

City Currents

Spring 2024

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Celebrating Our Past and Preparing for Our Future!

A century ago, some of residents' earliest challenges were centered around poor drainage, a lack of utility coverage (electricity, water, and telephone connections), and receiving basic public services. Today, as we celebrate the city's first 100 years, we recognize that West U was built upon the determination of founders and past generations whose independent spirit ensured West U's self-reliant attitude as a full-service city in the shadow of Houston, the fourth largest city in the U.S.

To uphold this standard, West U continues to invest in the city's infrastructure and to maintain West U's commitment to reliable service delivery and facilities to serve residents.

New Community Building, Library, and Senior Center

- Phase II of the Facility Master Plan will relocate the existing Community Building, Library, and Senior Center to the site of the current Public Works maintenance facility after the new Public Works Facility is completed.
- The design process for this project will present a unique opportunity to reimagine West U's civic center and how it serves the community.
- To learn more about this project and to participate in the design process, please visit www.westutx.gov/phase2.

Article continued on page 4





Mayor Susan Sample

From the Mayor's Desk

A New Year

Delivering on Commitments and Big Visions

Celebrating 100 years of West U has certainly started off with a bang – from our Founders' Day celebration to welcoming the Houston Marathon, there were plenty of ways to celebrate this winter season. I look forward to seeing the good times roll with the Centennial Celebration Festival, which will be held at 4 p.m. on May 4th at Colonial Park!

In a remarkable display of optimism and determination, West U is kicking off the new year with grand aspirations and transformative projects that will reimagine our landscape and enrich the lives of our residents.

Reimagining Community Space with Our New Community Building, Library, and Senior Center

At the forefront of this bold vision, the City is setting its sights on fostering community connections and cultural growth by re-envisioning the site of our Public Works maintenance facility. The current space that serves as the maintenance heart for our community will take on a new purpose when the new Community Building, Library, and Senior Center are completed.

We envision that this new space will serve as a dynamic hub, providing services to residents of all ages. In essence, West U will finally have a true Civic Center that will serve our community as a whole. These revisions aim to not only enhance the aesthetics of the town, but also to create a more livable and connected community.

Rest assured, the design process for these new facilities is just getting underway, and will include an extensive public engagement period via town hall meetings to ensure that these facilities will truly reflect the desire of our community.

Public Works Facility

I have some good news on our new Public Works facility project – we are currently in the permitting phase of this project with the City of Houston for our new 17,500-sq-ft, state-of-the-art facility located on our property at Westpark Dr. and Dincans St., just outside the city limits.

I am excited for the construction to get underway by summer 2024, because this is the first phase of four in our Facilities Master Plan. This new facility represents a significant investment in modernizing and enhancing the City's capacity to meet the evolving needs of our community and will provide the cornerstone for our continued delivery of efficient maintenance operations for years to come.

Get Involved Early and Often!

Our City Council and staff have emphasized the importance of community involvement in shaping projects, such as West U's new Community Building, Library, and Senior Center. In addition to these three buildings, proposed changes to the surrounding property will make this area more pedestrian friendly – further creating a place where we can join together as a community in our Civic Center. For more information on our new Community Building, Library, and Senior Center, please visit www.westutx.gov/phase2.

The City Council and I are excited for the positive impact that these initiatives will have on our city – not only now, but also for generations to come. We are dedicated to delivering on our commitment to have a well-run city that is focused on providing a modern infrastructure, along with first-rate service delivery and low taxes.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming town hall meetings!



*Council Member
Shannon Carroll*

A Message from Council Member Shannon Carroll

To Leap or Not to Leap?

Happy New Year! As we know, 2024 is a “Leap Year!” It is also our city’s Centennial year, which makes it a special time for reflection - a time to appreciate the past – and for anticipation – a time to consider the possibilities of our future. Much like leap years, these opportunities do not present themselves every day.

In early December 2023, City Council held our strategic and goal planning session for the current term. It was an opportunity for us to raise ideas, discuss priorities, and select items to be placed on our meeting agendas that could have far-reaching implications for the future.

Some of these suggestions and priorities require small leaps in thinking, effort, and time - some much bigger. I’d like to highlight for your feedback and consideration a few:

1. Dog(gone) Park – The idea of a dog park has long been a whisper of discussion. Many of us consider our pets family, yet we continually put the idea of a park for our furry friends on the back burner. Let’s start with a small leap – what about a “pop up” park – a temporary, one-day dog park to see how it goes? An opportunity for the Parks Board, perhaps?
2. Sustainability in Action – Forward thinkers in West U have been ahead of their time for (leap) years! As I write this, City Council is considering the purchase of a new garbage truck. Meanwhile, our Recycling Board continues their push for citywide composting. My own family recently began composting, so I’d like to take this opportunity to encourage those of you who haven’t yet made the leap to do so!
3. Pedestrian / Biker Safety and Thoroughfares – West U is blessed with wonderful sidewalks, but the recent completion of the Edloe Pathway and accompanying positive feedback have led us to wonder – how can we improve pedestrian safety and walkability throughout all of West U? How can we ensure residents west of Wesleyan, east of Buffalo Speedway, and north of Bissonnet feel the same connectedness to the city center that more centralized residents do? To that end, we will be undergoing a review of walkability and safety, including the consideration of bike lanes, (if only on major streets), in hopes of identifying ways to improve safety and mobility throughout the entire city.
4. Poor Farm Ditch (northern section) – With the recent approval in funding and plans underway to repair the southern section of Poor Farm Ditch, City Council will also be approaching Harris Co. Flood Control, (which is overseeing repairs to the southern portion), about the northern portion, (while we have their attention)! When considering the southern portion took nearly 20 years of discussion, we’d like to take the leap now in hopes that the desperately needed repairs of the northern half won’t take another 20!
5. Facilities Master Plan – This one may require the biggest leap of all, but if the West U Centennial teaches us anything, it is that our residents and city leaders have always had a unique ability to rise to the challenge! To date, we have held several town halls seeking your input on what the next 100 years should look like for our city. Plans for the new Public Works building are underway, and the footprint for a new Community / Senior Services Building and Fire Station are taking shape. If you haven’t attended a Town Hall or reached out to a city representative to provide your feedback, please do so.

The next 100 years for West U are on the horizon, and like our city’s founders, we have the unique opportunity to take a leap and shape the future for the next generation(s)! As elected officials, your City Council has outlined our priorities – let’s hear yours!

Celebrating Our Past and Preparing for Our Future!

Article continues from front cover

Water System Improvements

To ensure the reliable delivery of safe drinking water to every home, West U is currently working on improvements to the aging water infrastructure, which a majority of it was installed in the 1940s:

- Water distribution line improvements in the east part of the city that will improve water pressure in the surrounding area
- Upgrades to the pumping capacity at the Milton and Wakeforest water facilities to ensure ability to meet peak demand and provide pumping capacity redundancy to ensure consistent delivery of water now and into the future
- Construct a new water well to ensure that West U can meet the community's water supply needs even during interruptions to surface water supply purchased from the City of Houston
- Replacing old cast-iron water lines located throughout West U that date back to the 1930s, which will help minimize water loss and lower pressure due to leaks

Drainage System Improvements

Eastside Street and Drainage System Improvements

- This project was split into two packages and the first part along University Blvd. between Buffalo Speedway and Kirby Drive will be completed by May. The second Package will begin in May/June and will construct street and drainage improvements along Wakeforest Ave., Rice Blvd and Duke St.

Westside Street and Drainage Improvements – Design Phase

- City Council approved the \$4.5 million purchase of property along the western city limits south to Brays Bayou that is important to the function of future drainage improvements on the west side of the City
- Completing the construction design for future improvements to the drainage system that will help address the drainage throughout the west side of the City
- Working to identify and acquire property for stormwater detention mitigation, allowing drainage improvements to be installed with less restriction

These projects are an ambitious undertaking, so 2024 will be a busy year for City Council and staff that are working hard to deliver on commitments and what is important to residents – improved storm drainage, reliable water and sewer systems, and enhanced parks and public safety.

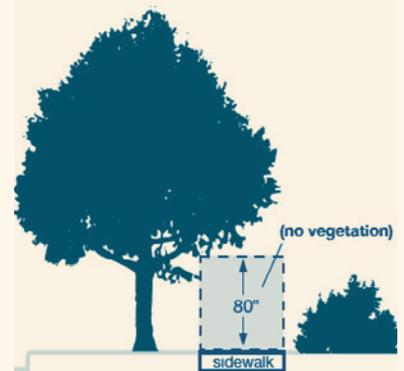
For more information about these water system and drainage projects, please visit www.westutx.gov/projects.

Residents' Responsibilities for Tree and Vegetation Maintenance in Right-of-Way Areas

Property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of trees and vegetation in West U's right-of-way areas. Homeowners may be held responsible for any damages caused by low-hanging tree limbs, vegetation hanging over the roadway and/or sidewalk, or vegetation obstructing regulatory signs, such as stop signs.

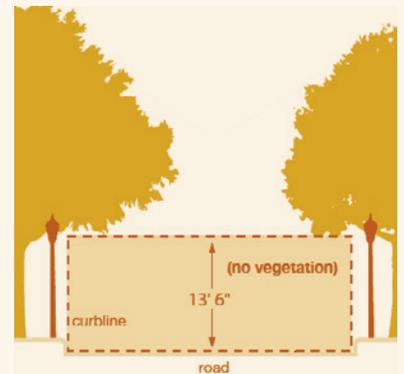
Clearance Over Sidewalks

The city requires that all vegetation over sidewalks be maintained at a minimum height of at least 80 inches (6 feet 8 inches) and not block the width of the sidewalk. This ensures adequate clearance for pedestrians utilizing the sidewalks. Please check trees and shrubs monthly to ensure that the proper clearance requirement is maintained at sidewalks fronting your property.



Clearance Over Streets

The City requires that vegetation over the roadway be maintained at a minimum height of 13' 6", 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 providing essential City services. Please check trees quarterly to ensure that the proper clearance requirement is maintained.



Reminders from Municipal Court

Parking tickets issued by Parking Enforcement or West University Place Police Officers follow a specific timeline before appearing in the court system. From the moment a ticket is issued, it takes approximately seven days for the violation details to be processed and documented within the court records. The West University Place Municipal Court has jurisdiction over Class C misdemeanors, along with City ordinance violations punishable by fine only. If you receive a citation, you may be able to resolve it without appearing in court. If you have any questions or need clarification regarding your citation, please contact the West U Court Clerks at 713-662-5825 or visit the Courts website at www.westutx.gov/court.

Resident Resources

Your Spring Sustainability Bucket List

Make plans to transition some of your habits and activities this spring to be more eco-friendly!



- On a cool day, turn off your air conditioning system and open your windows and doors for a cool breeze.
- When spring cleaning, plan to use eco-friendly and non-toxic cleaners. Pass down or donate clothes, toys, and even home décor to prevent them from ending up in landfills.
- Take advantage of rain showers and adjust your irrigation schedule accordingly. Also, consider using a rain barrel or bucket to collect water for your indoor plants.

When to Call Animal Control

Residents should be aware of the protocols surrounding animals and when to contact the city's animal control division.

Reasons for contacting West U Animal Control:

Nuisance barking dogs

Animal bites

Dogs off leash

Lost or found pets

Dogs in park

Registration of animals

Responsibility of property owners:

- Removal of deceased or injured animals on their property
- Pest control services
- Removal of feral cats. The city does not pick up or shelter cats. Instead, residents are encouraged to make arrangements with a humane agency or borrow a trap from the city to assist with removing feral cats.
- Residents in need of assistance with snakes, owls, opossums, skunks, or squirrels should contact the Texas Wildlife Center at 713-468-8972.

For more information, residents can visit www.westutx.gov/police.

Is a Permit Required?

For building or replacement purposes, any item meeting the following zoning code definition of a "structure" requires a permit. A structure is defined as anything made by humans that: (i) is not readily portable; (ii) is usually left in one location for an indefinite period of time; or (iii) requires either a permanent or fixed location on, or in, the ground for its use.

This helpful list is not all encompassing, but should provide some general guidelines:

New fencing

New generators

New solar panels

New decks or patios

Artificial turf

When in doubt, contact the Development Services Department at 713-662-5833 or via email at inspections@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 bills. Point & Pay will allow you to make your payments through a computer, phone, or tablet and to also:

- **Update your account information and settings**
- **Schedule recurring or future-dated payments**
- **View payment and statement histories**
- **Save paper by opting to receive e-statements**

To sign up, visit www.westutx.gov/billing.

H2Online

A New Way to Track Your Water Consumption

The City is thrilled to provide a 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 water consumption, residents can work toward conservation efforts.

For more details and to sign up, visit, www.westutx.gov/billing.

FEMA Risk Rating 2.0

The City of West University Place wants to remind you that it's important to take the 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. West U 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. For assistance from the West U Public Works Department, you may call 713-662-5839, email pwinfo@westutx.gov, or visit the Public Works offices located at 3826 Amherst St.

A Century in the Making

Centennial Celebration Festival

Saturday, May 4
Colonial Park at 4 p.m.

Make plans to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the Centennial Celebration Festival! We are thrilled to bring the community together for this historic event commemorating 100 years of achievements and progress.

Prepare to be highly entertained as the Hybrid 7 band takes the stage at 4 p.m. to play the best of the oldies and today's hits! There will also be some of the best food trucks in the Houston area on hand to serve up a variety of savory and sweet treats, so come hungry!

Honoring West U's commitment to reducing waste, the City will be providing water refill stations, so don't forget to pack your reusable water bottles! Residents are also encouraged to walk, bike, or carpool to the event.

So, mark your calendars to be at the Centennial Celebration Festival for a night that will go down in West U history.



West U Merchandise

Show your West U pride by shopping at the online West U Centennial merchandise store! Browse through hoodies, polos, hats, cups, and more to order West U gear for the entire family.

For more information about the celebration and to visit the merchandise store, please visit www.westutx.gov/centennial.

Centennial Spotify Playlist

To get in the party spirit, you can go listen to 100 tunes of the most unforgettable songs of the century!

Create a free Spotify account and search *City of West University Place* to access the playlist.

Thank you to our generous Diamond Sponsors:

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FITNESS & LIFESTYLE

Thank you to our generous Gold Sponsors:

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Safeguarding Your Finances: Tips to Prevent Tax Fraud

Tax fraud can wreak havoc on your financial well-being, making it crucial to adopt preventative measures. Being informed about prevalent scams is key. Watch out for phishing emails and fake websites, and always verify the legitimacy of any communication to avoid falling victim to these schemes.

Your Social Security Number (SSN) is a prime target for fraudsters. Safeguard it by minimizing unnecessary sharing, securing physical documents, and regularly monitoring financial accounts for any signs of suspicious activity. The SSN is essential for identity theft, so protecting it should be a top priority.

Strengthening your digital defenses is another effective strategy. Regularly update and reinforce your passwords, opting for complexity, and enable two-factor authentication whenever possible. This extra layer of security adds a robust barrier against unauthorized access to your financial information.

Filing your tax return promptly can also act as a deterrent against tax fraud. By submitting early, you narrow the window of opportunity for fraudsters to file a false return using your information. Additionally, consistent monitoring of credit reports and financial statements is crucial for detecting any irregularities and addressing potential issues swiftly. By incorporating these practices into your financial routine, you can significantly reduce the risk of falling prey to fraudulent activities and secure your financial stability.

Spring Cleaning and Fire Safety Go Hand in Hand

In the U.S., approximately 15,970 fires happen every year involving dryers and the leading cause of these fires is failure to clean them.

To avoid dryer fires, also ensure that the exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and that the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is running. You always want to use a dryer with a lint filter. Clean out the lint filter before and after each load of laundry.

Vacuum underneath and behind the dryer to remove any lint or dirt that could cause a fire hazard. Never store flammable materials around a dryer.

Keep your dryer in good working condition. Gas dryers should be inspected by qualified professionals to make sure that gas lines and connections are intact and free of leaks.

And, finally, always turn off the dryer when leaving your home.



Crafts with a Cop

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF WEST UNIVERSITY

APRIL 10 | 2 P.M. - 3 P.M.

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

WESTUTX.GOV/WUPDEVENTS

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. To sign up for services or for more information visit, www.westutx.gov/directlink.

No middlemen

Only \$35/month

Simple billing

Mobile app (at an additional cost)



Parks and Recreation

Easter Spring Festival

The Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Easter Spring Festival, featuring an “eggs-tra” special visit from the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23 from 9 am - 11 am at the Recreation Center Fields! Admission will be free for this event.

Outdoor Event Series

On Fridays in April (April 5, 12, and 19) come enjoy a pleasant evening at Colonial Park with. Each event will be informal and can be appreciated by audiences of all ages. Be sure to bring a blanket and a picnic basket for a great family outing or date night! Each show will begin at 7 p.m.

Wier Park Updates

For more information and updates about this project, please visit www.westutx.gov/parkprojects.

Colonial Park Pool Summer Hours

The 2024 pool season will officially begin in May! Memberships can be purchased year-round, and it is highly recommended that you purchase your membership before the pool opens. Before the season begins, memberships can be purchased in person at the Recreation Center, or online at www.westutx.gov/colonial.

Members-Only Sneak Peek

Sunday, May 5, 12– 6 p.m.

Opening Days for Members, Residents, Guests

Saturdays, May 11, 18, 12– 6 p.m.
Sundays, May 12, 19, 12 – 6 p.m.

Join the Parks and Recreation Team

The West University Recreation Center and Colonial Park Pool are now accepting applications for part-time Customer Service team members, lifeguards, and swim instructors. The Parks and Recreation Department offers competitive pay, flexible schedules, and a fun atmosphere! Apply online at www.westutx.gov/jobs.

Summer Registration

The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to offer a variety of programs, classes, and camps that offer something for everyone! To view a complete listing of these offerings, visit www.westutx.gov/reg.

- Resident registration opens Wednesday, April 17
- Open registration begins Wednesday, April 24



Fun Over 50

713-662-5896 | www.westutx.gov/seniors

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 and on the City's website.

Evening Beginner Swing Dance:

Join Scott Ladell as he teaches the beginner moves in the fun dance class. Partner not required. This program will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, starting on March 21, at the Community Building. Purchase a three-punch pass for \$50, or \$110 for eight weeks.

Buffalo Bayou Walking Tour – Wednesday, March 27:

Don't miss the bus for this beautiful walking tour of Buffalo Bayou, featuring wellness expert Laura Connley. The bus will depart from the Community Building at 9 a.m. and the cost to attend will be \$16.

Day Trip to Brenham – Tuesday, April 2:

Make plans to join the group for a visit to the Antique Rose Emporium, with lunch at the Volare Italian restaurant, followed by another shopping adventure at Hermann Antiques. The bus will depart from the Community Building at 9 a.m. and the cost to attend will be \$9, plus lunch on your own.

Houston Botanical Garden Tour – Wednesday, April 3:

Enjoy the beauties of these local gardens with a docent-led tour. The bus will depart the Community Building at 10 a.m., and the cost to attend will be \$20.

Mounted Horse Patrol Tour – Tuesday, May 7:

Mark your calendar to attend a tour of the Mounted Horse Patrol facility. The bus will depart from the Community Building at 10 a.m. and the cost to attend will be \$10.

Park Lovers' Ball

The "Blame It All On My Roots" Park Lovers' Ball 2024 was held on February 10 and many gala goers showed up in their boots for this black tie affair. The fundraising evening was a resounding success at the posh Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston. Event Co-Chairs Sarah and Travis Covington and Jordan and Andrew Jewett created a memorable evening full of fun and FUNdraising. The leadership team also included underwriting chairs Elizabeth Scofield, Disney Harris and Lexi Marek and auction chairs Catherine de Anda Hamilton, Elise Madray and Amanda Commons. Highlights included the popular wine pull, a new Tequila tasting game, a "Dolly Parton" champagne character, silent and live auctions, big board auction, heads or tails game, and dinner and dancing to the tunes of the Texas Unlimited Band.

The ball honored longtime Friends supporter Frost Bank.



To stay up to date on the Park Lovers' Ball and Fathers & Flashlights events, plus other Friends news, please visit the Friends website at www.westuparks.org and sign up to receive Friends emails. Volunteers are the backbone of Friends of West U Parks. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Friends Executive Director, Donna LaMond, at DLaMond@WestUTX.gov or 713-662-7430.



We are thankful for our many underwriters and sponsors including Baker Botts, Greenwood King Properties, Frost Bank, Kelsey and Matt Falcone, Greater Houston Orthodontics, The Burke Family Foundation, Kirkland & Ellis, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, Sarah and Scott Barrett, Butler Cohen Design+ Build, Claire Day-Gary Greene Distinctive Collection, Heidi Dugan-Greenwood King, Lexi Sakowitz Marek - Compass, Neha and Manish Agrawal, Stephanie and Braun Shaffer, Lauren and John Brollier, Emilie and Chris Dahan, Jennifer and Adam Dempsey, Mandy and Rafael Diaz, Margaret and Eric Doyal, Callie and Andy Gaines, Catherine and Matteson Hamilton, Kristen and George Jackson, Kathleen and Travis Johnson, Jessica and Mark Jones, Megha and Mayur Kanja/KSF Orthopaedics, LeVass Ventures LLC, Brittany and Austin McDowell, Sami and Jud Morrison, Perrin Projects, Rebecca and Robert Pritchard, Susan and Richard Quarles, Jodi and Michael Rubenstein, Ashley and Todd Rushing, Leslie and Jonathan Sellin, Blaire and Ethan Shoemaker, Natasha Stolte and Ryan Roller, Pipe & Tube Supplies, Inc., Vasquez Waite PLLC, Wells Fargo, Alston and Jordan White, Brittany and Aaron Woodward, Caroline Bean - Compass, Whitney and Mark Lawson/Prin Group, Hensley & Krueger PLLC, Rachael and John Montgomery, Adair Concepts, Michele and Bobby Marandi, Kristen and Scott Browning, Crytaphase, Vinson & Elkins, Erin Kaplan - Compass, Michael Kerensky and A Brand Strategy Consulting.

For a complete listing of underwriters and sponsors please visit the Friends website at www.westuparks.org. Without these generous donors, Friends could not achieve its fundraising goals to keep our parks and green spaces beautiful, safe, and well-maintained.

2024 Fathers & Flashlights

The 2024 Fathers & Flashlights campout event is coming next fall, and the date is set for November 2 - 3, 2024. The event's co-chairs are Kelly Beth and Charlie Haggood, Katy and Chris Turner, and Megan and Nick Nicodemus.



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

Public Works

East Side Paving and Drainage Improvements

Package One of the University Boulevard Drainage and Roadway Improvement Project is substantially complete! While this project has been disruptive to the city, it is important to note the major milestones associated with this project:

- **Installation and adjustment of a new waterline at Belmont St., Wakeforest Ave., Annapolis St., and Lake St. on University Blvd.**
- **Installation of new 60" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) running from Buffalo Speedway to Kirby Dr.**
- **Replacement of the roadway surface on the north and south sides of University Blvd.**
- **Replacement of paving on all driveway aprons, sidewalks, curbs, and pedestrian ramps**

The last remaining "punch list" tasks will include sod replacement, irrigation repair, and final site dress-up of all yards along University Blvd.

Residents should continue to exercise caution around the construction site. Please plan your travel routes accordingly and expect delays. City staff are working with the contractor to mitigate construction impacts whenever possible.

If you have any questions regarding this project or any final restoration efforts, please contact Capital Project Manager Eduardo Barreto at 713-662-5848 or via email at ebarreto@westutx.gov.

Water Conservation in Spring

Spring is an opportune time for residents to gear up for the impending summer heat by embracing water conservation practices. Simple, yet impactful, measures can make a significant difference.

Residents are encouraged to inspect and repair any leaks in their homes promptly. The season's moderate temperatures provide an ideal environment for outdoor activities, making it an excellent time to plant drought-resistant flowers and shrubs that will thrive in the warmer months without requiring excessive watering.

Additionally, the City recommends adjusting irrigation systems to match the changing weather patterns. As days lengthen and temperatures climb, lawns and gardens often need less frequent watering. This small adjustment ensures that water is used efficiently, minimizing waste, and promoting a healthier, more resilient landscape.

By fostering water-conscious habits during the spring season, residents are laying the foundation for a summer marked by responsible water consumption.

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 dumping automotive fluids, pet waste, household hazardous waste, 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 examples of illicit discharges:

- Sanitary wastewater
- Household cleaners
- Pesticides
- Chlorinated pool water
- Motor oil
- Paints
- Weed killers
- Laundry wastewater

So, How Can You Help?

- **Stormwater picks up anything in its path to the storm drain. Do your part - put waste in its correct place, and save the drain for the rain.**
- **Never sweep or blow leaves into a storm drain. This is also a violation of City ordinances.**
- **Dispose of used motor oil, leftover paint, cleaners, and other household chemicals at an authorized facility.**
- **Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizers, and to avoid using them when rain is forecasted.**
- **Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.**

Reporting Illicit Discharges

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

For more information about illicit discharges, visit www.westutx.gov/stormwater.

CURBSIDE COMPOSTING IN WEST U

A collective effort is needed to curb

FOOD WASTE!



westutx.gov/foodwaste



City Currents

Spring 2024



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

PRSR STD
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A Newsletter for the Residents of the City of West University Place

City of West U Officials

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Susan Sample
Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery
Clay Brett
Shannon Carroll
Matt Hart

CITY MANAGER

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CITY SECRETARY

Thelma Gilliam
tgilliam@westutx.gov

City Currents is a quarterly publication
and is printed on recycled paper.

For questions and comments about *City Currents*,
contact Communications Manager 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.

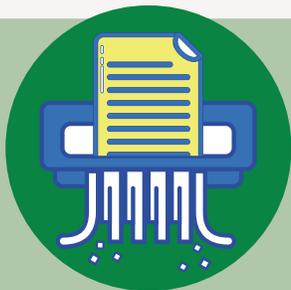
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

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 4 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | 3826 Milton St.