500 tons of waste annually – approximately 68% goes to a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill and the remaining 32% constitutes the City's recycling rate (curbside recycling and yard waste).

Because food waste comprises approximately 21% of the City's current waste stream, a logical next step to increase the City's recycling rate is to encourage food waste composting.

**>50% of typical municipal garbage set out at the curb is compostable.**



### Why Reduce Landfill Waste?

MSW landfills produce harmful greenhouse gasses (primarily methane and CO<sub>2</sub>), which are a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills. In fact, MSW landfills are the third largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 14.5% of these emissions in 2020. Greenhouse gasses trap heat in the atmosphere. Composting food waste before it reaches landfills reduces these greenhouse gas emissions.

Landfill space is a precious, limited commodity because it takes 10 to 15 years to site, permit, and construct a new landfill. Annually, Houston generates 4.2 million tons of waste and is projected to increase to 5.3 million tons in 2040. The majority of Houston waste is disposed of in one of 12 regional MSW landfills or 15 construction/demolition landfills. Unless major expansions or new sites are permitted, the region's landfill capacity will decrease from over 300 to under 100 million cubic yards by 2040. At current disposal rates, landfill capacity is approximately 37 years; it will be even less with increases in population and economic activity unless we recycle and divert organic waste via composting.

### How You Can Participate in West U!

Many West U residents already compost in their backyards or commercially via curbside collection as a result of an initial drop-off composting pilot held from December 2020 through January 2021. That pilot program successfully diverted 12 tons of food waste over a two-month period. After the program concluded, over 375 families in West U signed up with food waste compost collection services and diverted 200 tons of food waste in 2022 from landfills. Last fall, the Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board presented to the City Council the benefits of food waste composting and its impact on landfill waste minimization and proposed citywide composting to encourage further diversion of food waste. The City now has two qualified food waste collection/composting vendors to service West U residents! Additional information can be found by visiting, [www.westutx.gov/foodwaste](http://www.westutx.gov/foodwaste).

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.



# City Currents

Summer 2023



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  
Clay Brett  
Shannon Carroll  
Matt Hart  
John Montgomery

#### 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.

## 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 will begin on Thursday, September 28. Residents will enjoy 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 Monday, August 28. For more information visit, [www.westutx.gov/citizensacademy](http://www.westutx.gov/citizensacademy).