

Thank You – and Are You Prepared?

By Mayor Susan Sample

I want to thank you for your confidence in my representing West U as your Mayor for another two years. I also want to congratulate my fellow councilmembers John Montgomery and Shannon Carroll on their re-elections, as well as Clay Brett and Matt Hart on their elections. I am excited to continue building upon the positive momentum of the past two years as we move forward laying the foundation for our community's future!

Hurricane Season Starts in June – Are You Prepared?

One of the constants about living along the Gulf Coast is hurricanes. Hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30 each year. It's not a matter of *if* a hurricane will impact West U – it's a matter of *when*. With that in mind, the City has been busy preparing for this coming hurricane season. Are you getting prepared?

If you don't have a preparedness kit, now is a good time to get one together. If you have one, but haven't looked at it in a while, take a moment to ensure that your items are still current. Some of the basic items to include in your kit are a seven-day supply of non-perishable food, drinking water, first-aid supplies, toiletries, and medicine – and don't forget your furry family members and their supplies, too. For a comprehensive list of items and other preparedness resources, please visit www.westutx.gov/preparedness. Also, are you signed up to receive emergency notifications from the City? West U issued a test notification from **West U READY** emergency notification system on June 1. If you did not receive this test notification, please visit www.westutx.gov/WestUREADY to verify your account information, or to sign up.

Now that you are getting prepared for hurricane season, I want to discuss what West U has been doing to prepare. Every year, prior to the start of hurricane season, our staff conducts drills to ensure that the City is prepared to respond to a disaster. This year, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) participated in "Hurricane Indigo," which was a statewide drill hosted by the Texas Division of Emergency Management. This exercise allowed EOC staff to evaluate our response procedures, communication strategies, and technological capacity during a two-day simulation of a direct hit by a Category 4 hurricane on the Houston metro area.

Improving the City's Quality of Life and Resiliency to Disasters

Over the last two years, the following projects were completed, or were started, that will improve the City's resiliency to disasters and continue to improve our residents' quality of life:

- Buffalo Speedway Street and Drainage Improvements – Upgrades have been completed to a 1940s drainage system, and a roadway that was over 65 years old has been replaced.
- Eastside Paving and Drainage Improvements – Construction is underway to upgrade drainage in this area and to replace roadways that were not included in the 1990s Infrastructure Project.
- Westside Paving and Drainage – Preliminary design work is underway for drainage improvements throughout the west side of the city.
- Law Street Waterline Project – Construction is underway to switch homes in the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Law Street from the City of Houston's water system to the West U's water system.

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – Permitting is underway to construct improvements to the plant’s floodwater resiliency, and to improve the treatment process.
- Edloe Street Pathway – Construction is underway for the longest continuous sidewalk in West U, which will provide a safe pathway for families walking to the city center.
- New Public Works Maintenance Facility – Design is underway for a new state-of-the-art maintenance facility for operations, and to provide a hardened structure for disaster response.

For more information about these projects, please visit www.westutx.gov/projects.

We live in exciting times as we reinvest in our infrastructure to ensure that West U remains one of the best communities in the nation. I am honored by the trust that voters have placed in me, and I look forward to working with my fellow councilmembers, residents, and staff to make West U even better. Stay tuned for more good things to come!