



City Currents



SPRING 2025

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www.westutx.gov • 713-668-4441 • 3800 University Boulevard

May 3 General and Special Elections Propositions

General Election for Mayor and City Council:

On May 3, 2025 the City will hold a General Election to elect a mayor and four council members. The position for mayor is a standalone election and the incumbent is currently running unopposed. The four positions for Council are elected at-large with the top four vote getters earning the positions. There are seven residents of which two are incumbents running for these four positions.

For more information about the General Election, please visit www.westutx.gov/elections.

Special Election for Propositions A, B, C and D:

In addition to the General Election, the City will be holding a special election with three propositions proposing changes to the City's Charter and one proposition to issue debt to construct new facilities.

West U Voters will have the opportunity to vote yes or no on the following propositions to amend the City's Charter:

■ Proposition A – Charter Section 2.09: Meetings of the City Council

- Amending the charter so that City Council may cancel one regular meeting in a calendar month, if such cancellation is determined to be expedient or necessary.

■ Proposition B – Charter Section 2.12: Publication of Ordinances, and Section 2.13: Code of Ordinance

- Amending the charter to remove the requirement for publications in an official paper, and instead allow for publication in a newspaper that is in general circulation within the city.

■ Proposition C – Charter Section 6.02: City Manager – Powers and Duties, and Section 6.03: City Secretary

- Amending the charter so that the City Manager does not have the authority to appoint or to remove the City Secretary (Section 6.02)

Important dates for this election are:

- Last day to register to vote: Thursday, April 3
- First day to early vote by personal appearance: Tuesday, April 22
- Last day to apply for a ballot by mail: Tuesday, April 22
- Last day of early voting by personal appearance: Tuesday, April 29
- Last day to receive a ballot by mail: Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m.

For more information about this election, please scan the QR code.



- Amending the charter so that the City Council shall appoint a City Secretary and have authority to remove the City Secretary (Section 6.03)

For more information about Propositions A, B, and C, please visit www.westutx.gov/propabc.

West U Voters will have the opportunity to vote for or against the following Bond Election Proposition:

■ Proposition D – New Community Building, Senior Center, and Library

- Issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of up to \$15.07 million for the construction of a new Community Building, Senior Center, and Library and Community Open Space Improvements.

For more information about Proposition D, please visit www.westutx.gov/propd.

Reporting Streetlight Outages

Did you know that the streetlights in West U are maintained by CenterPoint Energy? You can report streetlight outages in three simple steps!

1. Locate the number on the pole.
2. Visit www.westutx.gov/report.
3. Report the outage, using the provided CenterPoint form.

Spring into Sustainability

Springtime is the perfect opportunity to warm up to some new and fresh ideas to bring sustainability into your everyday life. Here are some ways you can make a positive green impact:

If your household is buying plastic water bottles each time you venture out to the grocery store, consider switching to filtered or tap water to stay hydrated. Use this opportunity to find your new favorite reusable water bottle.

Maximize your green space around the home by making room for vegetable and herb gardens to help bring your cooked dishes to another level. Also, consider planting native plants to help aid pollinators in their journey of rejuvenating the local environment.

Consider leaving your car behind and opting for eco-friendly transportation such as walking or biking to school or your nearest park!

H2Online – A Solution to Water Monitoring

H2Online 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. Residents can work toward conservation efforts by being more mindful of water consumption. For more details and to sign up, visit www.westutx.gov/billing.

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 below is not all-encompassing, but provides some general guidelines on what should be considered as structural:

- New fencing
- New generators
- New solar panels
- New decks or patios
- Artificial turf

When in doubt, contact the Community Development Department at 713-662-5833 or via email at inspections@westutx.gov.

May 3 Voting Reminders:

Check your registration and/or register to vote! In Harris County, you can register to vote if you:

- Are a resident of Harris County
- Will be at least 18 years of age on Election Day
- Have not been declared partially/ completely mentally incapacitated without the right to vote by final judgement of court
- Have not been finally convicted of a felony (fully discharged from the sentence)

If you qualify to register, visit www.harrisvotes.com/voter/first-time-voters and apply before the deadline, or confirm your registration status if you have already applied.



Charging Your EV Without the Risk

Electric vehicles (EVs) have proliferated over recent years, and with this increase comes the challenge of maintaining safety while utilizing EV battery chargers in residential garages. EV chargers handle high voltages and faulty equipment, and incorrect use of these charging devices can cause serious electrical fires. Please keep the following items in mind to ensure your and your family's safety:

- Visually inspect the charging cable before use. Never use a damaged charger.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to charge.
- Never use an extension cord or multiplug adapter when charging EVs.
- Only use manufacturer-provided or approved charging cables. Never use an adapter to change charging types.
- Never alter or modify your EVs batteries.
- Properly store chargers when not in use to prevent damage.
- Make sure you have proper ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection in order to guard against electric shocks.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Do not accidentally come in contact with chargers when driving or parking.
- Ensure that your charging equipment has been certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory program such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Lastly, make sure that your EV chargers are installed and permitted by a qualified electrician. Before installation, necessary permits should be obtained from West U's Public Works Department.

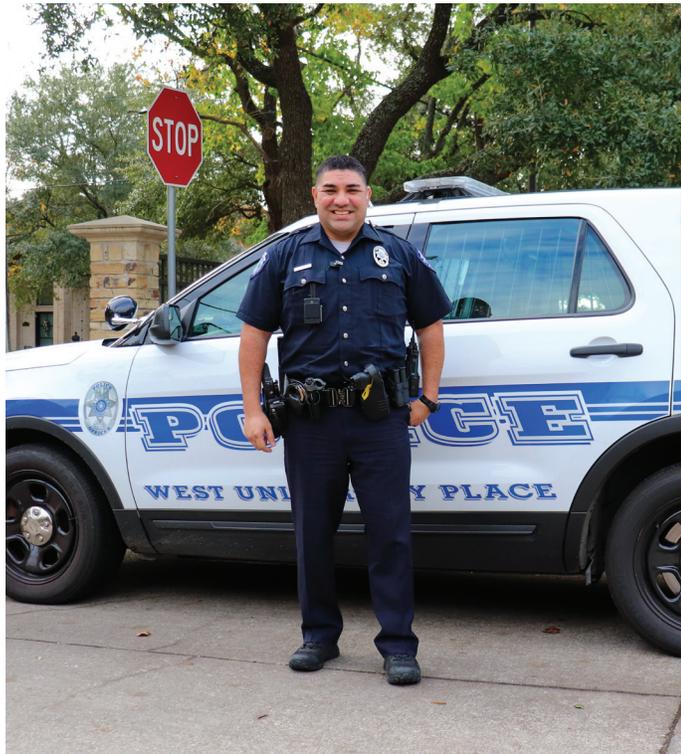
Stay Secure This Tax Season: Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

With tax season in full swing, it's important to safeguard your personal information against identity theft. Criminals can use stolen data to file fraudulent tax returns, steal refunds, and cause financial headaches.

To stay secure, never share your Social Security number unless necessary, and avoid emailing sensitive information. When filing taxes online, use secure networks, and reputable software as well as strong, unique passwords.

Shred documents containing personal information before discarding them, and regularly monitor your financial accounts for any unusual activity.

If you believe you've been a victim of tax identity theft, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit immediately at 800-908-4490 extension 245. Additionally, residents of West University Place should report the incident to the West University Place Police Department for assistance.



 West University Place Police Department

 West University Place Fire Department



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)

Arts in the Park

Join the Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, March 29, for a vibrant community event where artists, crafters, and makers come together to showcase and sell their creations. Whether you're an artisan with handcrafted jewelry, a painter with unique canvases, or a designer with one-of-a-kind crafts, this is your chance to shine. This event will be held on the West End Decks at Colonial Park from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and will include live music and food trucks.

If you are interested in being a vendor at this event, please contact James Browning at jbrowning@westutx.gov.

Performance in the Park

On Friday, April 4, and again on Friday, April 11, come out to Colonial Park to enjoy an evening under the stars with magical entertainment. Each event will begin at 7 p.m. and can be enjoyed by audiences of all ages. So, pack a blanket and picnic basket for a memorable evening with the family or a date night!

Easter Spring Festival & Arbor Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 12, the Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Easter Spring Festival featuring an "eggs-tra" special visit from the Easter Bunny. The fun will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Colonial Park and admission to the event is free. In addition, the City's Urban Forester will be at the event distributing information, answering questions, and giving out one complimentary tree per household!



Colonial Park Pool Opening Soon

The 2025 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.

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 begins Wednesday, April 9
- Open registration begins Wednesday, April 16

Sneak-Peek Saturday **Members-Only Exclusive**

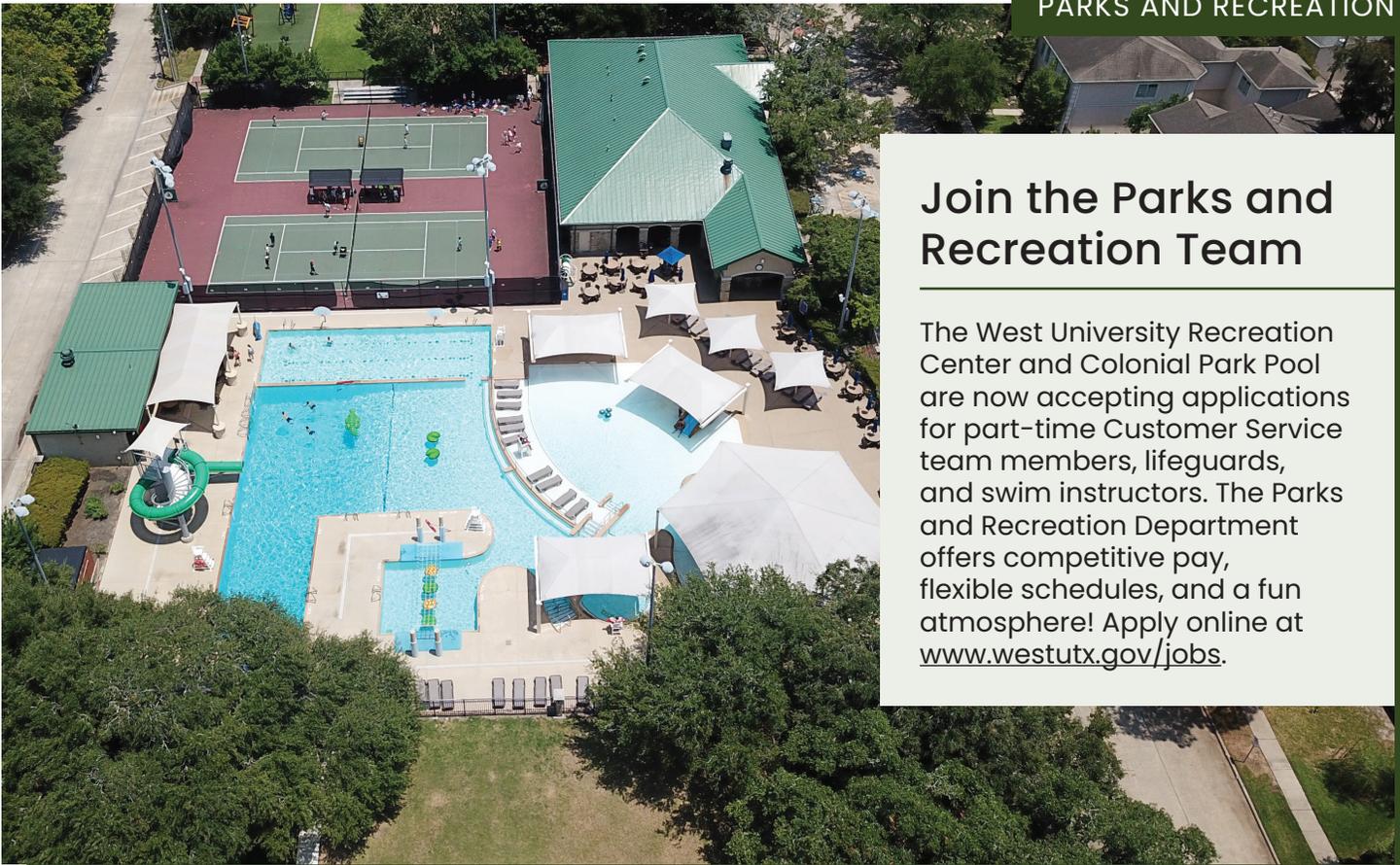
Saturday, May 3, 12 – 6 p.m.

Opening Days for Members, Residents, Guests

Saturdays, May 10, 17, 24, 31, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sundays, May 4, 11, 18, 25, and June 1, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

NEW Membership has its perks – this year, members will be granted exclusive access to the pool on Saturdays, June 7 through July 26, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Please note that sections of the pool may be closed during this time for aquatic programming.



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.

Fun Over 50 713-662-5895 • www.westutx.gov/seniors • 6104 Auden St.

Heights Antiques and Margaritas – Wednesday, March 26: Get ready to hit the antique malls with a fun stop for lunch at Studewood Cantina. The bus will depart the Community Building at 10 a.m., and the cost to attend will be \$6, plus lunch on your own.

Garden Stores Extravaganza Precinct Trip – Wednesday, April 2: Mark your calendar to attend garden store favorites such as Corneilius Nursey, Joshua’s Native Plants, Arbor Gate, and more! The group will stop for lunch at Whistle Stop Café. The bus will depart from the Community Building at 9 a.m., and the cost to attend will be \$14.

Orchid Growing 101 – Wednesday, April 16: Join us for an informational session, at 11:30 a.m., in the Community Building! Talented orchid gardeners

will show tips and tricks to keep these beautiful plants alive. There is no cost to participate in this program but registration is required.

Blueberry Pie Making Class – Monday, April 21: Surprise and delight your family and friends with a homemade pie. Lynn Smith will demonstrate step-by-step how to bake this beloved dessert. The class will begin at 1 p.m. and the cost to participate is \$28. A \$5 discount is offered to those who bring their own pie dish.

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!



Be on the lookout:

The West U at Your Leisure and Hi Neighbor are getting a new look and name! “Play West U – Recreation for All Ages” activity guide coming soon!



 Friends of West University Parks Fund

 FriendsOfWestUParks

Party on the Patio Concert Series

Mary Frances DuMay has been a devoted “West U Park Lover” since 2007 when her family moved to West U. Mary Frances and David DuMay co-chaired the Park Lovers’ Ball in February of 2020. She started sponsoring the Party on the Patio in 2021. She continues to serve on the Friends Board of Directors, and is stepping up again to sponsor the Party on the Patio Summer Concert Series in 2025 and has committed through 2026.




Mary Frances
Anderson DuMay

**GREENWOOD KING
PROPERTIES**



Fathers & Flashlights

The dates are set for November 8-9! Event Co-Chairs are Angela Androphy, Kelly Hill, and Deanna McQuade.



Save the Date!

Next Year’s Park Lovers’ Ball is set for Saturday, February 14, 2026, at The Post Oak Hotel!



Fundraising Year-Round

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

To receive Friends information (including how and when to register for Fathers & Flashlights) or to update your email address with us, please visit www.westuparks.org.

Questions? Please call Friends Executive Director Donna LaMond at 713-662-7430 or email her at DLaMond@WestUTX.gov.



Photos at Wakeforest Ave., between University Blvd. and Duke St.

East Side Drainage Improvement Project

The East Side Drainage Improvement Project remains on track as crews diligently work to complete Phase 3, a critical component of Package 2.

The project is progressing significantly following the success of Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 involved the installation of storm sewer pipes, ranging from 18 inches to 60 inches in diameter, along with reinforced concrete pipes, junction boxes, inlets, and roadway improvements on Duke Street from Buffalo Speedway to Wakeforest Avenue. Phase 2 included the installation of a new water line, along with additional junction boxes, and the reconstruction of the roadway on Rice Boulevard from Wakeforest Avenue to Kirby Drive.

Currently, crews are focused on Phase 3, which involves removing the existing roadway, upsizing storm sewer pipes, and installing a trenchless

8-inch waterline along the 5800–6400 blocks of Wakeforest Avenue. This phase is progressing as scheduled, with the entire East Side Paving and Drainage Improvement Project anticipated to be completed by Summer 2026.

City officials recognize the temporary challenges that come with construction, including traffic disruptions and detours. Residents are encouraged to remain patient and adhere to all traffic safety laws. The City is actively working alongside TB Concrete Construction and project engineers to minimize inconveniences, ensure safety, and promptly address any concerns.

For ongoing updates about the East Side Drainage Improvement Project, please visit www.westutx.gov/eastside. If you have specific questions or concerns, contact Capital Project Manager Eduardo Barreto at 713-662-5848 or via email at ebarreto@westutx.gov.

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is May 18–24!

This year's theme, "People, Purpose, Presence," highlights the dedication of public works professionals who keep our communities running. NPWW is a time to recognize their essential contributions to infrastructure, safety, and public services. Join us in celebrating the hard work and commitment of the West U Public Works team. Stay tuned for more details on how we'll be marking this special week!

**PEOPLE
PURPOSE
PRESENCE**

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK • MAY 18–24, 2025

Keep the Storm Drains Clean: Say No to Illicit Discharge

Did you know that storm drains are only meant to handle rainwater? Anything else flowing into them is considered an illicit discharge — and it's illegal. Illicit discharges include anything from motor oil and pesticides to grass clippings and household cleaners. Protecting our storm drains is vital to keeping the community clean, safe, and free from pollutants.

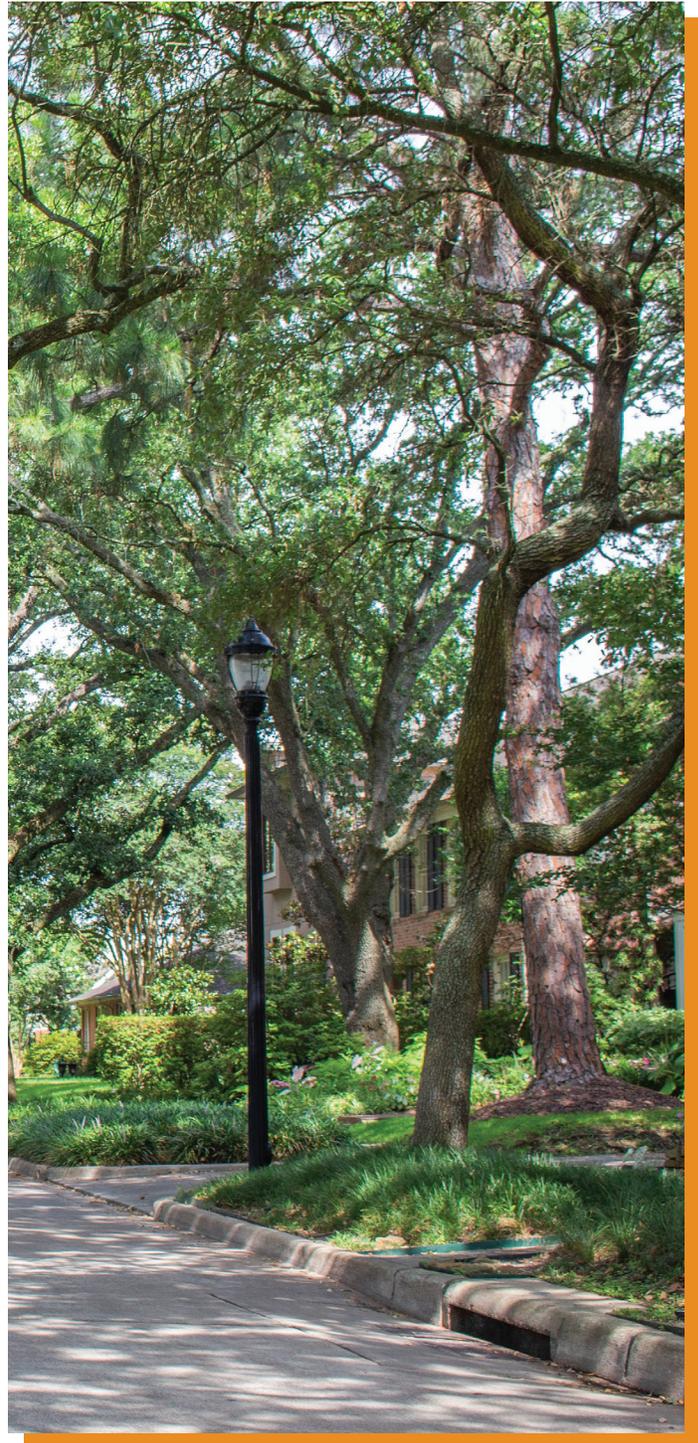
Why It Matters

Stormwater doesn't get treated like household wastewater. Whatever enters the storm drain flows directly into our local waterways, carrying pollutants that harm wildlife, damage ecosystems, and degrade water quality.

How You Can Help

Stormwater is a powerful transporter of pollutants. As it travels over driveways, streets, and yards, it picks up everything in its path. Together, we can prevent pollution and protect the community by:

- Keeping leaves and grass clippings out of storm drains. Blowing or sweeping them into the storm drains is not only harmful, but it's also against City ordinances!
- Properly disposing of hazardous materials. Used motor oil, leftover paint, and other household chemicals should be disposed of at authorized collection facilities.
- Being mindful of pesticides and fertilizers by always following the label instructions and not applying pesticides and fertilizers before rainstorms.
- Picking up after your pets, and disposing of pet waste properly to keep harmful bacteria out of our waterways.



Remember: "See Something? Say Something!" If you spot someone dumping anything into a storm drain, report it immediately. Your report will remain anonymous. Reporting illegal dumping isn't just a community rule — it's the law.

For more information, or to report illegal dumping, please call 713-662-5839 or send an email to pwinfo@westutx.gov.



Save the Date: Biannual Recycling Event

Saturday, May 3 • 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. • 3826 Milton St.

Residents may bring paper for shredding, along with e-waste, mattresses, textiles, and household metals for recycling.

Every Drop Counts Toward a Sustainable Future

It is predicted that Texas will experience warmer and drier conditions in 2025 due to a La Niña climate pattern. This situation necessitates a coordinated effort from communities, government agencies, and individuals to ensure sustainable water and resource management.

Fun Facts:

- The City of West University Place gets its water from a combination of groundwater and surface water.
- West U owns and operates two wells that pump groundwater from the Gulf Coast Aquifer, about 560 feet below the surface.
- West U purchases surface water from the City of Houston's East Water Purification Plant #3. This plant treats water from Lake Houston, which is on the west fork of the San Jacinto River.
- West U then combines the groundwater and surface water in storage tanks before pumping it into the distribution system.
- The Subsidence District limits the amount of groundwater that cities in the Houston / Galveston area can use to prevent subsidence and overuse of the underground aquifers.

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

- **Toilets:** Install WaterSense labeled toilets that use no more than 1.28 gallons per flush.
- **Showers:** Replace your showerhead with a WaterSense-labeled model to save up to 225 gallons/month. Shorten your showers by five minutes or less to save over 10 gallons each time.
- **Faucets:** Turn off the faucet during teeth brushing, handwashing, or shaving.
- **Dishwashers and Laundry:** Run these appliances only when full and on the shortest cycle.

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- **Lawn Care:** Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation.
- **Irrigation:** Install a WaterSense irrigation device on your sprinkler system.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Collect rainwater in barrels or tanks for use in gardening and landscaping.
- **Landscaping:** Replace water-intensive grass with native plants and drought-tolerant landscaping.
- **Pool Maintenance:** Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation and keep your pool clean. Ensure that the pool is properly maintained to avoid water loss.

City Currents



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

Mayor Pro Tem

John Montgomery

Clay Brett

Shannon Carroll

Matt Hart

City Manager

Dave Beach

dbeach@westutx.gov

For questions and comments
about *City Currents*, contact
Communications Manager
Bianca Cuccerre at bcuccerre@westutx.gov
or 713-662-5350.

Meeting Reminder for City Council, Boards, and Commissions

City Council

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 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Board

Meetings are 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/agendas
or call the City Secretary's Office at 713-662-5813.