

City Currents

Fall 2022



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And More Helpful Information About Your City!

We Want Your Feedback: Citizen Satisfaction Survey Coming This Fall!

The City of West University Place prides itself on its high level of service to the community and in order to ensure that West U upholds this commitment to the quality of life of residents and their families, it is important to take stock of the services we provide, what we do well, and what we can improve on.

This Fall, the City will be issuing its first-ever Citizen Satisfaction Survey, open to all residents. West U is your community, and the City is always looking for more ways to engage with and respond to, its citizens.

The Citizen Satisfaction Survey will be available online to be completed at residents' convenience. In addition, paper copies will be available at City Hall, the Recreation Center, the Community Building/Senior Center, and the Public Works Administration building, which can be submitted by mail.

The survey will be open for one month, so keep an eye on the City's website and social media for more details and to ensure that your voice is heard.

If you have any questions regarding the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, please email CommunitySurvey@westutx.gov.

Stay Informed on West U's Current Projects!

The City is staying busy with new projects across West U. To keep up with developments, visit www.westutx.gov/citywideprojects for the latest updates on projects



From the Mayor's Desk



Mayor Susan Sample

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK TODAY FOR A SOUND TOMORROW

Over the past few months, I have written about exciting developments throughout West U, from the City's first ever Sustainability Task Force and the development of a Citywide Facilities Master Plan, to the design and construction of the new Edloe Street Pathway. As part of this Council's commitment to making West U a great place to live for generations, Council, staff and the community worked together to create the Foundation for the Future initiative, which will make important investments in our community's infrastructure.

At our July 25th meeting, Council directed staff to begin the process of issuing bonds to fund a variety of capital improvement projects identified in the Foundation for the Future initiative. The City is doing its part to get the information out residents through social media, City newsletter, email alerts, local news, website and a citywide mailing, and City Council and staff encourage everyone to continue following the process for the Foundation for the Future as the Council prepares to issue the sale of bonds on September 26.

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the projects that are part of this program.

Buffalo Speedway Construction

I'm sure all of our residents are familiar with the current reconstruction of Buffalo Speedway, which involves replacing the entire 65 year old road surface over its course through West U. In addition to the road surface, this project includes major drainage system improvements that will reduce the impacts of severe weather on residents throughout its drainage area. The bond revenue from this year's issuance will allow us to continue our quick progress, and help to complete the project on time in early 2023.

City Wide Street & Drainage Improvements

The City Wide Street & Drainage project will encompass drainage improvements and street reconstruction throughout West U. These improvements will serve our community for decades, and meet at minimum the demands of a 10-year storm event. After this project is complete, residents and their families can expect to see less water in the streets and threatening their homes during severe storm events.

Public Works Maintenance Facility

As laid out in the recently adopted Facilities Master Plan, the City has begun designing a new Public Works Maintenance Facility to be located on City-owned property located in Houston. This bond issuance will fund the construction of the Public Works facility, the first step in the multi-year implementation of the Facilities Master Plan. Construction of this facility will provide operational efficiencies for our hard-working Public Works staff, as well as free up space in the City center for a more pedestrian-friendly community hub, including a new Community Building/Library.

Wastewater Reclamation Project

In line with the City's sustainability goals, this project will reduce West U's impact on the Braes Bayou watershed while increasing revenue by selling treated effluent for non-potable use to a third-party user outside of the city limits. The Foundation for the Future will help to fund the construction of necessary infrastructure for this ambitious project.

Utility Improvements

In addition, this initiative will fund the construction of an improved wastewater treatment plant, ensuring continuity of service during severe weather, as well as the replacement of water line pipes throughout the City. These projects will ensure that our community has resilient infrastructure we can depend on; now, and for the future.

For more information on the Foundation for the Future plan, please visit www.westutx.gov/foundation.



*Council Member
Melanie Bell*

A Message from Council Member Melanie Bell

One of the dualities I have been pondering is – Is West University considered an affluent and great place to live because we have great city services OR Do great city services make West University an affluent and great community to live? Unlike the primacy question of chickens or eggs (eggs came first), the consensus of many is that we have great city services and we are considered by many to be an affluent* community and a great place to live.

Our public safety has amazing response times to our residents and businesses in need. Our parks are well maintained and utilized. Our senior services are top notch. Our streets are in good order. Our trash is picked up regularly. Our financials are in good order. Our Finance Department received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the first time demonstrating their excellence. Our city staff answers the phone and tries to get callers the best answer even if it is not within their scope of work. Unlike other city's I have lived in, calling West University gets you answers. Even if you call the wrong department, I have found that they try to find an answer for you or get you in touch with the people that can. Even if the answer is not always the one you want to hear, city staff works hard to get an answer for you.

As we enter into the next budget cycle, ensuring these great city services continue is going to involve robust discussion. Inflation is rising. This may cause financial impacts on many areas. The COVID pandemic is causing shifts in working habits, worker expectations and worker choices. There is a good list of capital projects planned to ensure our infrastructure functions and is resilient. Although we are currently in a drought and it seems like we will never get rain again, flooding is a perennial problem and projects like the Buffalo Speedway Construction and the Citywide Drainage projects are key to ensure safety for residents and their property. We have developed a Facility Master Plan and the Foundation for the Future.

As we discuss and debate the priority, timing and trade-offs of these items, we will be keeping in mind the tax rate and the impact to the tax payer. Inflation is impacting our own personal budgets as well as the city budget. The downturn in the stock market may have impact on some of us.

Even as we live in interesting times, I am confident that we will develop meaningful outcomes. City Staff will come in with a budget proposal prepared to meet the challenges. City Council will come in having reviewed the material with questions and suggestions. Together we will sit down and develop our plans for 2023 and the Foundation for the Future. I invite you to take a look at the budgets for 2023 and send us your feedback.

*I am basing affluence on 2020 census data that has City of West University Place median income is \$250,000+ and the US median income is \$67,521. The 95th percentile is \$273,739. The census data estimates that the City of West University Place has 1.3% of our population living in poverty. I am also basing it on the perception of others in the Houston metro area.



Even as we live in interesting times, I am confident that we will develop meaningful outcomes."

Resident Resources

Reporting Streetlight Outages

Did you know - the streetlights in West U are maintained by CenterPoint Energy. You can report streetlights outages in 3 simple steps!

1. **Locate the number on the pole**
2. **Visit www.westutx.gov/report**
3. **Report the outage using CenterPoint's form linked on the website**



Go Green for Halloween

For many people, the best part of Halloween is the costumes, décor, and sweet treats that come along with it. Consider going green this Halloween and slay the scariest monster of them all – excess waste! When planning your Halloween festivities this year evaluate the products you're using and their environmental impact.

Reduce – Before going to buy new decorations, assess what you currently have and see what can be reused.

Reuse – If you're going to buy something, buy used! Both décor and costumes can be found at second-hand stores. Or, consider making your costume from old garments.

Recycle – For the second year, the West University Place Public Works Department has proudly partnered with Rubicon to offer the 'Trick-or-Trash' program. October 28 – November 11 stop by the Public Works Administration Office during business hours and drop off your cleaned candy wrappers to be recycled.

Pumpkin Collection for Yard Waste

The West University Place Public Works Department will be collecting whole (uncarved and undecorated) pumpkins with yard waste from November 1 – December 2. For more information contact Public Works at 713-662-5839 or by email at pwinfo@westutx.gov.



Is a Permit Required?

Any item meeting the following Zoning Code Definition of a "structure" requires a permit. A structure is defined as anything made by humans which: (i) is not readily portable; (ii) is usually left in one location for an indefinite period of time; or (iii) requires either permanent or fixed location on or in the ground for its use.

This helpful list is not all encompassing but should provide general guidelines.

- **New Fencing**
- **New Generators**
- **New Solar Panels**
- **New Decks or Patios**
- **New Outdoor Kitchens**
- **Artificial Turf**

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

Sign up for West U Notifications

Stay in the know with everything happening in West U by signing up for NotifyMe! This service allows you to customize what notifications you receive such as community news, parks and recreation happenings, and even agenda packets for the City Council and Commission meetings. Pick between text message and email notifications, or both! Sign up by visiting www.westutx.gov/notifyme.

To sign up for emergency notifications visit www.westutx.gov/westuready.

Resident Resources

Protect Your Home from Carbon Monoxide

The West University Place Fire Department is taking this opportunity to remind residents of the importance of having a carbon monoxide detector in your home. Carbon monoxide can be produced by incomplete combustion of gasoline, wood, charcoal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane which can come from items such as heating units, fireplaces, hot water heaters and/or kitchen appliances.

Carbon monoxide detectors can be purchased at your local hardware store or even online! The devices and batteries should be regularly tested and the batteries should be routinely changed. To make it easy to remember, you can change them on the same day you change your batteries in your smoke detector.

Carbon monoxide is the “invisible killer,” so be prepared and stay safe. For additional information, you can contact the West University Place Fire Department or go to the National Fire Protection Association website at www.NFPA.org.



Upcoming City Holidays

On the following 2022 holidays, City offices will be closed and there will be no curbside trash, recycling, or yard waste collection. Emergency services will still be available.

Thanksgiving City Holidays:

Thursday, November 24

***Friday, November 25** – City offices will remain closed, but trash, recycling, and yard waste will be collected per the normal Friday schedule.



Christmas City Holidays:

Friday, December 23

Monday, December 26



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.



With Direct Link, you can enjoy features that include:

No contract

No middlemen

Only \$35/month

Simple billing

Mobile app (at an additional cost)

Don't Miss Out on a Discount – FEMA Risk Rating 2.0

The City of West University Place wants to remind residents to take time to review your home's flood insurance coverage to ensure 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. The City of West University Place works hard to protect its residents by participating in the 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 Public Works Department, you may call 713-662-5839, email pwinfo@westutx.gov, or visit the Public Works offices located at 3826 Amherst St.

Foundation for the Future

Building a Foundation for the Future

As the City approaches its centennial anniversary, City Council and staff continue to plan for the future. This ongoing effort will coordinate with the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

In July, the West University Place City Council took the first step in these efforts by authorizing a Notice of Intent to issue Certificates of Obligation (COs) for the following projects:



- New Public Works Maintenance Facility
- Buffalo Speedway Construction
- City Wide Street & Drainage Improvements
- Cast Iron Water Line Replacement
- Milton St Cast Iron Water Line Replacement
- New Law Street Water Line to City System
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
- Wastewater Reclamation Project
- Wakeforest Elevated & Ground Storage Tank Painting

The total amount of COs issued will not exceed the amount of \$61,120,000.

Monday, September 26 City Council is anticipated to approve the sale of the COs.

What is a Certificate of Obligation?

A Certificate of Obligation is a bond that municipalities use to fund major capital projects. They work similarly to your home mortgage, through which you finance a large purchase over time.

What is the City's debt service rate?

Property tax rates are comprised of two components - the City's debt service rate, and the maintenance and operation rate (M&O). M&O is calculated by what it costs the city to operate services such as Police and Fire protection, staff costs, etc. The City's debt service rate is calculated by the amount of financing needed to fund major capital projects. These two calculations combined set the property tax rate.

Why are these projects necessary today?

Detailed information about each project funded through this campaign can be found at, www.westutx.gov/foundation.

For more information about this plan, contact the City Managers' Office via email at dbeach@westutx.gov or by calling 713-662-5812.

Public Safety

 West University Place Police Department

 West University Place Fire Department

National Night Out: Tuesday, October 4

Join West U first responders for the annual National Night Out block party event! It's a great night to get to know your neighbors!

What is National Night Out?

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes public safety/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer and, friendlier places to live.



How Can I Participate?

Neighborhoods across the nation participate each year by joining together with their neighbors, families, and friends to host their own neighborhood events. Examples of events include potluck dinners, ice cream socials, block gatherings, and activities for kids.

Registration is now open, and is free! The first 15 block parties to register will receive barricades for their block, and a waiting list will be established once spots have filled. First responders will attend events as time and circumstances permit. For more information regarding National Night Out, or to register your event, please visit www.westutx.gov/nno.

Fire Prevention Week: October 9 – 15

Simple steps to protect your family and home

Fire Prevention Week was started by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed approximately 300 people, destroyed roughly 3.3 square miles of the city (including over 17,000 structures), and left more than 100,000 residents homeless. Fire prevention is one of the many functions of fire departments. Each October, the West University Place Fire Department uses this week to educate the public on taking precautions to prevent fires.

The best fire is one that does not happen. Listed below are helpful tips to avoid fires:

- Purchase a fire extinguisher and become familiar with how to use it.
- Teach children the basics of fire safety and how to prevent fires.
- Always keep matches, lighters, and other fire hazards out of the reach of children.
- Keep flammable items at least three feet away from anything hot (such as fireplaces, space heaters, and ovens).
- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking in case something catches fire, and remember to shut off your stove after cooking.
- Completely extinguish controlled fires including fires in fireplaces and in fire pits.
- Use caution when using electrical equipment, and always plug appliances directly into wall outlets. Extension cords are for short-term use only.
- Have all electrical work done by a certified electrician.
- Finally, install and maintain smoke alarms in each bedroom, in the hallway outside of the bedrooms and at the base and top of the stairs of a multi-level dwelling.



The Virtual Gate Security Camera Project is Now Complete

The City of West University Place is pleased to announce the completion of the Virtual Gate Security Camera System project. Forty sites around the perimeter of the city were selected to host two types of cameras, live feed and license plate readers. The strategic placement of each camera creates a "Virtual Gate" at all entry points of West U. The camera system's technology alerts the West U dispatch center and patrol officers

when stolen vehicles, vehicles associated with Statewide DPS alerts or with violent crimes, enter the city. The system is also equipped with a searchable database to aid in police investigations. With the license plate readers operating at an impressive 97.2% accuracy rate, the Virtual Gate System is proving to be an effective program for law enforcement and a wonderful benefit to the community.

Save the Date: Coffee with a Cop

Saturday, September 24

Join your neighbors and West U officers for coffee and conversation. No agenda or speeches, just an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in the city!

Location: Starbucks at 4001 Bellaire Blvd.



Parks and Recreation

Movies in the Park - Fridays, October 14 and 21

Grab your picnic blankets and lawn chairs, bring the family, and enjoy an outdoor movie shown on a huge inflatable screen! This is a complimentary event for West U residents. Screenings will be at Colonial Park Pavilion, at 4130 Byron, and will start at 7 p.m.



Full Moon Fest - Friday, October 21

The West University Place Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Halloween celebration, Full Moon Fest at 5:30 p.m. at the Colonial Park Pavilion. Join us for an evening of pumpkin decorating, face painting, and costume contests! The costume contests will be for different age groups, so make sure the whole family comes in their spookiest attire. Stay after this event for the Movie in the Park!

King & Spalding's West U Halloween Dash and Kids Fun Run Saturday, October 29

Register now for the 11th anniversary of the West U Halloween Dash and Kids' Fun Run. The Dash is a chip-timed 5K race through the beautiful, tree-lined streets of West U. The Kids' Fun Run is a non-competitive one-mile run or walk. All Fun Run finishers will receive a medal. Proceeds from the event will benefit the West U Parks and Recreation Department. You can register at www.westutx.gov/funrun.

Year Round Swim Lessons

The West University Place Recreation Center offers swim lessons all year long! Sign up now to stay ready for swim times next summer. Lessons are offered by the City of West University Place, Infant Aquatics, Lifelong Swim School, the Swim Guru (Corrie), Stuart Harper and Wolfie's Swim School.

Looking for a Spot to Host Your Next Gathering?

The Parks and Recreation Department offers rentals at Colonial Park (off-season deck), Colonial Park multipurpose room (off-season), Colonial Pavilion, Judson Park, the Community Building, Scout House, and the Recreation Center's multipurpose room. For more information on rental policies and prices, please visit www.westutx.gov/rentals.

Fun Over 50 www.westutx.gov/seniors

NEW: Drawing Classes

This course emphasizes the foundations of drawing techniques and composition, and is taught by instructor Elizabeth Priebe. The course starts Monday, September 19 at 3 p.m. and runs for eight consecutive weeks. \$110.

NEW: Beginner Night Club Two-Step Dance Classes

Learn this partner dance to romantic pop and country music. Targeted to all dancers. Classes begin Thursday, September 1 at 7:30 p.m. \$110 for eight weeks, or \$50 for three punch passes.

NEW: Intermediate Hustle Dance Classes

This dance was developed in New York City discos to music of the '70s. Scott Ladell teaches intermediate patterns. Beginning level proficiency in Hustle required. Classes will begin Thursday, September 1 at 8:30 p.m. \$110 for eight weeks, or \$50 for three punch passes.

NEW: Family Comedy Night

Join us for an evening of laughs at the Community Building on Friday, September 23. This event will feature the Green Light Comedy Players, a fast-paced troupe dedicated to bringing laughter to the Houston area. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served at 5 p.m., sponsored by Arosa Care Home Health. The show will begin at 6 p.m. RSVP to reserve your spot by calling 713-662-5895.

Conversational French

This class will focus on dialog for specific situations. Pronunciation, cultural faux pas, and relevant history will be emphasized. You'll be more confident when you next travel to France. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 4 - 5:30 p.m., \$110 for six weeks.

West U Oktoberfest

Celebrate Oktoberfest and enjoy games, food, and beer on Wednesday, October 5 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Building. The National Charity League will be on hand! Sponsored by Anthology Community Living. Register early!

Senior Resident - \$2
Senior Non-resident - \$3
Adult Resident - \$5
Adult Non-resident - \$15
Child Resident - \$3
Child Non-resident - \$13

Annual Thanksgiving Day Lunch

Celebrate Thanksgiving at the Community Building on Thursday, November 24 with a complimentary lunch hosted by West University Place's Boy Scout Troop 266. The Scouts will prepare and serve a traditional Thanksgiving meal starting at 11:30 a.m. Seating is limited so make sure to RSVP before November 16th to reserve your spot by calling 713-662-5895.



Friends of West U Parks

 Friends of West University Parks Fund

 FriendsOfWestUParks

Thank you to our friend and neighbor, Mary Frances Anderson DuMay, Compass Real Estate Advisor, for generously sponsoring the popular Party on the Patio 2022 Concert Series for a second consecutive year. The final concert is scheduled for September 22 featuring the Fab Five!

Congratulations to Friends Star Citizens Kimberly and Dimitri Ang and Kelly and Blake Hill for co-chairing Park Lovers' Ball 2022 and to Michelle and Doug Huth for co-chairing Fathers & Flashlights in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The star citizen awards were presented to the deserving and hardworking recipients at the May 11 Friends Appreciation and Awards Luncheon. Since its inception, Friends have raised just over \$8.7 million and another \$8.2 million of in kind donations. We could not achieve such success without the wonderful volunteers and donors who are the backbone of the organization.



Mary Frances
Anderson DuMay
Sales Agent
713.724.0577
@andersondumayteam

COMPASS



2022 Fathers & Flashlights Campout

Event Chairs: Kelly Beth and Charlie Haggood, Katie and Chris Hill & Sarah and Mark Knysh

Fathers & Flashlights will continue its West U tradition with this highly anticipated and popular camp out event on November 5 and 6. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available. Please contact Donna LaMond at diamond@westutx.gov or 713-662-7430. Camper registration will begin at 8:00 am on Thursday, September 15 for returning campers and eligible underwriters and sponsors. Open registration will begin at noon on Friday, September 16. To register, you must be zoned to attend West University Elementary School. Be sure you are signed up to receive Friends email alerts about camper registration and other Friends activities at www.westuparks.org.



SAVE THE DATE:

Park Lovers' Ball at Four Seasons Hotel Houston – February 11, 2023.

Event chairs Whitney Walsh and Mitra Woody are busy working on a fun and memorable evening. Want to get involved? Check out westuparks.org for details!

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



Public Works

Buffalo Speedway Project Update

With the completion of Phase 3 Step 1A, 1B, 2, and Phase 4 Step 2 the Buffalo Speedway Project is progressing to its tentative completion in the spring of 2023.

The Contractor will shift traffic for the final step of the Project, Phase 3 Step 3. As in earlier steps, traffic will be reduced to one-way southbound only between W. Holcombe and University. This Phase will consist of new curb inlets, roadway, and driveway apron paving, and installation of pedestrian ramps.

Residents are urged to remain patient during this construction, and to continue to abide by all traffic speed and safety laws for the well-being of themselves, their passengers, and the construction workers. Project staff is working diligently with the contractor and engineers to minimize traffic disruptions.

Please note that project staff is also working with the West U Police Dept. on addressing traffic enforcement matters (such as speeding, stop sign running, etc.) and with the contractor to mitigate traffic volume through residential streets. If you have any questions regarding traffic enforcement, please contact Lt. Jessica Ly at 713-662-5325 or via email at jly@westutx.gov.

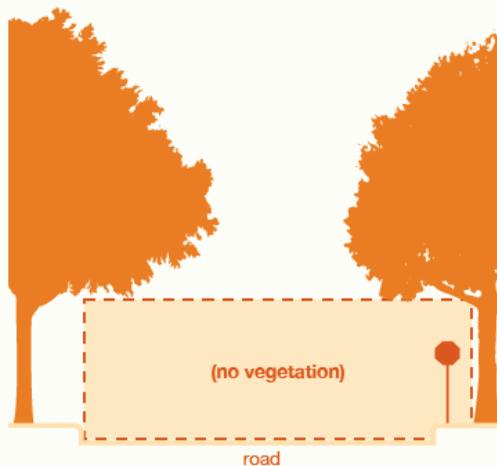
For more information on the details of Phase 3 including work zone maps, traffic control, and to sign up for alerts, please visit, www.westutx.gov/buffalocalerts

If you have any questions regarding the Buffalo Speedway Project, please contact Capital Projects Manager Eduardo Barreto at 713-662-5848 or via email at ebarreto@westutx.gov.

Clearance Over Sidewalks

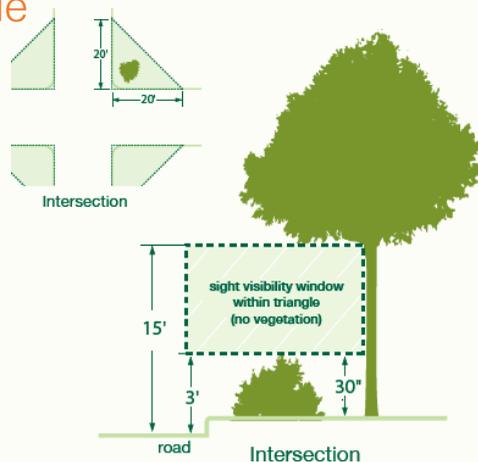
A good way to verify if vegetation needs to be trimmed near or around regulatory signs is to look at the sign from four property lots away (approx. 200' ft.). If the full sign cannot be seen, then trimming of the vegetation is needed.

Please check trees and shrubs quarterly to ensure that the proper clearance requirement is maintained.



Sight Visibility Triangle

The sight visibility triangle exists at every intersection throughout the city. These 20'ft by 20'ft sight triangles should be free of vegetation with the exception of grass. All vegetation within the sight visibility window should have growth below 3 ft from the road (30 inches from ground level).



'Can the Grease' to Protect Your Home, Business, and the Environment

When fats, oils, and grease is dumped down the drain, it forms large, thick grease balls that can clog pipes. These clogged pipes cause sewer backups and spills, and create environmental problems, as well as unpleasant messes that can cost hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars to clean up.

It is important to note when sewer pipes back up on private property, the homeowner or business owner is responsible for the cleanup.

Can it. Cool it. Throw it away.

Do's

- Can the grease! Keep an empty metal can on hand, and pour oil and grease into the can. Allow the grease to cool in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Wipe before washing. For greasy pans, pour the grease into a container and use a paper towel to wipe out the remaining grease in the pan prior to washing.
- Seal the oil. Liquids should be limited to no more than one-half gallon. Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material (such as kitty litter or coffee grounds) in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup of baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup of white vinegar. Wait 10 - 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Don'ts

- Don't pour fat, oil or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
- Don't use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces because it will cool and harden in your pipes or in the sewer down the line.
- Don't pour fat, oil, or grease down the toilet, which is connected to the sewer lines.



West U Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board

Do You Know Where Your Yard Waste Goes?

It is fall and trees are starting to drop leaves. Now is the perfect time to make sure your yard trimmings are either reused/composted or properly disposed of instead of placed in the trash and landfilled.

West U Yard Waste Collection

In West U, yard trimmings are not accepted in the trash and must be placed curbside in compostable bags on the appropriate pickup day. Check your West U Collects App or the City website for the yard waste collection day for your address; it will be the same day as your recycling pickup day. Acceptable compostable bags are the large brown paper bags (kraft paper) or the compostable (often green) transparent bags, both of which are available at hardware stores, grocery stores, and online at various sources. Bags must be compostable, not just biodegradable. It is also permitted to stack small tree branches/trimmings curbside if your stack meets certain conditions (www.westutx.gov/yardwaste for more information). After collection, West U yard waste is sent for commercial composting.

My Lawn Maintenance Crew Takes My Yard Trimmings

Many residents rely on their landscapers and yard crews for disposal of yard trimmings but unfortunately, this most often means that yard waste is trashed somewhere outside of the city of West U and ends up in landfills. Please ask your crews to leave the bagged yard waste at a designated spot at your house so that you can place it curbside on the correct day for collection by West U Public Works. Residents either provide the appropriate yard waste bags or ask crews to use those bags as part of their service. A few extra steps each week can make a big difference in keeping yard trimmings out of landfills.

Why Not Put Yard Waste in Landfills?

Yard trimmings are clean and biodegradable, therefore disposal in landfills is unnecessary and wastes limited space. Additionally, as yard waste decomposes in landfills, it generates problematic methane gas and acidic leachate. The methane created is a greenhouse gas and its presence in the atmosphere affects the earth's temperature and climate system. The acidity from decomposing yard waste makes other solid waste items more toxic in landfills. Thus, reuse or compost your yard waste or place it curbside for collection.

Reuse/Compost

Reusing or backyard composting yard trimmings are great alternatives to curbside yard waste collection. For example, instead of bagging grass clippings after mowing, leave them on the lawn to decompose and return nutrients to the soil – this is called 'grasscycling.' You can also reuse dried leaves or shredded wood to make mulch. Thin layers of mulch around plants prevents weed growth, retains water, adds nutrients back to the soil, and regulates soil temperature. When backyard composting, yard trimmings and organic debris are combined with food waste to create the optimal environment for compost production.

Check whether you know where your yard waste ends up. Your efforts can help West U dispose of yard waste properly.



Save the Date: Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m. - Noon
Paper Shredding, E-Waste, Mattress Collection, and Household Metal Recycling Event

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?
- Do you want to receive notification about changes in the collection schedule due to holidays?

Then don't delay and download West U Collects app and enter your address.
Visit www.westutx.gov/westucollects for all the details.



City Currents

Fall 2022



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
John P. Barnes
Melanie Bell
Shannon Carroll

CITY MANAGER

Dave Beach
dbeach@westutx.gov

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

For questions and comments about *City Currents*,
contact Communications Coordinator 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

Regular 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!

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Monday, December 5 at Friends Park

