

WEST UNIVERSITY MAYOR INSIGHTS

What makes West U special

By Bob Higley

I have often been asked what makes West U special. While serving on boards and commissions, on the City Council, and now as mayor, my response has always been the same: “That small-town feel!” However, my understanding of what it takes to maintain that small-town feel inside the fourth-largest city in the U.S. has changed.

West U’s small-town feel comes from a complex mix of tangible and intangible items, including the overall beauty of our community, our great residential neighborhoods, schools, parks and green spaces, superior city-provided services, an abundance of trees, access to exceptional recreational and leisure opportunities, and ultimately, our location inside the Loop.

Our location makes us appealing because we have access to all of the modern-day amenities of a large metropolitan area, but once we are done with the hustle and bustle of the big city, we can return to our small slice of peace and tranquility.

Finally, I do not want to forget two very important groups that are just as important in maintaining that small-town feel. One group is comprised of our dedicated city employees who perform their jobs daily to provide superior services, maintain West U’s infrastructure and respond to emergencies. Just remember Hurricane Harvey and the city’s swift response and recovery. Our City employees were working around the clock to get West U back to normal as soon as possible.

The second group includes our very own neighbors — those of you who volunteer to give back and help those less fortunate, those of you who serve on city boards and commissions, and those of you who are always taking an active interest in your community and staying informed.

Without the efforts of everyone, the sum of the whole would not be complete, and we would not have what makes West U special!

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