

Press Release

For Immediate Release



CONTACT: Ting Bresnahan, Public Relations Chair, mobile 713.702.8476, ting.bresnahan@yahoo.com; Donna LaMond, Friends Executive Director, diamond@westutx.gov; Mark Prescott, Friends Chair, mark.prescott@prescottlegal.com

City of West U Honors Residents and Volunteers with Highly Coveted
Star Citizen Award and Thanks Friends of West U Parks

WEST UNIVERSITY PLACE, TX, MAY 11, 2016 – The City of West University Place Star Citizen Award program recognizes volunteers whose efforts improve the overall quality of life in the West U Community. This year City Council honored Park Lovers' Ball 2016 Co-chairs Judy and Comfort Cheng, and Michele and Paul Marvin as Star Citizens in appreciation of their generous contributions to the Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. The awards presentation took place on May 11th following Friends' monthly board meeting held at Cyclone Anaya's in Rice Village.

The "West University Place Star Citizen Awards" program recognizes exemplary efforts by citizens whose volunteer efforts improve the overall quality of life in the West University Place Community. It's not surprising the Chengs and the Marvins received this honor. These outstanding West U Citizens have gone well above and beyond in their service to the community. The Co-Chairs of the 2016 Park Lovers' Ball dedicated countless hours to the planning and implementation of efforts. The Friends of West University Place Parks fund staff recognizes that their service comes with sacrifice of time with their families, their careers and their personal leisure.

Judy and Comfort Cheng and Michele and Paul Marvin helped raise over \$380,000 for Friends at this year's Park Lovers' Ball which was held at the Omni Hotel this past February 13. The ball served to celebrate 25 years of fundraising for West U parks. All proceeds from this event are managed by the Friends of West University Place Parks Fund and are dedicated exclusively to funding park and recreational facility improvements. The Ball, themed Celebrating Our Parks for 25 Years, was a resounding success and we are very grateful to Judy, Comfort, Michele and Paul for devoting so much of their time, energy, and personal funds to ensuring its success.

Press Release

For Immediate Release



Judy and Comfort have lived in West U for over 20 years and have three daughters, Morgan, Laura and Audrey. In addition to being devoted parents and serving on numerous school boards and committees, Judy is serving her second term on the Board of Directors for the National Charity League and leads three Girl Scout troops. Both Judy and Comfort are actively involved in leadership roles at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Comfort serves as the bus driver, a very critical volunteer role for which he had to be trained and certified, for the St. Luke's Children Ministry and Student Ministry.

Michele and Paul have lived in West U for 18 years and have two children, Andrew and Amelia, and supporting family member, yellow lab Zoe. Michele has coached her daughter's softball team for the past 5 years and Paul serves as a starter for the West U Piranhas. Michele founded the West U Halloween Dash 5k race and kids fun run, which just celebrated its 5th anniversary. She serves on numerous school boards and committees. Between Michele and Paul they have completed 20 marathons and 4 Ironman triathlons.

Both Judy and Michele continue to serve on the Friends Board of Directors.

Tim O'Connor, City of West U Parks and Recreation Director, extended the gratitude of the City of West U and the Parks and Rec Department to all the members of the Friends of West U Parks Board for their continued commitment to West U parks and green spaces. West U Mayor Susan Sample presented recipients with their Star Citizen Award. City Council Members Brennan Reilly, Mardi Turner, and Bob Kelly were in attendance along with West U City Manager, Chris Peifer, and Tim O'Connor, West U Parks and Recreation Director, and joined in honoring the Friends Boards and the recipients of this year's Star Citizen Awards.

The Star Citizen awards are given in conjunction with the City's annual appreciation luncheon for the Friends of West U. Parks. As has become tradition, each year following Park Lovers' Ball (PLB), the City hosts this event to thank Friends board members and event chairs for their contributions to the Friends of West U Parks. To date, Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. has raised close to \$6 million.

###

The Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc. is a volunteer based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds for the renovation, expansion, development and improvement of parks and green spaces in the neighborhood parks of the City of West University Place. The board is appointed by City Council and raises money through foundation grants, citizens' bequests, memorials, special events and various other programs and events including partnerships with local businesses.