



# WINDOW on WINDSOR

Published Monthly by the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association • Austin, Texas

Vol XXXVII No.01  
January 2018

**Next  
Neighborhood  
Association  
Meeting**

**Saturday, Jan  
13th at 10am.**

**Back room at  
Memorial United  
Methodist Church  
6100 Berkman Dr.**

**January  
Meeting Focus:  
ECONOMIC  
CHANGES AND  
REDEVELOP-  
MENT IN EAST  
AUSTIN  
and  
LIBRARY RENO-  
VATIONS**

see details page 10

Got something for  
the newsletter?  
Get it in by the 15th  
to newsletter@  
windsorpark.info

## **Letter from the President - It's Time to Join or Renew Your Membership!**

*By Meghan Dougherty. Translation by Guadalupe Abbud*

I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable holiday reconnecting with friends and family. Thank you to all those who joined us at our holiday party in December. It was great reuniting with many neighbors and sharing good food and drinks. I also enjoyed learning our neighborhood songs!

Now that the New Year has begun, it is time to join or renew your Windsor Park Neighborhood Association membership, as all memberships run from January 1 to December 31st. We are a 501c3 volunteer-run nonprofit, so your membership/donation is also tax deductible!

*Los invitamos a que participen en la Asociación de Vecinos de Windsor Park. Aunque ustedes no lo crean, nuestra asociación es responsable por varias de las facilidades que se encuentran en nuestro vecindario actualmente. Sabemos que estan ocupados y que tal vez no tengan tiempo para hacer trabajo voluntario, mas si ustedes aprecian el trabajo que otros vecinos están donando para mejorar nuestro vecindario, muestren su apoyo uniéndose a nuestra asociación. Su apoyo nos ayuda a financiar una gran variedad de actividades asi como la publicación de nuestro "newsletter".*

*Tenemos planes para varios proyectos en el 2018 como el abogar para que se abra Pomerleau Park en la calle Patton, instalar una señal nueva de el vecindario en Bartholomew Park, jardineria que será instalada en la calle de Berkman Drive por la ciudad de Austin, organizar una fiesta de todo el vecindario en Abril . Estos son algunos de los proyectos planeados y para llevarlos a cabo necesitamos su ayuda.*

*Cómo unirse al vecindario inscribiéndose:*

- 1.- Atender a la junta de el vecindario e inscribirse en persona.*
- 2.- Llenar la forma que aparece en la última página de el "newsletter"*
- 3.- Visitando nuestra pagina e inscribiéndose a través de PayPal <http://www.windsorpark.info/membership/>*

Why should you join? Believe it or not, our neighborhood association is responsible for many of the great amenities you find in the neighborhood today.

Have you ever appreciated having a public library locate right in the heart of this neighborhood? The WPNA was first formed in 1982 to keep our public library in our neighborhood. Thanks to this early organization, the city built the building where the library is housed today.

See reasons, continued on page 11



# FORUM ON CRIME AND SAFETY

Date: Saturday, January 20

Time: 10:30 am

Place: Primrose at Shadow Creek Apartments 1026 Clayton Ln

Come to ask your questions or share your concerns about safety in your community with our APD representatives.

# FORO SOBRE CRIMEN Y SEGURIDAD

Fecha: Sabado, 20 de Enero

Ora: 10:30 am

Lugar: Primrose at Shadow Creek Apartments, 1026 Clayton Ln

Venga a hacer sus preguntas o comparta sus preocupaciones sobre la seguridad en su comunidad con nuestros representantes de la policía de Austin.

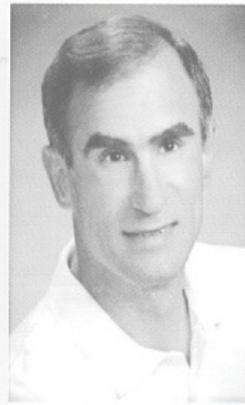


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We would love to see you this Sunday  
WELCOME ...A PLACE FOR EVERYONE  
A great place to meet new friends, find needed  
encouragement and discover God's plan for you.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: NORMAN

### BLUMENSAADT

*Martin Luecke*

Our neighbor on Haney St. since 2008, Norman has just retired from a 27 year career at the University of Texas Continuing Education department and is the Producing Artistic Director for Different Stages production company.



Steve Rogers Photography

Born in Munich and raised on army bases, Norman spent his formative years in El Paso catholic schools where he first got the bug to be an actor, and was lucky to study under a professional. Norman has amazing recall of all the play titles he either performed or saw in all the places he worked.

After graduating from UTEP and getting his MFA in the UT Directing Program in Austin, Norman had a choice: move to New York and become an assistant to a director (and direct nothing); or start directing his own plays immediately. Thus was the invention of Different Stages. "Back then there were very few opportunities here, so I made one up."

When I caught up with Norman he was at The Vortex theater on Manor Road with his latest production "The Member of the Wedding". This time he is not directing, just producing. Set in the 1940's, it was a particularly challenging production because there were two children and three African Americans needed for the cast, not to mention a kitchen full of appliances from that time period. "Lots of Craigslist shopping" Norman says.

The subject of the play was a serious look at life in the South and the conflict between blacks and whites through the eyes of children. Considering the delicacy of the subject matter, the play was fantastic, and reminded me of my own childhood spent with my "other mother", our family maid. Norman says suspension of disbelief is the magic of live theater.

[Continues on page 4]

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## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: NORMAN BLUMENSAADT, continued from page 3

One look at the playbill and you realize how many people it takes to make a production happen: light design, set design, sound design, costume design, master electrician, actors, director, set crews, websites, photography... it goes on and on. And on the back is the list of every play they have ever produced since 1981. Norman keeps referring to that list to answer questions about his life and what was happening when.

"I have 20 plays I want to direct or produce, and then I read a new one I love and it becomes 21. How will I ever have the time to do them all?" That's the problem with being busy, you always want to do more. And more. And frankly, it's a labor of love. "I don't actually make any money from all this" he smiles.

But it's not just to produce and direct that he labors: Different Stages' manifesto is "to provide insight into the human condition with vigorous and exciting live theatre from playwrights who are defining forces in theatre."

Producing four plays a year for more than three decades and it's clear that Norman has a passion for the art of performance. Along with a handful of friends and fellow thespians, and a grant from the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division, Norman is continually working on something.

He goes from closing "The Wedding" on Saturday and moves to rehearsals on Monday for the next production: "When We Are Married" a comedy about three couples who discover their vicar was not licensed and their marriages 25 years ago were not legal. It's running January 12 to February 2 at the Trinity Street Theater in downtown Austin.

You can get tickets at [www.DifferentStagesTheatre.org](http://www.DifferentStagesTheatre.org)

Please send me suggestions for stories: [mwluecke@hotmail.com](mailto:mwluecke@hotmail.com) or call 512.536.0465

Photo credit for photo of Norman -- Steve Rogers

Photo credit for When We Are Married Photo--Bret Brookshire--Actors: Miriam Rubin Shonagh Smith, Katherine Schroeder, Susan Roberts



## January 2018 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

Our first yard for 2018 is 1409 Northridge. The winner is Claudia Davis. This yard is a tribute to her late husband, "Big John" Davis, who died this last spring. On the form Mrs. Davis listed the winner's name(s) as Claudia and John Davis.

This is what she said.

Everyone in the neighborhood knew him. He was our on-site gardener. When we first moved here in 1992 the yard was a mess, nothing grew. John had some red dirt and manure from his horse lot delivered here and worked the land for a year. We used to laugh about us tracking red dirt in our home, to our jobs, to the children's school, church, everywhere! The fruits of his labor finally yielded a yard we were well pleased with.

Winning Yard of the Month "is such a tribute to my precious husband's yard."

Her husband John loved hibiscus and Mrs. Davis loved roses, so he planted both. These include Knockout Roses, the Yellow Rose of Texas, and Red, yellow, and

white Miniature Roses. He also planted Salvia Greggii, Purple Heart, Cacti and other succulents. I assume that they inherited the large trees in the yard, but Mr. Davis planted two Pittosporum Shrubs in the yard. Though they were only about two feet high, when they bought them, they are now much larger. Mrs. Davis put the Chrysanthemums, the Croton and other plants from Mr. Davis's funeral on her front porch and in her yard

Mr. and Mrs. Davis spent many loving hours working on their yard, transforming it into a peaceful, beautiful place to welcome them home. The yard is a monument to their love for each other and their yard. Many of them are still doing well. I do think that in her love for her husband Mrs. Davis minimized her part in transforming their yard.

Support our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery, who gives a \$50.00 gift certificate to our Yard of the Month winner each month.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? Tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood every month. We may not have seen your great yard. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512 928-0681, or e-mail [wpna.yom@gmail.com](mailto:wpna.yom@gmail.com)



## **Andrews Elementary**

*Dr. Jennifer Hranitzky, Principal*

The last instructional day in 2017, for Andrews students, will be Friday, December 15th. Students will return to campus on Thursday, January 4th, 2018. During the break, Extend-A-Care will be running a program at Andrews during the weekdays.

Coffee with the Principal will be Friday, January 5th at 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Have a safe and restful holiday!

## **Blanton Elementary**

*Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator*

December was a month of celebration at Blanton, planning for the upcoming holidays. Our culminating activity was a fantastic Winter Fest held at the AISD Performing Arts Center. Many parents, friends and community were in attendance for the outstanding performances and activities. As usual, we have many wonderful activities and events planned for 2018 so please check your newsletter monthly for the updates. Please feel free to visit the school, ask questions and learn more about what Blanton Elementary can offer for your student. For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at [karon.smutzer@austinisd.org](mailto:karon.smutzer@austinisd.org)

Important January dates for parents and community:

- January 4.....School Resumes
- January 15.....No School...MLK, Jr. Birthday
- January 16.....ACE after school activities begin
- January 19.....Adult ESL Classes, 8:30-10 a.m. every Mon. & Fri., room 108
- January 19.....Principal's Coffee, 8:30 a.m.
- January 27.....Parent Party, Dinner at Ponchos, 7 p.m.
- January 30.....Science Fair Showcase, 4:30 p.m.

## **Harris Elementary**

*Kimberly Blankenship*

In a time of year where most look ahead to new goals, Harris is thinking about what experiences have already empowered our learners and can impact a strong start in the New Year. Harris students have been busy building community from engaging in mentorships, building excitement around physical activity on snowy evenings at school, to showcasing their hard work. A select group of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are paired in mentorships with students from Reagan High School who, as of part of their PALs program, share lunch and journaling with them twice a week.

Harris scholars had the opportunity to observe some of these same mentoring volunteers at Harris' CATCH night where families who braved the snow participated in Zumba, archery, nutrition fun-fact booths, and more alongside H-E-B Buddy! CATCH Night allowed for students to spend devoted time towards engaging and learning about ways to keep their physical selves healthy.

Behind the scenes, a select group of teachers participated in a planning day devoted to Socio-Emotional Learning where school-wide efforts were strategized to build up students' social and emotional well-being. In an event which supports both of these by capturing students' unique talents, the Andy Roddick Afterschool Student Showcase was filled with lights and excitement as students performed a semester-long reflection of their efforts, from final edit videos to choir ensembles. Later that week, Harris choir students caroled around the community and in doing so were empowered to contribute back to those around them. In the New Year, Harris is working to continue empowering students in their learning and their contributions as leaders.

Dates to Note:

- Jan 4: Students First Day of Spring semester  
Jan 8: First group of ARF afterschool clubs resume  
Jan 15: No School  
Jan 16: Remaining ARF Afterschool clubs resume

## Austin Achieve Public Schools

*Jessica Perez, Marketing & Communications Associate*

Happy New Year from all of us at Austin Achieve! Big things are in store for 2018 and we can't wait to share all of the exciting news with you.

**Go Green in 2018:** Austin Achieve is committed to supporting the Universal Recycling Ordinance to help Austin reach its Zero Waste Goal. The Universal Recycling Ordinance is intended to increase the life of local landfills, reduce harmful environmental impacts, and encourage economic development. Recently, we hosted members of the Austin Resource Recovery Team for a tour of our campus and a first-hand look at the green initiatives our scholars are piloting and leading.

"Austin Achieve is helping to lead the way by launching an organics diversion program to recover surplus food for donation to feed hungry people in our community. Food that can't be donated is composted to add nutrients back into the soil. Austin Achieve is establishing a culture of sustainability through student, faculty, and staff education to encourage better management of resources and empower everyone to make a difference. I believe that Austin Achieve sets a great example for students, staff, and the surrounding community with the school's recycling and organics diversion programs." – Jon Savage, City of Austin

Join us in our continued goal to help keep Austin green!

**One School, One Family Night:** You're invited! Join us on Friday, January 26th to help us kick off 2018. We'll be celebrating current and future Austin Achieve scholars and all of our wonderful community supporters. Come learn about our programming, achievements and future plans and stay for the fun festivities! For more information please contact [sdrum@austinachieve.org](mailto:sdrum@austinachieve.org)

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with the latest Austin Achieve news!

## WPNA Scholarship Application launching on January 16th.

*Juan-Pablo Martinez, WPNA Schools Committee*

The WPNA Schools Committee will be launching its annual scholarship for seniors enrolled in any of the three high schools in our neighborhood: Reagan, LBJ, or LASA. To be eligible, seniors must live in Windsor Park.

### How to Apply

The application will be available for download from our website starting in early January, and will remain open through early March. Other application details and deadlines were being finalized at the time of publication. Please visit [www.windsorpark.info/scholarship](http://www.windsorpark.info/scholarship) to learn more or email us (see below).

### Scholarship Donations:

The scholarship is made possible by the generous contributions of Windsor Park residents and neighbors. If you wish to donate towards the scholarship fund, you can do so in one of two ways:

- 1) Via Paypal on the WPNA website: Go to the committees page, and select the "Donate" button.
- 2) Bring cash or check to our next neighborhood meeting.

For more information regarding the scholarship, please email [schools@windsorpark.info](mailto:schools@windsorpark.info)



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## January 2018 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

As plans to expand Austin's airport began to circulate in the early 1980s, residents around Mueller pushed for aviation to move rather than bulldozing our neighborhoods for runways. However, there was always a desire to retain a few of the structures on the site that were deemed reusable or iconic. The late Roger Taylor of the JJ Seabrook neighborhood spearheaded the drive to keep Mueller's control tower. The RMMAPIAC has advocated for its preservation as well.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the City's Historic Landmark Commission unanimously voted to initiate the historic zoning process for Mueller's former control tower. That same day, architect and friend Charles B. (Chuck) Croft passed away. Chuck was a project architect on the Mueller terminal building and tower, which won Fehr & Granger, the architecture firm for whom he worked, a Progressive Architecture Magazine Design Award in 1959, calling it "...an excellent solution in planning, as well as design expression." Chuck Croft had ties to Windsor Park over the years, and a few of his family members still live in the neighborhood. Condolences to them and to his widow, Lisa Sears.

Although demolishing the terminal building made the tower ineligible for National Historic Registration, historic zoning is the first step in the process of getting other recognition for it that might allow limited public access in a structure with accessibility and egress issues. Catellus and consultant architects Girard Kinney and Donna Carter continue to work towards bringing a second useful life to the iconic control tower. The RMMAPIAC will have a brief update on the rezoning process at its January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, and it will also be on the Historic Landmark Commission's January 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda for anyone interested in speaking to the subject. The Planning Commission and City Council will also address the historic rezoning in early 2018.

Over the last decade, many of you have met or spoke with Deanne Desjardin, Catellus Development's Vice-President of Mueller Marketing & Communications. Dee joined Catellus in 2007, and along side Executive Vice President of Catellus Greg Weaver, has been the public face of Mueller. Dee's Mueller update at RMMAPIAC meetings provided much of the information you have read in this monthly update, so I'm a bit sad to report that she will be retiring at the end

of February 2018. Brian Dolezal, a long-term member of the Mueller Team, will step into her role beginning in January. We wish Dee the best.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will next meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday January 9, 2018 at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building (Chestnut Community Center), 1183 Chestnut Avenue. RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes and other documents are available at <https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac>



## Remembrance: Adeline Stewart

It is with sadness that we report the passing of a long-time neighbor, Adeline Stewart, who died on Christmas morning Dec 25, 2017. Adeline and her husband Ken have been in Austin since 1962 and 1964 respectively; the Stewarts were married for over 50 years. They have been active members of WPNA for decades.

Ken has been a crucial member of the newsletter team and we thank him for his many roles of service to our neighborhood. Ken will be moving to Dallas to be closer to his daughters.

Our condolences to Ken and the Stewart family and to the many friends who we know will miss Adeline. We wish Ken the best as he brings his energy and zest for community to Dallas.

An online obituary for Mrs. Stewart can be accessed here: <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Adeline-Stewart&lc=4884&pid=18763383&mid=7692846>

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## NOV 2017

### Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (NOV 2017) \$237.74

# OF HOMES SOLD IN (NOV 2017) 9

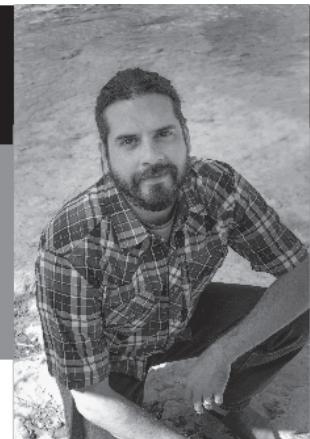
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD 1,732

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS 23

# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET 23\*

\*As of Dec 13th, 2017 - Single Family Homes

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## Recluse spiders

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist



Recluse spiders are shy and, as their name suggests, do not like being out in the open. They are about the size of a quarter, with a body that is 1/2 inch long. They can be light brown, dark brown or greyish in color. They have no spines on their legs and usually have a uniform body color. Recluse spiders are known for their characteristic violin or fiddle-shaped marking on the “back” (a.k.a. cephalothorax...the front part of the spider). The real distinguishing feature is an eye pattern of three pairs of eyes arranged in a semicircle on the front of the cephalothorax.

Outside homes, recluse spiders can be found in garages or sheds, firewood piles, or piles of stored materials such as lumber, bricks, or rocks. Inside the home, these spiders are

found in bedrooms, closets, bathrooms, under furniture, behind baseboards, in attics, or in cracks and crevices. They are most active at night when hunting for food.

People are typically bitten by accidentally rolling over onto a spider while sleeping or trapping a spider next to skin when putting on clothing where the spider is hiding. Recluse spiders have a cytotoxin that breaks down tissue in the bite area. Several hours after being bitten a blister forms at the bite site that may grow in size as tissue breaks down from injected venom. Infected tissue eventually sloughs off, leaving an open wound that takes a while to heal. More serious symptoms may also occur such as chills, fever, fatigue, joint pain, or nausea. If you experience problems after being bitten by a spider, then seek medical attention immediately.

To avoid spider bites, try some (or all) of the following:

- Use sticky traps to capture spiders
- Remove bed skirts from beds (these make it easy for spiders to crawl into the bed)
- Don't leave clothes or blankets on the floor; shake out blankets and clothing before using
- When storing items, either use sealed plastic containers/ bags or tape boxes on all seams to keep spiders out
- Wear leather gloves when cleaning in undisturbed closets, attics, garages, or the yard
- Keep stacked, stored items away from the home. Do not store firewood against the house and only bring in firewood to immediately place on a fire.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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### JANUARY WPNA MEETING SPEAKERS:

#### Economic Changes and Redevelopment in East Austin

- Dan Zehr, Journalist Austin American Statesman
- Kazique Prince, Mayor's Office

#### Update on Library Renovations

- Paul Sanchez, Austin Public Library

## President's Letter from page 1, Join the Association?

- Have you noticed the landscaped median at 290, by El Rancho? What was once a neglected and sad-looking patch of grass with a few indifferent crepe myrtles is now an engaging and attractive garden of agave, palo verde, lantana, and Mexican feathergrass. The WPNA won a grant from Keep Austin Beautiful, and a group of volunteers have been working to landscape and maintain the median.
- Have you been to the pool at Bartholomew Park? For those who've been in the neighborhood for a few years, you know that the pool in Bartholomew Park was closed for a while due to its age and need of repairs. The neighborhood, under the leadership of past president Martin Luecke, worked with city council to get one of the nicest, newest pools in Austin. We also advocated for the installation one of the few diving boards remaining in Austin city pools.
- Have you taken your children to play at the playscape in Bartholomew Park? Have you appreciated the shades that cover the playscape in the heat of late spring or summer? The WPNA, through the leadership of Jeanette Swenson raised tens of thousands of dollars to install shades over the playscapes in Bartholomew Park.
- Do you enjoy reading the latest news and updates in this newsletter? Our newsletter editor spends many hours each month collecting and formatting articles. Thanks to the sponsorship of local businesses & memberships we are able to completely cover the costs of this monthly newsletter. Dozens of volunteers then hand deliver directly to your door. This degree of organization is an amazing accomplishment, and it runs like clockwork every month thanks to all these unsung heroes. If you see your newsletter deliverer at the beginning of January, please take a moment to thank them for their service.

So, why join the neighborhood association? We know you're busy and might not have the time to volunteer. But if you appreciate the work that other neighbors are doing to improve our neighborhood, please show your support by joining today. This helps us fund our varied activities and the publication of this newsletter. We have lots of projects planned for 2018: advocating to open the Pomerleau Park on Patton Lane, installing a new neighborhood sign in Bartholomew Park, landscaping medians that will be installed by the City of Austin, organizing a neighborhood block party in April, to name a few. We need your help to make it all happen.

So, how do you join?

1. Come to a neighborhood meeting and join in person
2. Fill out the form on the back and mail us a check
3. Visit our website and join through PayPal <http://www.windsorpark.info/membership/>

It's easy and only takes a few minutes. Please join today!

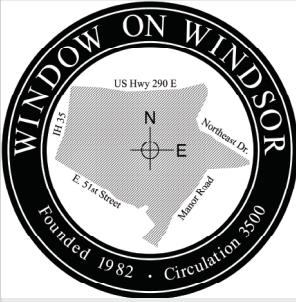


## WPNA Social Committee

*Joe Marotta*

The Social Committee will be meeting at the University Hills Library for block party planning on January 6 from 10-11:30 am, and January 20, from 10-11:30 am.

The WPNA Social Committee is starting to plan our annual Neighborhood Block Party for mid-April, 2018. If you'd like to be involved with planning, please contact Joe Marotta at [joe@windsorpark.info](mailto:joe@windsorpark.info).



## Contact Us

President..... Meghan Dougherty ..... 512-709-4912  
Vice President ..... Dan Strub..... 512-297-3708  
Secretary..... Emily Vitris ..... 773-459-0064  
Treasurer ..... Meg Brooks ..... treasurer@windsorpark.info  
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### WPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM - CUT OUT AND SEND IN

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### School Committee Meeting

- Jan 3, 7 pm, location TBD, email [schools@windsorpark.info](mailto:schools@windsorpark.info)

### Social Committee Meeting (planning Neighborhood Block Party)

- Jan 6, 10 am, University Hills Library

### Contact Team Meeting

- Jan 8, 6:30 pm, Windsor Park Library

### Windsor Park Neighborhood Association meeting

- Jan 13, 10-12, Memorial United Methodist Church on Berkman

### Transportation Committee Meeting

- Jan 16, 6:30 pm, Windsor Park Library

### Beautification Committee Meeting

- Jan 18, 6 pm, Cement Loop (Windsor Village)

### Social Committee Meeting (planning Neighborhood Block Party)

- Jan 20, 10 am, University Hills Library

### Forum on Crime and Safety

- Jan 20, 10:30 am, Primrose at Shadow Creek Apartments

### Austin Neighborhood Council

- Jan 24, 7 pm, Austin Energy Building 721 Barton Springs Road

### Revitalization and Economic Development Committee

- Jan 25, 6:30 pm, Windsor Park Library

### WPNA Executive Committee Meeting

- Jan 29, 7 pm, Windsor Park Library

## Windsor Park Library Updates and Events

Library hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 9pm

Friday: 1pm - 6pm

Saturday: 10am - 5pm

Sunday - closed

5833 Westminster Dr. • 512-974-9840

<http://library.austintexas.gov/windsor-park-branch>