

# City Currents

Summer 2024

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And More Helpful Information About Your City!	



Colonial Pool "The Bubble" Circa 1977

## Phase II Of The Facilities Master Plan

### Design Process Underway for a New Senior Center / Library / Community Building

As we head into summer, design work is underway on changes to the Civic Center that will include a new home for West U seniors, along with a library and a community meeting space. The design process also includes evaluating improvements to the Civic Center's outdoor space.

Phase I relocates the existing Public Works Maintenance Facility to City-owned property just outside of West U, and the Phase II buildings will be relocated to the existing Public Works site between Amherst and Milton streets, which will provide better parking and building access, and not cause any interruption to the existing library or senior services.

The first part of Phase II involves the urban planning for the outdoor space of the Civic Center. The public-engagement portion of this process has been underway with an online survey and townhall meeting to solicit feedback on potential improvements to create more open and green space, along with more efficient use of parking, improved pedestrian access and safety, traffic calming, and, lastly, potential outdoor space for community events and City programming with the seniors and library. On June 24 and July 8, the City Council will hold workshops to review the urban planning concepts and provide their feedback.

The second part of Phase II will be design work for the new building (or buildings). The City recently completed the first town hall meeting to solicit public feedback on these new facilities, and we will be holding two more town hall meetings over the coming year, as well as other meetings with the City Council, board, commission, and stakeholders. This process will determine whether there will be one, two, or three buildings, and whether they will be one story or two stories.

*Story continues on page 4*

### Upcoming Community Engagement Opportunities

The involvement of the community is paramount to the design process for Phase II of the Facilities Master Plan. The location and times of these meetings will be announced once confirmed.

- **Tuesday, June 18**  
Urban Planning Phase
- **Monday, June 24**  
Urban Planning Phase
- **Monday, July 8**  
Urban Planning Phase
- **Tuesday, November 12**  
Rec Center Design Process

To stay up to date about the Facilities Master Plan and to sign up for notifications about upcoming meetings, please visit [www.westutx.gov/fmp](http://www.westutx.gov/fmp).





*Mayor Susan Sample*

# From the Mayor's Desk

## What Should Our Civic Center Have?

That is the question currently before our community, and our City Council and I are interested in hearing from you as we undertake improvements to our Civic Center that will shape our community for generations to come!

The City has begun the design work for Phase II of West U's Facilities Master Plan, which involves a new Senior Center, Community Building, and Library on the current Public Works site. (add very simple graphic)

Phase II is broken into the following three parts:

- 1 **Civic Center Urban Planning** – This part involves designing the outside space and evaluating possible improvements to this area, which could include making sidewalks wider for increased pedestrian mobility and safety, designing a plan for easing traffic in West U, offering a more efficient parking design to increase spaces while also reducing our parking footprint, and, finally, creating more open and green spaces that our residents can enjoy.
- 2 **New Senior Center, Community Building, and Library** – This part includes designing the indoor spaces for our new building (or buildings) that will enhance gathering areas for our community, along with library and senior services.
- 3 **Recreation Center** – The final part of Phase II involves repurposing the space at the Civic Center that will be vacated by the Parks Maintenance division when they move to the new Public Works facility next year. This part of Phase II will take a look at the existing facility to ensure that this space will still be able to meet the needs of our community decades into the future.

## Your Input Matters

Over the coming year, West U's City Council and staff will work closely with our community on this exciting project that will shape our Civic Center for generations to come. There are a lot of questions to be answered: Will the Civic Center include one, two, or three buildings? Will there be more open or green spaces for our community's use? What pedestrian improvements will be included? How will the building(s) function? How will the 3800 blocks of Amherst and Milton streets be utilized? With your participation in our planning meetings, all of these questions will be answered during this design process.

I, for one, am excited to witness our community's participation in this unique opportunity to reimagine this space and create a true center for our community. The following meetings have been designed to solicit feedback from the community:

- **Urban Planning** – We have already completed an online survey and a town hall meeting. The City Council will hold its first workshop on June 24 to discuss these improvements and will hold a second workshop on July 8.
- **New Buildings** – In early June, we held our first of three scheduled town hall meetings, and we will hold the other two town hall meetings on November 12 and on March 4, 2025. In between these larger meetings, there will be City Council workshops and meetings with stakeholders, among other planning events. The dates for these meetings have not yet been determined.
- **Recreation Center** – The first town hall meeting on this will be held on November 12. Other meetings will involve the City Council, board, and commissions. The dates for these other meetings have not been determined at this time.

There will be other opportunities to participate as additional meetings are added to the schedule.

## Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

The Civic Center area and new building(s) will be community spaces that should reflect our community and our commitment to providing our residents with best-in-class facilities. These new facilities will serve our current and future generations by providing a state-of-the-art library, along with spaces for our community to gather and for our seniors to stay active and engaged. People are social by nature, and these new facilities and improvements to our urban space will provide a place for young and old alike to stay active and connected to their community.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime project that our City Council, staff, and myself do not take lightly. Everyone who grew up in our city, or who moved to West U, have their own unique reasons for calling our community home – and the Civic Center is our opportunity to design a space that reinvests in this commitment to call West U home for current and future generations.

We look forward to your participation at the planning meetings for this new Civic Center project!

For more information on the Facilities Master Plan and the upcoming project phases, please visit [www.westutx.gov/fmp](http://www.westutx.gov/fmp).

# A Message from Council Member Matt Hart

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*Council Member  
Matt Hart*

## Investing for the future of our Independent Water System

West U maintains its own water system, and your monthly bills pay to maintain and improve it. Residents rely on West U to deliver safe, reliable water, and our system is doing so today. But our system needs significant investment to ensure quality water service tomorrow. City council is planning for the future and developing projects that will improve the quality and reliability of our system. These projects will require significant investment, approximately \$50-60 million, but the benefits gained will be greater.

Our water system is comprehensive, including two water towers, wells, distribution pipes, and pumping stations. Having our own water system allows us to prioritize service for residents, invest for improvements, and reliably supply water, even when Houston and our other neighboring cities have issues.

State rules require that the majority of our water has to come from surface water—that is, from rivers and lakes—in order not to deplete our region’s shared aquifer. We source this water from the City of Houston. The remainder of our water comes from our own wells. At our Milton Street facility, we mix and treat these sources to meet all state and federal standards. We’re looking at investments to ensure that we can treat water to meet future standards. Water quality standards are continually improving, and recent federal rules regarding PFAS chemicals underscore the importance of this work.

Having a clean source of water, however, is not enough. For a water system to work, it needs pressure to supply homes, fight fires, and keep the water clean. Without adequate pressure, groundwater can seep into pipes and contaminate the system, leading to boil notices. To keep pressure up, we need to upgrade our Wakeforest facility—the facility with the tower you see from the interstate—and lay a larger pipe from that facility into the city. We’re also looking at upgrades to our Milton Street facility, including pumps and water storage, to ensure we can maintain pressure.

We also want to ensure our system can reliably deliver water. When Houston issues a boil notice due to problems in their system, we lose our supply of surface water. Because we operate our own system, we can usually disconnect from Houston and still supply water to residents. But if we have to disconnect from Houston during a high usage period—for example, during a hot August, our system could only maintain service for about a day, without having to also issue a boil notice. We’re looking to add an additional well at Bissonnet and Wesleyan to address this problem. This well would allow us to pump additional water and maintain service even during an extended outage in Houston.

As residents, we can also help our system and our own wallets. Adjusting your sprinkler settings, or installing a smart controller, can save significant costs for you and reduce peak usage. Even simple maintenance of your sprinklers and plumbing fixtures can improve your cash and water flow. The city has tools and information available if you’re looking for further ways to save money and sustain water resources. These small changes can make a big difference for our system.

Our water system serves us all, and I invite you to support these projects to improve its quality and reliability. West U is proud to be an independent city, and our water system is a key part of that independence. Let’s work together to ensure it works for years to come.

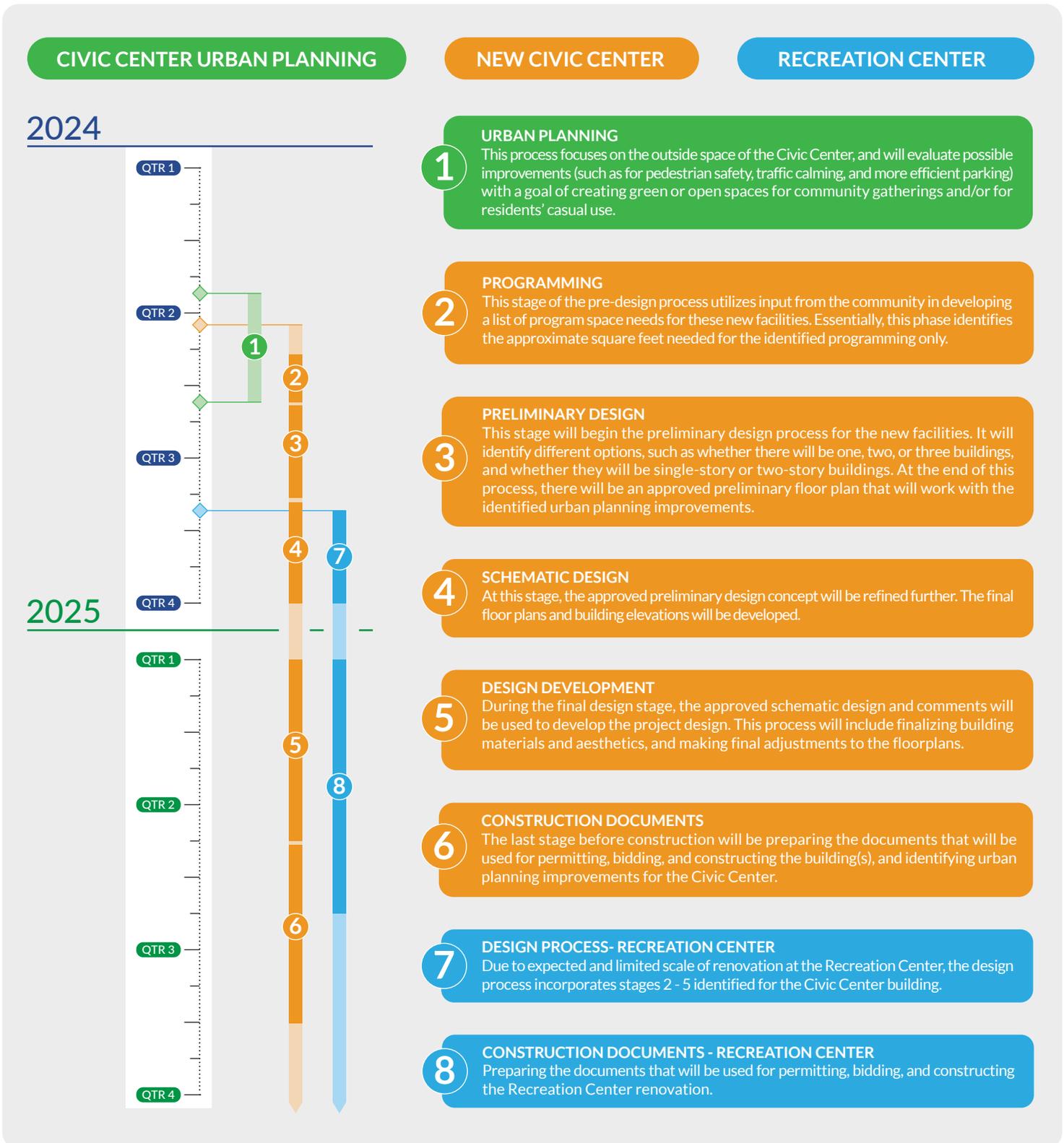
[mhart@westutx.gov](mailto:mhart@westutx.gov)

# Phase II Of The Facilities Master Plan

Continued from cover

## How the Design Process Works

Phase II involves a lot of moving parts, with the ultimate goal of creating outdoor spaces and facilities that will reflect the desires of the community. The following is a summary of the different stages during the design process that will take place over the coming years:



# Resident Resources

## Summer Sustainability

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

- Use natural light – Greet 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.
- Choose reusable items – Whether you're going to the beach, Colonial Park Pool, or simply enjoying outdoor activities, opt for reusable items such as water bottles, utensils, and Tupperware, rather than single-use plastics.

## 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 five-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 Citizens Academy will begin on Thursday, September 26. Residents will enjoy hands-on activities, tours, presentations, light refreshments, and more! Participation is free and will be limited to the first 12 registrants. Registration will become available online on Monday, August 12. For more information about this program, visit [www.westutx.gov/citizensacademy](http://www.westutx.gov/citizensacademy).

## Capturing the West U Spirit and Identity: West U's New Flag

During the Monday, May 13, City Council Meeting, the City Council approved the design for a new city flag.

City flags serve as a symbol of identity, unity, and pride for its residents. Through its design, colors, and symbols, a city flag communicates a visual emblem that unites residents and promotes a shared sense of belonging.

The design features the iconic interlocking house symbol and "West U blue" that corresponds to West University Place branding.



## Centennial Merchandise

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

Have you purchased your copy of the Centennial Celebration coffee table book? Copies are \$10 and are available for purchase at City Hall. For more information, please visit [www.westutx.gov/centennial](http://www.westutx.gov/centennial).

## 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 also 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).

## Hurricane Season Preparations

Does your family have a disaster supply kit ready for an emergency? Hurricane season begins on June 1 and runs through November 30. The City of West University Place encourages residents to prepare a disaster kit in the event of extended inclement weather. Avoid panic buying by stocking up on the following items:

- **Water** (at least one gallon per person/per day)
- **Food** (at least seven day supply of nonperishable/ canned food)
- **First-aid kit**
- **Flashlights with extra batteries**
- **Medications**
- **Sanitation/hygiene supplies**
- **Important family documents**
- **Pet care items**

In addition to these supplies, be sure to sign up for notifications from the city. To sign up, visit [www.westutx.gov/notifyme](http://www.westutx.gov/notifyme).

# Resident Resources

## Flood Hazard Awareness

West University Place has seen its fair share of flooding in recent years, so now is a good time to make sure you're prepared for the next flood.

- Maintain flood insurance on your home. Don't delay - there is a 30-day waiting period before a new policy takes effect. Basic homeowner's insurance does not cover damage from floods.
- Check with the Building Department to see if a permit is needed before you make any major enhancements or repairs to your home.
- Consider permanent flood protection measures such as marking your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas.
- Protect your home's foundation by making sure your downspouts drain away from your house.
- Keep trash out of ditches and streams, and avoid dumping pollutants in the sewers. Debris can clog our waterways and cause back ups that increase the flooding risk.
- If you encounter flooded roads, remember to Turn Around, Don't Drown.®
- Make an emergency supplies kit and prepare a family evacuation plan. Sign up for West U READY to make sure you receive emergency notifications in the event there is an emergency that poses an immediate risk to health, life, or property, and follow the City on its various social media platforms to get weather warnings and safety information.

## West U READY Test Alert

The City of West University Place will launch a test alert from the West U READY emergency notification system on Wednesday, June 12 at 10 a.m.

Make sure you are signed up before June 12 to see how these alerts will reach you. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.westutx.gov/westuready](http://www.westutx.gov/westuready).

## Cat & Dog Registration

West University Place residents are required to register their pets with the City's Animal Control Officer. To register, bring a copy of your pet's rabies vaccination records to the Public Works Administration Building located at 3826 Amherst St. and fill out the registration form. You will receive a tag to keep as proof of registration. Your pets should wear this tag, along with their rabies tag, on their collars to help Animal Control identify your pets should they leave your yard or become lost.



The cost is \$20 per animal, or \$15 for owners over 65 years of age. For additional information, please contact Public Works at 713-662-5839.

## Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

The City of West University Place offers a voucher program for residents to dispose of residential household hazardous waste (HHW) at the City of Houston facilities. This program is offered to all West U residents with proof of residency. These vouchers are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Each household can obtain one voucher in a 12-month period.

Residents can request a voucher from the Public Works Department by calling 713-662-5839 or by emailing [pwinfo@westutx.gov](mailto:pwinfo@westutx.gov). The City is unable to mail or fax vouchers, as the City of Houston requires the original voucher to be presented at the time of delivery.

Acceptable materials for this program include pool chemicals, paint, fertilizers, fuel, motor oils, cooking oils, and propane or helium tanks. For more information, please visit [www.westutx.gov/hhw](http://www.westutx.gov/hhw).

## Point & Pay Payment System and Electronic Statements Reminder

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.

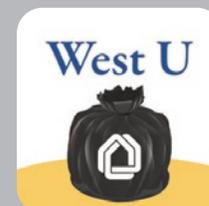
For assistance, please contact Utility Billing at 713-662-5824 or by email at [billinghelp@westutx.gov](mailto:billinghelp@westutx.gov).



## 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.



# Public Safety



## Pedestrian Safety: Ensuring a Safe Summer in West U

As the warmth of summer fills the streets, so does the increase in pedestrian traffic. With more people out and about, it becomes even more crucial to ensure pedestrian safety. In our lively community, pedestrian safety is everyone's concern. Here are some vital tips to promote pedestrian safety:

**1 Use Designated Crosswalks:** Pedestrians are encouraged to use designated crosswalks whenever possible. Crossing at designated points ensures visibility to drivers and adherence to traffic signals. It is against the law to walk on the roadway where a sidewalk is provided.

**2 Obey Traffic Signals:** Pedestrians should obey traffic signals and wait for the pedestrian signal before crossing. Even if the road seems clear, crossing against the signal can lead to dangerous situations.

**3 Stay Visible:** Pedestrians should wear bright or reflective clothing, especially when walking at night. Increased visibility makes it easier for drivers to spot pedestrians, reducing the risk of accidents.

**4 Avoid Distractions:** Pedestrians should avoid distractions such as texting or listening to music while crossing the street. Being fully aware of your surroundings enhances pedestrian safety.

**5 Make Eye Contact:** Pedestrians are encouraged to make eye contact with drivers before crossing, especially at intersections. This ensures that drivers are aware of the pedestrian's presence and intention to cross.

**6 Watch for Turning Vehicles:** Pedestrians should watch for turning vehicles, even when the pedestrians have the right of way. Drivers may not always see pedestrians, particularly when drivers are making turns.

By following these simple guidelines, pedestrians can play an active role in ensuring their safety while navigating the streets. Let's work together to prioritize pedestrian safety and create a safer environment for all.

## Prevent Lithium-Ion Battery Fires

In our modern society, we use many products that are powered by lithium-ion batteries. These devices include smartphones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, toys, and even cars. If these batteries are damaged or used incorrectly, they can catch on fire or explode.

When purchasing batteries, make sure they are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Always follow manufacturer directions for use and charging. Only use the batteries and chargers that are designed for your devices.

Never charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch. Be sure to unplug the device once it is fully charged and keep it away from anything that can catch on fire.

You should stop using the battery if you notice it exhibiting a strange odor, a change in color, too much heat, or a change in shape.

Never dispose of lithium-ion batteries in the trash. A recycling center that specializes in this type of material is best.

## Save the Date:



## National Night Out A Community Block Party

Tuesday, October 1  
Colonial Park West End

Mark your calendars for an epic block party organized by West U's first responders!

Volunteer opportunities are available. If you're interested please contact Officer Wilson at [kwilson@westutx.gov](mailto:kwilson@westutx.gov).

## 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](http://www.westutx.gov/directlink).

No middlemen

Only \$35/month

Simple billing



# Parks and Recreation

## West University Place Parks and Recreation Department Brings Home the Gold

West U's Parks and Recreation Department was honored with the prestigious Gold Medal award at the 2024 Texas Recreation and Park Society's annual awards ceremony. West University Place is the only Class IV city (population up to 25,000) in Texas to receive this designation in 2024.

This Gold Medal award recognizes communities demonstrating excellence in Parks and Recreation Management. Long-range planning, resource and fiscal management, programming and events, public input, community involvement, volunteerism, and marketing/promotional efforts were all considerations for the award.

This marks the third time that the department has been recognized with this honor, having previously received this award in 2016 and 2020.

## Wier Park Improvements Slated for Mid-June Completion

The renovations at Wier Park were made possible through the generosity of the Friends of West University Parks Fund (Friends). Through their philanthropic events, the Friends raised enough funds to cover the entire cost of this project. Thanks to their unwavering support, West U taxpayers were alleviated of funding this project.

For more information about the Wier Park renovations, visit [www.westutx.gov/parkprojects](http://www.westutx.gov/parkprojects).

The Friends of West University Parks Fund, (Friends) is a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds for the development and improvement of parks and green spaces in the City of West University Place. For more information about Friends and all of the wonderful initiatives they have, please visit [www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org).

## Members-Only Events

Membership has its perks! Colonial Park Pool members will be able to enjoy two exclusive parties this summer:



### Ice Cream Social

Kick off the summer season at the annual Ice Cream Social.  
Wednesday, June 5, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.



### West U Olympics

Channel your inner Olympian and get ready to make a splash by competing in thrilling aquatic challenges!  
Saturday, July 27, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

## Junior Lifeguard Program

Is your future whistle worthy? Children ages 11–14 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. – 12 p.m. on the following dates:**

June 10 – June 14

July 8 – July 12

Fee: \$45 R, \$60 NR

## Fun Over 50

713-662-5895 | [www.westutx.gov/seniors](http://www.westutx.gov/seniors)

### June Afternoon Music Medley Concert Series

Each Friday in June, students from the Opus 1 Chamber Music School will host indoor concerts in the John Neighbors Room that will elevate your mood, heart, and mind. Concerts will begin at 4 p.m. and will be free to attend.

### 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 16.

### Aging Solo Series

The key to aging well is planning your aging journey. Join us for a free three-week program that will help you get your documents in order and define your support network. Classes will meet for two hours on Mondays beginning July 8 at 3 p.m.

### Trip to the George Bush Presidential Library

Join the group on August 5 or August 28 for a docent-led tour of one of the state's top attractions. The cost to attend is \$16 and pre-registration is required. Lunch will be on your own at Napa Flats. The bus will depart from the Community Building at 9 a.m.

### Festival of the Arts

After a five-year hiatus, the Senior Services division is excited to resume its local artisan showcase! On Saturday, August 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., make plans to browse through unique treasures, paintings, jewelry, and crafts that will be on display at the Community Building. Vendor booths are available and will cost \$20. You must reserve your booth space by July 30.

**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.**

## Annual Maintenance Week

The Recreation Center will be closed for its annual maintenance from August 25 – September 2 and will reopen on September 3.

# Friends of West U Parks

## National Park and Recreation Month

With July being National Park and Recreation Month, West U's Parks & Recreation Department will be celebrating this year's theme, "Where You Belong", which honors the many ways that park and recreation professionals across the country foster a sense of belonging by providing welcoming and inclusive programs, essential services for all ages and abilities, and safe and accessible green spaces for citizens to enjoy and build meaningful connections.

**Mark your calendar to join this month-long celebration by participating in the following events:**



### July 4 Parade and Pool Party

Thursday, July 4, 8:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.



### Hotdogs at Judson Park

Wednesday, July 10, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



### Ice Cream at the Colonial Park Pavilion

Wednesday, July 17, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



### Sugar Rush at Whitt Johnson Park

Wednesday, July 31, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



## Party on the Patio Summer Series

Thank you to our returning generous sponsor from the 2021, 2022, and 2023 summer concert series! Mary Frances A. DuMay, Real Estate Advisor, The Anderson DuMay Team at Compass Real Estate, who is a West U resident, and longtime Friends of West U Parks supporter, has committed to three more years (2024, 2025, and 2026) of sponsoring this popular concert series.

The concerts are scheduled for June 7 (Moondance Jazz), June 14 (Silver Seger Band), June 21 (The Fab 5), and June 28 (The Big Blue) from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Colonial Park Pool Deck, 4130 Byron Street. The summer concerts are another great benefit of living in West U and are free to all residents. Mark your calendars, dust off those lawn chairs, and get ready to kick back and enjoy these fun summer concerts.



COMPASS

Mary Frances A. DuMay  
713 724-0577

## Fathers & Flashlights Campout

November 2 – 3

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

The chairpersons for the 2024 Father's & Flashlights campout are looking forward to another memorable night under the stars! Friends of West U Parks will continue its West U tradition of hosting this popular event. Be sure you are signed up to receive Friends emails for notifications on registration and sponsorship opportunities. The campout registration will take place in early September and will be open to those zoned to attend West University Elementary School.



Questions? Please email [fathersandflashlights@westuparks.org](mailto:fathersandflashlights@westuparks.org).

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

Sign up for Friends emails at [www.westuparks.org](http://www.westuparks.org) to receive email alerts about Friends related activities, 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 [DLaMond@westutx.gov](mailto:DLaMond@westutx.gov).

## Save the Date:

# Park Lovers' Ball

February 8, 2025  
Post Oak Hotel



# Public Works

## East Side Paving and Drainage Improvements

After over a year of hard work, we are thrilled to announce the completion of Package 1 of the East Side Paving and Drainage Improvement Project! The contractor, Conrad Construction, maintained remarkable teamwork and communication with the City and residents from the project's groundbreaking to the final touches. The newly constructed University Boulevard will now be capable of conveying stormwater to help alleviate any potential damages for 2-year, 10-year, and 50-year weather events.

This milestone marks not only the completion of Package 1, but also the beginning of Package 2 of the East Side Paving and Drainage Improvement Project. Package Two (2) includes paving and drainage upgrades along Wakeforest Avenue from Plumb Street to Pemberton Street, Rice from Wakeforest to Kirby Dr., and Duke Street from Buffalo Speedway to Wakeforest.

We would like to thank the community for their patience and understanding during the construction period and we ask drivers to plan their travel routes accordingly and to expect delays.

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)



## 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 waste water and also weaken your lawn, as well as carry soil, fertilizers, and pesticides into streams. Finding ways to use less water will help you 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.
- Observe 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 enable 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 your sprinkler heads and verify that no water is still coming out of them. If water is coming out of a sprinkler head, this may indicate that one of the valves may not be closing completely.

### 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 West U achieve its water conservation goals.

# West U Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

## DID YOU KNOW?

West U residents generated 6,840 tons of waste in 2023!

35% of West U waste is diverted from landfills.  
Can we do better?

65% of this waste goes to landfill\*

\*Nationally 25% of this is foodwaste

3% diverted through curbside foodwaste collection

9% diverted as yard waste

2023 West U waste is equivalent to the weight of 22 blue whales!

23% diverted as recycling

The carbon footprint of US food waste is greater than the aviation industry

What is one change your household can make to reduce waste?

Help make our community better on its journey to zero waste!  
Want to do more? Join West U's new Green Team!  
Email [westugreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:westugreenteam@gmail.com) to get involved.



Statistics based on 2023 data

# City Currents

Summer 2024



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

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US POSTAGE  
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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

Dave Beach  
[dbeach@westutx.gov](mailto:dbeach@westutx.gov)

### CITY SECRETARY

Thelma Gilliam  
[tgilliam@westutx.gov](mailto: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](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.



## Save the Date!

Halloween Dash and Kids Fun Run  
Presented by King & Spalding  
Saturday, October 26

Register Today: [www.westutx.gov/funrun](http://www.westutx.gov/funrun)