

An Exciting Two Years Ahead for West U

By Mayor Susan Sample

It is an honor and a privilege to have been selected to serve as your Mayor again. After a long campaign season, I know that West University Place residents are eager for this Council to begin implementing initiatives on behalf of all of our citizens.

While your new Council works on our collective priorities for the next year, I am also happy to provide a quick update on some of the ongoing projects that this Council and City staff are working on:

Buffalo Speedway Rehabilitation –

Many of you have probably noticed the ongoing work at Buffalo Speedway near St. Vincent’s Church, which began in April. June is the official start of hurricane season, underscoring the importance of drainage in West U, and this project combines the replacement of the 65-year old roadway with drainage improvements over the road’s entire course through the city. This will mitigate the impacts of severe weather on homeowners who live in the drainage area, and underlines the City’s commitment to protecting residents’ property.

This project is on-schedule, with work within the city limits to begin in the fall of this year. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by August 2023.

Virtual Gate –

I am excited to return for the completion of the Virtual Gate project by the end of this year, which will add an additional level of service to our community, serve as a deterrent to those looking to commit criminal acts, and provide an additional resource to help solve crimes that occur.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan Implementation –

In 2020, the City completed a master plan for the future of the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant at Braes Bayou, which will ensure that it continues to meet and exceed all regulatory requirements, as well as install floodwater protection to ensure continuity of service during severe weather events. Preliminary design for the project will be completed later this year and I look forward to this Council’s decision on moving forward with construction design that will upgrade our treatment plant and ensure that we never have to suspend sewer service due to flooding again.

Effluent Water Reclamation Project –

This innovative project will transfer treated wastewater for safe, non-potable use outside of West U, diverting approximately one million gallons of wastewater each day that would otherwise be discharged into the Brays Bayou watershed. I look forward to moving this project towards completion, which will reduce our city’s environmental footprint while generating revenue that can be reinvested in the water and wastewater system.

Once again, thank you for placing your trust in me to serve as your Mayor, and I look forward to working with my fellow councilmembers, staff and residents over the next two years to uphold our quality of life in West U!