

E-mail:
newsletter@windsorpark.info

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Newsgroup:
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We must receive your content and check by the 15th in order to include your sponsorship notice in the following month's newsletter.
Mail check (payable to WPNA):
WPNA
P.O. Box 16183
Austin, TX 78761

For Questions or to send Graphic Content, contact:
sponsorship@windsorpark.info

Type	Size (in.)	1 month	6 Months
Business Card	3.5 x 2	\$45	\$240
Quarter Page	7.5 x 2 or 3.75 x 5	\$90	\$480
Half Page	7.25 x 4	\$180	\$960

JOIN WPNA

All residents of Windsor Park are eligible to become voting members of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association. If you would like to join the association, please send your dues, at the level appropriate for you, to the address below or bring them to a monthly general meeting. Memberships are renewed yearly and expire on December 31 of each year. In order to vote on WPNA positions, you must have been a member for 30 days. Business members are welcome but do not have voting privileges.

The money received for dues is used to produce our newsletter and to support our other neighborhood programs. Because WPNA is a 501(c) (3) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax deductible.

- Student/fixed income — \$5/person
- Standard / Individual — \$15/person
- Family — \$20
- Sustaining — \$35 or more
- Non-voting donations - gladly accepted

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:

WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761

Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!

Windsor Park Library
Updates and Events

Events and Book Club

Mar 8, 3:30pm: Lego Lab
Mar 8, 7pm: Book Club, Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel García Márquez
Mar 9, 16, 23, 30, 6:30pm: Practiquemos Español - Practice Spanish Language skills in a no-pressure atmosphere
Mar 15, 3:30pm: Free Play Gaming
Mar 17, 24, 31, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime
Apr 5, 7pm: Indie Lens Pop-Up - *The Armor of Light*
Apr 6, 6:30pm: Practiquemos Español - Practice Spanish Language skills
Apr 7, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime
Apr 12, 7pm: Book Club, All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr

Library hours:
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 9pm
Friday: 1pm - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm Closed Sundays

5833 Westminster Dr. • 512-974-9840
<http://library.austintexas.gov/windsor-park-branch>

The Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team

(WPNPCT) is a representative group of neighborhood stakeholders charged as stewards of the Neighborhood Plan, to uphold the implementation of the Plan's vision, goals and recommendations, and to review & vote on all proposed amendments to the Plan.

Meetings are the second Monday of each month at the Windsor Park Library (subject to change) at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Conor Kenny at conor@conorkenny.net or 512-968-3050

Everyone is always invited to attend and participate.

Numbers count! A strong neighborhood association advocates more effectively for Windsor Park! Join us today!

Austin Police District Representatives

IDA 1 - Officer Gary Griffin

(512) 974-8392 | gary.griffin@austintexas.gov

IDA 2 - Officer Veneza Bremner

(512) 974-4118 | veneza.bremner@austintexas.gov



WINDOW on WINDSOR

Vol XXXV No. 3
March 2016

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

Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

Saturday, Mar. 12 at 10am.

Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Dr.

We serve LOCAL Fair Trade coffee from Trianon Roasting Co.!

Windsor Park Contact Info

Website:
www.Windsorpark.info

Email:
president@windsorpark.info

Newsgroup:
groups.yahoo.com/group/windsorpark/



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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 15th of each month.

Email them to:
newsletter@windsorpark.info

A MUELLER SCHOOL?

Meghan Dougherty, school committee chair

Editor's Note: This month, in light of the particular challenges that our schools are facing and the importance of the subject, the President requested that this article replace the President's letter.

There was a meeting on February 20 at the Sadler Means YWLA to discuss the possibility of a school to be built in Mueller. There will be another community input event on **March 3rd at Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex, 1156 Hargrave St. from 5-7 p.m.** The Imagine Northeast: AISD Campus Development group will submit a proposal to the school board on March 24th. This campus has the potential to drastically change the dynamics of AISD public schools in our neighborhood and region. Several of our WP neighbors have been participating in this group, and we all need to advocate for our East Austin students.

East Austin Coalition for Quality Education

We are also participating in a subcommittee to advise Ted Gordon, our District 1 trustee, on East Austin issues. We would like to improve diversity at district magnet schools, in particular Kealing and LASA. Students of all backgrounds should be exposed to rigorous, high-level learning opportunities. We are lucky to have LASA, a nationally top-ranked magnet school, right in our backyard. Yet accessibility to high-level academic programs is limited for our low-income and minority students. Only 17% of the students who attend LASA are economically disadvantaged, while 57% of the total student body in the district is low income.

Ivette Savina, principal at Sadler Means YWLA, visited our neighborhood meeting in February. She highlighted some of the great things the school has achieved. The attendance rate has improved and discipline issues have decreased dramatically in the last two years. There are increased opportunities for academic achievement, and the teachers are encouraging students to participate in state and national competitions. This year students took 1st place in the Samsung Challenge (a STEM competition), and 18 students are going to the state competition with their business professionals program. In addition, 20 students have applied to attend LASA this year, whereas formerly one or no students from Pearce applied.

Our school committee is committed to advocating with the district to provide more challenging academics and better-quality facilities to east side schools. Please consider contacting the school board, or joining your school's CAC or PTA or other district advisory bodies (you can learn more about DACs by visiting this website: <http://www.austinsisd.org/advisory-bodies>).

We will be drafting a resolution to bring to the neighborhood sometime in the next few months. We will outline the changes and recommendations we'd like to make to the school board, and we'll be seeking your input and support. As a community we can't turn our backs on these schools, because all AISD students need the ability and opportunity to achieve. Change will only come when we show the district that equity matters to us.

Please also spread the news about our scholarship to reward seniors from Reagan High School who have given back to their community. The deadline to apply is March 31. Please contact us at schools@windsorpark.info if you're interested in learning more.

March update from CM Greg Casar

Mobility Improvements coming to Windsor Park

Good news! The City is investing in some important transportation infrastructure improvements in Windsor Park. First of all, the City Council approved my office’s request to fund \$60,000 worth of improvements on Berkman Drive, in response to all the residents’ concerns we’ve heard about that street. The City will be working closely with residents on how to spend that money effectively. Also, we recently funded the construction of sidewalks for 52nd Street, which ranked highly on the list of city-wide sidewalk needs. Finally, thanks to advocacy from neighbors, the City has committed to adding a right-turn lane back to 51st Street at Cameron Road, where it was removed last year because of a Texas Department of Transportation plan for IH-35. I worked with neighborhood association members to advocate for a review of the plans, and the City’s transportation department agreed that 51st Street does, indeed, need a right-turn lane! I believe the new and improved right turn lane will be safer for pedestrians than the old one (which allowed cars to make a right turn without slowing down much).

Council kicks off conversations of a potential 2016 mobility bond

At the February 11th Council Meeting, the Mayor brought forward a resolution directing the City Manager to initiate a public involvement process to consider a transportation bond in November. I’m prepared to advocate strongly for progressive mobility investments—such as building our most needed sidewalks, supporting our bus system, and funding more rail lines. I hope you’ll share your input as we move forward in this process, and I’ll keep you updated as these conversations develop.

Preserving and improving affordable housing in Windsor Park

In January, we approved \$8 million in financing to rehabilitate and preserve affordable housing at the Timbers Apartments (1034 Clayton Lane). This is within District 4’s recently approved Homestead Preservation District in Windsor Park. With this financing, the City will ensure that all 104 apartment units will be rehabilitated without any of the families that live there being displaced. Furthermore, in exchange for the City’s support, the apartment owners will keep rents available for folks with moderate, low, and very low incomes for generations to come. Affordable housing investments like this are critical to keeping kids in our schools, keeping Windsor Park a diverse neighborhood, and supporting a future where working-class and working-poor Austinites have housing choices near the central city.

SAIL 
Seniors Active In Life

AHOY! THE PLACE TO BE ON THURSDAY MORNINGS
Is Hope Lutheran Church for some WE time.

Join fellow seniors every Thursday morning for two hours of fun and fellowship. Activities include current events discussions, dominos and other games, sing-alongs, and chair aerobics, all in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. And there are snacks!

The special event for March is a party on **St. Patrick’s Day**, the 17th

Where: Hope Lutheran Church at 6414 North Hampton Dr.

Time: 10:00 am-12 noon

You’ll find us in the Hope Harbor, building 400. Enter the parking lot from North Hampton. Look for the Lighthouse painted on the front of the building.

For additional information: 512-926-8574

March 2016 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The March winners are Ben and Erica Volmer of 1608 Suffolk Drive. When they saw the large Agaves in the front of the house, they decided that was the house for them. They have lived there a year and a half.

They wanted a landscape that would thrive in the Hill Country and remind them of West Texas. The Volmers have added to the good foundation and good layout for the yard that the previous owners established. A large Prickly Pear Cactus balances the agaves. By March it should be blooming. They also have blue Sage, Salvia Greggii, and Texas Sage, which is not a Salvia. (Usually if it is called “sage”. It is in the salvia family, but Texas sage has a completely different scientific name.) They also have White Lantana, a Knockout Rose Bush, Red Yucca, Rosemary, and Pink Skullcap. Erica’s favorite is the Texas sage, which smells wonderful and whose blooms may predict rain. In the spring hummingbirds visit their yard.

These people believe in mulch. The planting beds are filled with dark brown mulch, which complements the green and blooming plants. Stone and crushed granite paths meander through the beds. The light colored paths provide a gentle contrast to the dark mulch. There is no grass.

The Volmers have tried to maintain the integrity of the original design. Once a week, they water the plants that look thirsty. Weeding is their hardest job. After a rain, weeds do come through the crushed granite.

The Volmers will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 Hancock Drive. Pictures of the Yard of the Month are displayed on our website, www.Windsorpark.info as well as our Facebook page. Check them out.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? You can nominate more than one. Tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood every month. We may not have seen your great yard. Don’t be humble. We love to get nominations. To nominate a yard or yards, e-mail us at yom@windsorpark.info, call 928-0681 or write WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761

WINDSORPARKAGENT.COM

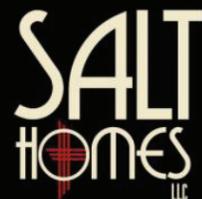
 <p>UNITED, REALTORS™</p> 	 	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">JAN 2016 Stats</div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td>AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Jan 2016)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$224.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td># OF HOMES SOLD IN (Jan 2016)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,384</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">28</td> </tr> <tr> <td># ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14*</td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*As of Feb 14th, 2016 - Single Family Homes</p>	AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Jan 2016)	\$224.64	# OF HOMES SOLD IN (Jan 2016)	11	AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,384	AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	28	# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	14*
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<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Did you buy your home in 2015...</div> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Homestead Exemption Filing starts Jan 1, 2016! Contact me w/Questions!</p>		 <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> JOHN PAUL PORTER (512) 563-8176 JohnPaul@DigDwell.com 3RD GENERATION WINDSOR PARK RESIDENT NO OBLIGATION Personal Property Valuations </div>										

Windsor Park Resident and Real Estate Broker



Jane Amschwand
Realtor®
Salt Homes, LLC
Owner/Broker
512.228.2484

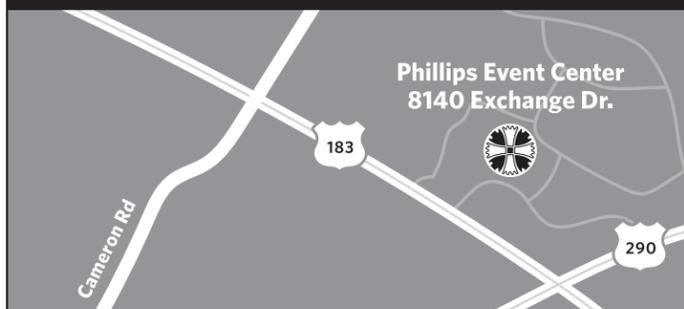
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Windsor Park Neighborhood Contact Team

Conor Kenny, Chair

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep everyone informed and engaged in the activities of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Contact Team, I wanted to update you on some new things we are trying in the communications department, and an update on the latest goings-on.

If you're not familiar, the contact team's role with the city is to be "stewards of the neighborhood plan." Our formal job is to give recommendations to the Planning Commission when a property owner wants to change their zoning under the neighborhood plan. Beyond that, contact teams often weigh in on other matters governed by the city when they feel it is related to the plan.

Regarding communication, thanks to the Windsor Park neighbor and website host Mark Boyden, I have started a new contact team website at <http://www.windsorparkcontactteam.org>. (The website has not yet been formally approved by a contact team vote, so it is unofficial until the next meeting -- we try to keep things strictly democratic whenever possible.) There we will post information on the team and updates on the latest zoning cases and other business. After futzing around with Yahoo groups for far too long, we have also started a NEW contact team email list at <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/windsorparkcontactteam> You can join there or email me at conor@conorkenny.net and I'll add you to the group.

We also post our agendas and updates on Facebook, NextDoor and on the neighborhood association email list, as well as physically at the Windsor Park Library. You can also find us meeting at the library every second Monday of the month, from 6:30PM to 8PM. All are welcome to come and participate!

On to recent business: As you may have heard, there is a cellphone mono-pole tower proposed behind the Catholic Church where 52nd dead-ends by Lancaster. We were not asked our opinion by the city, but we did feel it was relevant to the neighborhood plan, so we invited the agent to come speak and we wrote a letter to the city. We decided that we did not have a basis for opposing the tower entirely, but we asked the city to the tower to be screened and landscaped as if it was by a public right-of-way, because we hope to eventually get a pedestrian and bike path near there to connect Belfast Dr. to the bike path on Mueller Blvd.

We have also heard from someone wishing to purchase the Cooper Tire shop at 6303 Cameron Rd. and convert it into a convenience store and small, inter-city bus terminal with four buses leaving daily. We have not yet received a formal proposal but that would require a zoning change, so the contact team will be sending out more information through all channels and getting neighborhood impact before voting on a recommendation. Stay tuned.

Finally, in the democratic spirit of the contact team, I need to state that this is my own, personal recollection of recent events, and is not an official position that has been voted on by the team. You can reach me at conor@conorkenny.net and 512-968-3050

The WINDSOR PARK SPECIALIST *and Resident*



Every house in Windsor Park has a story. I have lived and invested in Windsor Park for nearly 8 years. I love being an active member of the neighborhood and that makes all the difference. Whether you are buying or selling I will help you with unparalleled experience that goes beyond the transaction.

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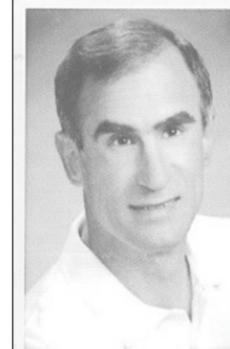
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March 2016 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

The Mueller Neighborhood Association has passed a resolution urging Catellus and the City of Austin to build to the density limit established for Mueller, and to work with Capital Metro to provide sufficient transit links to allow an increase in density beyond the limits imposed by the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) that is a part of Mueller's Planned Unit Development zoning. The resolution calls for increasing the number of dwelling units, taller building heights, and more commercial square footage as long as Mueller's design standards are met, existing and proposed parks are retained, and the commitment to 25% affordable housing is maintained.



WINDSOR PARK VETERINARY CLINIC
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Dr. Rita M. Geigel VMD.

PHONE 512-928-1403 www.windsorparkvet.com
FAX 512-928-8799 windsorparkvet@yahoo.com

1928 A. Gaston Place Dr. Austin, Tx 78723

The TIA trip limits are based on allotments of peak hour trips applied to uses, such as a restaurant, store or housing unit. Mueller's cap is 8,508 peak hour trips. To date, 4,578 peak hour trips have been allotted.

Windsor Park's residential areas have a density of 5.81 units/acre, while Mueller's single family areas reach 11.44 units/acre. Mueller's commercial density will be greater as parking structures will be provided, though the I-35 retail area and Dell Children's Hospital will build theirs in the future. Since the initial adoption of Mueller's Master Plan, the density has been adjusted a few times, but the proposed density has always been below the allowed limit.

The Mueller Commission heard a presentation on density at its February meeting. Few objections to increased density were expressed, though concerns about traffic generated at Mueller's edges continue. Traffic patterns will likely change as more streets are built, and Capital Metro will wait until key streets are finished before finalizing any bus route changes. The Commission did not take any action advising the City Council on the issue, though it will likely be discussed in the upcoming months.

The "Diamond Building" at Mueller Boulevard and Aldrich Street, named for its baseball-field shaped site, will be a 56,000 square foot commercial mixed-use facility, housing offices on its top two floors and a variety of local eateries at street level. They include:

- **Lick Ice Creams**, which will be strategically located across the paseo from the Thinkery's front door, offers artisanal ingredients and unique flavors like horchata, caramel silk, roasted beets & fresh mint, coconut chia chai and Texas sheet cake, with special seasonal specialty flavors.
- **Halcyon**, which began in Austin's warehouse district, opens a third Texas location as a daytime coffeehouse and nighttime bar/lounge with a full kitchen for a range of offerings from breakfast to dessert. Specialties include their famous Chocolate Espresso Martini and Table-Side S'Mores.
- **Stella Public House**, the first Austin location following San Antonio & San Diego, is from Halcyon's founders, featuring a "farm to pizza" concept and strong partnerships with local growers, ranchers and purveyors. Shared plates, house-made cheeses, fresh salads and comfort foods are on the seasonal menu, with 20 rotating taps showcasing craft beers.
- **B.D. Riley's Irish Pub's** interior is being constructed near Dublin, Ireland, to be disassembled, shipped and reconstructed here, as they did with the 6th Street location. The menu, full bar and local live music will mirror the tradition established fifteen years ago downtown.
- **J.T. Youngblood's** will be the first location in a revival of the former iconic Waco-base chain that had 30 locations in Texas in the 1960s. They'll be serving Texas-style, secret-recipe fried & rotisserie chicken and comfort dishes & desserts, with dine-in and take-out service, a full bar, and in-house bakery.

The next meeting of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (Mueller Commission) is Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6PM. The now 11-member Commission continues to search for a comfortable venue, but at this writing, it is anticipated to be at Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, 2608 Gonzales Street. Address Mueller questions and comments to bc-rick.krivoniak@austintexas.gov



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For The Trees: ROOTS AND SOIL HEALTH

Tim Brosnan, ISA Certified Arborist and WP resident

Imagine if we were able to see the vast root systems under our feet. Trees, shrubs, flowers, weeds and grasses all send their roots out through the soil to find and transport the water and nutrients necessary to sustain them and to anchor them in place. These underground networks are often more complex and further-reaching than the plants we see aboveground. Though unseen, the relationship between soil and roots is one of the crucial factors in tree health. Soil compaction is a common problem that compromises root health and can have serious consequences for trees.

In order to provide a fertile growing environment, soil must be able to retain and drain water, maintain pore space for air, and provide essential elements such as nitrogen, potassium and calcium, among others. When soil is compacted, it greatly reduces porosity and the soil is less permeable for air, water and root growth. If roots can't "breathe," get the water they need or penetrate the soil, root health suffers and tree health suffers with it. Poor growth, crown dieback and thinning of the canopy are all indicators that the roots may not be getting the resources they need from the soil.

Compaction can be caused by human foot traffic, vehicles, construction activities, as well as the addition of impervious cover such as patios and driveways. Root zones are often disregarded because they are unseen: out of sight, out of mind. The best ways to maintain the health of roots and soil is to: a) protect them against compaction; and b) if compaction has occurred, restore soil health with an air spade and compost.

The best and easiest way to protect and enrich the soil in the root zones of your trees is to apply high quality organic mulch. Mulch will help maintain soil moisture, help resist compaction and encourage beneficial microorganism activity that will increase the soil's fertility. In high traffic areas, combine mulch and stepping stones to encourage people's travel in a given direction rather than leaving the whole root zone open for foot traffic. During construction activities, add 6 inches or more of mulch or wood chips to dissipate the weight of heavy machinery, building materials and heavy foot traffic.

If soil compaction is currently a problem in your yard, the most effective course in many residential situations is to use an air spade (high pressure air gun) to incorporate compost into the soil. The high pressure air will not injure roots and will help break up compacted soils while allowing compost to not only add important nutrients, but also to contribute to a higher quality soil texture that will maintain porosity and create a better growing environment for roots. Once soil health is restored, adding mulch over the root zone will help maintain that health and protect against future compaction.

Tim and his family have lived in Windsor Park since 2010. He owns and operates Brosnan Tree, a local tree care company. brosnantree.com

[Meet your (former) Neighbor, continued from page 5]

And what of that famous ‘C’ grade? The professor was so embarrassed she called Greg and apologized.

So after 10 years of effort, WP resident Greg Watson made history. As he said in 1992 “The American people want a Congress that is honest, that has integrity. This Amendment is one vehicle by which some degree of decorum can be restored.” Amen to that! Thank you, Greg, for your tireless effort. Windsor Park is proud to call you a friend.

Thanks for all the nominations! Martin Luecke 536.0465 or mwluecke@hotmail.com

March Update from CM Ora Houston

It was a great kick off to a new year with two Town Hall meetings in January hosted by our office, marching with the community during Martin Luther King, Jr. day, and attending Capital Metro Community Connections meeting. Reflecting on my one year anniversary as council member, there are many things I know we accomplished, need to accomplish and could have done better. As I usually say, I encourage you all to be involved, because I cannot be your voice if I don’t hear you. Now, it’s time to gear up to begin budget work sessions beginning in April.

Health & Human Services: We are continuing to work on unregulated homes with the Code Department on ‘unregulated homes’ in the District #1 community. These homes serve as a place, and sometimes the only option, for groups of people who can’t find anywhere else to live. These homes are not registered or routinely inspected but are well known due to calls to EMS, Fire, Police or Code. The Code Department has accompanied me and other city staff to take a tour of known neighborhoods with ‘unregulated homes’ and have talked with people who shared their experience living near these homes.

I’m also working on improving access to healthcare in the District. Last year, Huston-Tillotson, CommUnityCare, Austin Travis County Integral Care, and the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin partnered to provide mental health services at the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center. The goal is to provide medical and behavioral health services to the broader community in order to address the disparities in health services throughout the community.

Quarter Cent Fund: The quarter cent fund was a one-time availability of funds for transportation projects in our city that came through our partnership with CapMetro. Our office worked hard and successfully found some important and immediate transportation projects in District #1. There is still a long list of priorities and will continue to work to get those completed as the funding becomes available. I appreciate the input from the community in developing a thorough list for District #1.

CodeNEXT: The CodeNEXT Advisory Group meets the first Monday of the month starting at 6pm at locations TBD. Please check <http://austintexas.gov/codenext> for updates and other meetings besides the regular monthly meeting. CodeNEXT is the rewrite of our Land Development Code. It is supposed to be a public process so they need input from you! This process will literally shape the future of our City.

The District #1 team will be reconnecting with the community in March by attending community events on weekends and will host a Town Hall meeting in April – topic and location will be shared by the end of the March. I am and will be inviting you to council meetings that consist of District #1 specific items, listen on KAZI for frequent notices. Our office is always available to answer any questions, listen to your ideas or if you’d like to be added to our e-blast list, please call us at 512-978-2101.

MEET YOUR FORMER NEIGHBOR: GREGORY WATSON

Martin Luecke

I’m breaking tradition and writing a story about someone who used to live in Windsor Park, but is no longer here. Our WP neighbor for 25 years, Greg is the only person in the history of the United States to single handedly organize and achieve an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. You read that correctly: The 27th (and last) Amendment to the most important document in the history of this country is the result of a paper written for a UT government class in 1982. And here’s the crazy part: I knew Greg in college, and I distinctly remember the letter writing campaign he started back in those days, all alone, from his apartment on Broadmoor Drive.



According to Wikipedia: The Twenty-seventh Amendment prohibits any law that increases or decreases the salary of members of Congress from taking effect until the start of the next set of terms of office for Representatives. It was submitted by Congress to the states for ratification on September 25, 1789. The amendment became part of the United States Constitution on May 7, 1992, following a record-setting ratification period of 202 years, 7 months, and 12 days.

Loosely translated, this amendment was designed to not allow Congress to give itself a raise without first being re-elected. I LOVE THAT!

Greg is one of those very driven people who made government and politics his career, serving 30 years as aide to many a Texas State Legislator. Democrat or Republican, Greg brought a great deal of insight and technical prowess to the sticky job of writing legislation correctly, proudly delivering bills which triggered zero points of order corrections. His institutional knowledge of the Texas statehouse is intimidating. But the story of how he went from writing a college paper to running a one man Constitutional Campaign is full of good, bad, and ugly.

Back in 1982 there was a controversial debate about how long a constitutional amendment could be allowed to take, and the congress was putting a revised deadline on the Equal Rights for Men and Women amendment at June of that year. This got Greg’s attention while searching for a topic in his government class, and after doing a good deal of research he discovered two amendments had begun in the first meeting of Congress in 1789, originally written by James Madison, and both were still awaiting ratification, which requires 38 state legislatures adopt the amendment. At that time only nine states had adopted, most of them in the 18th century.

Despite receiving a ‘C’ grade on his paper by an instructor who thought ratification of the amendment unrealistic, Greg started a letter writing campaign. He spent a great deal of personal money on copies and stamps and envelopes, blanketing legislatures with the idea, first beginning with those state houses that were controlled by one party. In April of 1983 Maine became the first state to ratify as a result of Watson’s effort. A year later Colorado ratified, and the year after that the ball really started moving with five states following suit. At this point stories were appearing in magazines and newspapers across the country and a handful of powerful people were trying to, as Greg puts it, “steal the idea and call it their own.” Conservative political activist Paul Gann, famous for co-sponsoring California’s Proposition 13 (limiting state property taxes), invented ‘Project 1789’ as a fundraiser for himself. Ralph Nader jumped on the bandwagon at one point, and the worst person of them all, according to Greg, was a first year congressman from Ohio named John Boehner, who claimed in 1992 that the amendment was his idea. But when you read Wikipedia, the only person listed for the credit is Gregory Watson.

All told, Greg personally got 36 states to ratify the amendment (7 more than needed) most of which did so with almost no votes against. Not even a sitting President has achieved such a thing. When it finally was ratified by the 38th state in May of 1992, Speaker of the House Tom Foley & Senate President Robert Byrd both stepped in and denied it could be a true amendment without congressional approval. They took it to a full vote: the Senate approved 99 to 0, and the House approved 414 to 3.

[Meet your (former) Neighbor continues on page 8]

Andrews Elementary

Saleem Blevins, Principal

The last few months have been both busy and exciting here at Andrews Elementary. February marked school-wide celebration of Black History Month, where students in every classroom studied famous African-Americans and made bulletin boards to share what they learned with the rest of the school. We also had a performance where students sang and danced to music by famous musicians.

Over the last two months we have also had several events to promote the No Place for Hate initiative. These events included diversity dances for all grade levels, where students learned about music and cultures around the world, and a door decorating contest to promote peace, empathy, and understanding. We also had CATCH night, where families came out to learn more about leading healthy lives from school staff and from a wide range of community organizations.

February also marked our 3rd annual Andrews Career Day, where dozens of community members came out to share information about their work and their educational path with our students. Students were amazed at what they learned about educational paths and work duties of movie producers, computer programmers, firefighters, police officers, members of the military, and many, many more.

In March we will celebrate read Across America Day with a book character parade and a challenge to read at least 1000 books in one day. We will also be taking a group of students and parents to the University of Texas for the annual Explore UT event where they will learn about many of the exciting programs and research going on there. This is always a fabulous event!

We really appreciate all of the families and community groups that support the events here at Andrews! And of course, none of it could happen without the hard work of our teachers and staff. They really are amazing. For more information about events going on and to see pictures of past events, please check us out on Twitter at AndrewsECP_AISD

Bertha Sadler Means

Ashley Ayala, Parent Support Specialist

Spring Break is here but that doesn't mean that things are slowing down at Sadler Means YWLA! Our students are working hard and exceeding expectations in class and on the field. We had a successful CATCH Family Night and hope all enjoyed getting out and getting active with our students and staff. Ms. Matula and Ms. Williamson are taking our BPA girls to the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi. We wish them Good Luck and that they have a great time at the beach! We are looking forward to our AVID Explore History Night on March 7th. We hope to see you here at 5:30 as we learn more about our world and history.

We are excited to announce that we will be starting our READY, SET, COLLEGE workshops later this month! This 5 week session has lots of great information for parents and students. READY, SET, COLLEGE is held once a week, on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00. Each session covers a different topic on how to ensure that your child is College Ready!! Class dates are: March 30th, April 6th, April 13th, April 20th and April 27th.

We are continuing to meet with 4th and 5th grade students and their families to answer any questions they may have about our wonderful school and to schedule school tours. Please join us April 12th for our next Learning Lunch where we can meet and share lots of great information about our school and programs.

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

Spring is in the air!!! Everyone is studying very hard, but Spring Break (March 14-18) is just around the corner. Our Literacy Night and Science Fair events were a huge success, many parents and community attended to see what the students of Blanton are doing.

Our FREE exercise class has changed just a little, now we are doing Zumba on Monday and Wednesday afternoons sponsored by the ACE program, they meet in the gym from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come join us in becoming fit and healthy. Everyone participating seems to enjoy it greatly.

March 19 will be our garden/beautification work day. We have on campus fruit trees, raised planting beds and general landscape upkeep that is a part of a monthly work day to benefit our school. We invite the community to join us in keeping our school grounds healthy and vibrant, this work day beginning at 10:00 a.m.

March 24 our PTA will meet in the Parent Support room and on the same morning at 8:30 a.m. we will host a Principal's Coffee, also in the same room. Parents interested in Blanton Elementary are invited to attend either or both of these meetings.

Early Notice: The 'Spring Fling' Carnival is being held on April 22 from 2:45 to 5:45 p.m. Lots of food, booths, water fun and more...You won't want to miss it...A great family event...Plan now to come!!!

The ACE program continues to offer students after school classes and have a large variety of activities giving students the opportunity to experience many choices. ACE will be presenting another FREE cooking class beginning March 24, this one will be presented by the Capitol Area Food Bank...anyone interested in participating should feel free to contact Ms. Karon at the number listed below.

***ACE continues collecting t-shirts for the 'T-Shirts for Hunger Program'. The collection barrel is in the school office.

We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for any special events at Blanton Elementary. For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at karon.smutzer@austinisd.org or call 512-841-5678 to leave a message.

Harris Elementary Update

Gloria Cano

Fifth graders enjoyed their week at Earth Camp in February. They explored a cave, checked water cleanliness and enjoyed their time studying the environment. Students and teachers appreciated studying out in nature to learn about science through hands on experience. Friendship Week was a great success. Our outdoor event celebrated being a good friend with bubbles and music with a friendship theme.

In March we will be celebrating reading by honoring Dr. Seuss. It will be time to read our favorite book and enjoy learning activities school wide. We will don our Cat in the Hat gear and some classes have green eggs and ham! This day always ends with a parade outdoors honoring Dr. Seuss for his fun books.

Spring break is March 14-18. When we return, fourth and fifth graders will be taking their first round of the STAAR test. Teachers and students are working diligently to make sure our students show what they know.

Thanks to our parents, volunteers and teachers that are working on our butterfly garden. They have braved cold weather on Saturday mornings and physical labor so that our garden will be ready for the Monarch butterflies.

John H. Reagan Early College High School

Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Service Specialist

College is always on the mind of Reagan Raiders. Reagan has ever increasing numbers of students taking college courses at ACC or through UT. The Go Center in Room 224 is open all day to assist students in applying for college, FAFSA, and scholarships. Additionally, they take students on monthly trips to visit various college campuses. If you would like to learn more about how to help your student be prepared for college please come to one of the following meetings: READY>>SET>>COLLEGE will be held March 2, March 9 and March 23 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

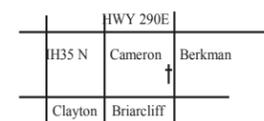
"It takes a village..." Reagan is immensely grateful for all the groups that have mentored students on campus this year. Your positive guidance has been the support many of them needed to keep striving forward. Austin Partners in Education (APIE), UT Latino MALES Project, GenAustin, Communities in Schools (CIS), and The Texas General Land Office, Thank you!

If you have any questions about getting your student college ready don't hesitate to call the Reagan College and Career GO Center at 512-841-2650.

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A great place to meet new friends, find needed
encouragement and discover God's plan for you.