

A Fond Farewell and Thanks (But Not Goodbye)

By Mayor Bob Higley

It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve West U, which, over the last half century, has become one of the best small towns in America. Through my own past 50 years, and various roles, in West U, including Little League coach, Chair of the Charter Review Committee, Zoning and Planning Commissioner, City Council Member, and Mayor, I have had the privilege to meet neighbors, implement initiatives, and learn about the immense effort it takes – day in and day out – to keep this city special.

This past year tested our city like never before. We were all forced to adapt to unprecedented circumstances that none of us could have predicted. As we faced the strong challenges, I was heartened by the positive responses from members of our community. Your care, diligence, and support for your neighbors was a tremendous help as we all sought to adapt to the changing realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hurricane season, and the historic freeze in February. The acts of kindness by homeowners and staff that I have been fortunate to witness firsthand every day have made me even more proud to live in West U.

The fortitude and resilience that West U has demonstrated throughout our most challenging period illustrated the strength of our city, and the sense of collective responsibility that differentiates our community from others.

While I have had the privilege to see West U grow over my decades of living here, some things have remained constant, such as our concern for our neighbors and our pride in our city. Our

city's safe community and small-town feel are among the reasons why many of us come to West U, and why we stay here. Without the active participation of the community, neither our current Council, nor any other, could continue to make the necessary improvements that will hold fast in tough times.

Before I step away from my current City responsibilities, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you: the neighbors, homeowners, colleagues, Council Members, and City staff, among many others, who I have met, talked with, and worked alongside. At the end of the day, it is the people who live and work here that make our community special. West U and I are indebted to you for all that you do.

You all stood tall in these recent tough times, and I am confident that, if we continue to work together, West U will remain a great place to live.

Thank you all for your support,

Bob Higley