



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Mar 2021

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, Mar
13th**

**STREAMING
starts at 10:15
but connect
early for some
visiting!**

**March meeting
focus:
Schools**

**Please note:
The WPNA
Scholarship
for local high
school seniors
is now open
and accepting
applications.**

See Back Page!

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

March 2021 Letter from the President

Jackie Brooks, WPNA President

The importance of leaning on each other, knowing your neighbor, and the hyperlocal takes on new meaning during emergencies like the one we are experiencing as I write this. Where walking distance to resources matters because a 5-minute car ride is too far when roads are icy and you can't get out of your driveway. When your power is off, and you're huddled under multiple blankets trying to find answers; punching at your phone with numb fingers hoping to have a plan before your battery runs out. You can prepare as much as possible, but when the worst gets worse than you imagined, sometimes we have to lean on those closest to us (in a variety of ways) to make it through.

Do you know your neighbors? The ones to your right? your left? Across the street or behind you? How *well* do you know them? Nothing too invasive, but do they have children, do they live alone, or are they elderly? We often don't think about these things every day (like how often do we have to worry about snow storms in Austin?), but they sure come into focus in these moments. Knowing your neighbors makes for a safer community – it creates the opportunity to look out for each other, check in with one another, and feel the support of each other in our neighborhood community.

When the pandemic hit last year and lockdowns began, many of our worlds became much smaller - at least for a good while. We started walking out our front doors and up and down our streets. We began to make acquaintance with familiar faces (even furry ones). Working and schooling from home for many has caused us to start really living where we live. That hyperlocal focus that started during the pandemic continues to add new perspectives for me, and perhaps many of you as well. It brings to the top of my mind just how important a neighborhood and community can be and how the place where you live can impact your quality of life, and in circumstances like this winter storm, even impact your survival.

One of the most beautiful things about this neighborhood is the amazing network of big hearts, talented individuals, and fellow Windsor Parkers that have connected with each other whether through online groups, delivering newsletters, or attending neighborhood association committees and events in-person or virtually. One thing I've realized, though, is how important organization is as a necessary factor in the strength of the connectedness of a neighborhood community. Right now there are lots of folks wanting to give and lots of folks with needs and often missing each other, unintentionally. The information is there, but sometimes the hardest part is simply connecting the dots. As things continue to unfold during this crisis, we can see the benefits of stronger connection with those around us.

The Windsor Park Neighborhood association was originally founded to organize around a common purpose: to save the library in WP - an important space in our neighborhood - which taught us that organizing and consolidating our efforts deepens our connection and increases our impact in our neighborhood community. Experiencing what's happening right now, I want to personally thank all you neighbors who have reached out to help each other in another common purpose of keeping each other safe, and to those who rallied together to put spread sheets together, optimize routes, and enable drivers to connect the needs with the gives. You've truly empowered us all by your actions.

As I close out this letter, I reflect on the positive impact the people in our community have had on myself and my family and how they and the spaces in which we all live – shape that experience for us. As our neighborhood continues to evolve and change with new developments (as it has since its first phases in 1955) I ask that you reflect on these surroundings and consider how much of an important part they play in helping connect us and bring us together. I hope you are safe and supported my dear neighbors, and sending warm hugs (again) to you all.

CLIMATE CORNER - THE TIDE IS TURNING

Martin Luecke and Lisa Chavarria

At the end of January General Motors made a stunning announcement: they will be offering 20 electric vehicles in 2023 and their entire fleet will be electric by 2035. Simultaneously, of all car manufacturers, Tesla stock is the most valuable on the market by a magnitude of 10. Investors see the future and it is electric. And last year when the Trump administration offered up ANWAR to oil exploration NONE of the big oil companies showed up, only small independent producers. That means Big Oil doesn't believe in exploring the Arctic any more.

However, the best news in renewables is Joe Biden getting elected, and with that change in office we now have government that actually believes in climate change. We can't underestimate the importance of this shift - now we can take a whole government approach to tackling climate change, which means looking at our grid, transportation, fuel sources, etc. as a whole, and where to make changes. If you look at the Trump administration not only were we not making any progress on improving our air quality, for example; they were actually reversing rules to protect the air. President Biden re-committed America to the Paris Accord in his first day on the job.

Another interesting event has been brought to us by Covid-19: Europe learned it can actually use more renewables on its grid than it previously knew or understood. This means energy producers can depend upon the green market for immediate projects, which speeds up the renewable transfer of the world's energy producers.

And for the first time in history there is a Texas Environmental Caucus in the state legislature which includes three Austin state reps: Vikki Goodwin, Gina Hinojosa, and Erin Zweiner. And for the first time they have something to fight for: Senate Bill 307, which would require state energy producers to operate at Zero Carbon Emissions by 2035. This is the bill to support with calls to your state representative and senator.

For More information:

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/covid-gave-us-a-glimpse-of-the-future-grid>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/08/climate/coal-climate-change.html?searchResultPosition=4>



It was an odd year for real estate in an already crazy market.

Since April, we saw a steady decrease in the number of available listings, causing prices to jump exponentially at the end of the year. We normally see offers around 2-4% over list price, but have been seeing many offers 10-20% over in recent weeks.

What does that mean? Buyers are currently bringing tens of thousands in cash to the table, but it's a great time to sell.

Windsor Park saw a median home price jump to \$450k, up from \$395k in 2019. As always, stay safe out there and I'll be here to answer all of your real estate questions whether you're looking to buy, sell, invest, or rent.

Bee houses

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Bee houses have become popular ways of encouraging solitary bees in the home landscape. While they can be great ways to provide nurseries for the next year's generation of bees, they need to be maintained in the proper manner for them to be safe. Cleaning bee houses yearly is important to avoid buildup of mold and pollen mites that can be detrimental to these pollinators.

Solitary bee houses can be made or purchased. You search online sources for DIY or purchasing a bee house. The key to having a safe bee house is being able to clean it once bees have emerged from the tubes. This can be done in a variety of ways, some of which are having removable wood blocks, using paper linings on drilled wood material, using removable cardboard tubes or natural hollow reeds.

If making your own bee house, avoid using treated lumber or fresh cut cedar. Depth and diameter of the holes you drill will be dependent upon what type of bees you want to attract. Typically, smaller diameter holes require a depth of 3-5 inches while holes with a diameter over 1/4" should have a depth of 5-6 inches. You can find more information on how to create your own solitary bee house here: extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g2256.pdf

Bee houses should be placed in a southeast facing location near flowering plants about 4-5 feet off the ground. They should be attached firmly to a surface, reducing movement to avoid disturbing developing larvae and to make it easier for adults to land. The back part of the house should be closed off to avoid parasites from entering and the front should have an overhang to protect the entrance from moisture. You may also want cover the entrance with stainless steel wire to keep birds from using the bee house as a buffet.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.



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JAN 2021 Monthly Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (JAN 2021)	\$332.01
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (JAN 2021)	08
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,445
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	11
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	2*

*As of February 14th, 2021 - Single Family Homes. Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

ATTENTION:

Our market is currently experiencing an inventory shortage. Buyers are catering to sellers like never before. If you have considered selling, now may be the perfect time.

Contact me today for a private consultation to explore all of your options.



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Andrews Elementary

*Elizabeth Morales, Community School
Facilitator*

Enrollment for 2021-2022 is now open. Andrews Elementary offers PreK3, Dual Language and outdoor education opportunities. Join the Gator family by registering online at www.austinisd.org/enroll or call 512-414-1770

The Andrews Community Support Team hosts monthly events for our school community, including the monthly SEL Parent Conversation Series, Virtual Family Game Night, and more. Please check the school calendar at www.andrews.austinschools.org/ for more information on events.

The Andrews Elementary PTA wants you! Connect with other member of the Gator family and support the education of students. Please look for F. Andrews Elementary when joining and paying online. Please join us at our monthly CAC meetings, held the last Thursday of every month at 5:30-6:30 pm.

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, BASE Project Director

Blanton staff and students are looking forward to Spring Break and hoping for improving weather. We are still having students on-campus and offering virtual learning to those who wish to remain at home. The school will always continue to follow current public health guidelines and district mandates. Please feel free to contact the school office, ask questions and learn more about what Blanton Elementary can offer for your student.

Due to COVID, there aren't any in-person events coming up. We have had online activities to help foster school community.

All neighbors are encouraged to join the PTA. <https://ptablanton.ptboard.com/> This is the best way to follow along with news and learn about opportunities to engage, such as the Spanish club for adults, family nights at local restaurants that give some \$\$ back to Blanton, etc. For additional information, contact Karon Smutzer karon.smutzer@austinisd.org

Harris Elementary School

Laura Tomlinson, Librarian

Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year: Amna Syed. Mrs. Syed has been at Harris Elementary for the past four years. A 2017 graduate of the University of Texas in Austin (UT), she began her career at Harris as a student teacher for fifth grade. She has taught both third and fourth grade. She is currently the co-chair of the Campus Advisory Council (CAC), Vice President of Communication for the PTA, Co-chair of the Math, Science & CATCH Committees, Science Fair lead, and a member of the communication and publicity team. She has received numerous awards and grants. "Helping kids gain a passion for learning is why I love to teach," says Mrs. Syed.

Congratulations to our Teacher of Promise: Priscilla Quinonez. This award is granted to first year teachers. Ms. Quinonez teaches PreK-4. She moved from El Paso, Texas to become part of the Bulldog Team. She received her education at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Biology. Ms. Quinonez's interest in teaching started while working as a substitute teacher. She enjoyed that so much she received her teaching certification. Her goal is to obtain a master's degree as a counselor with children.

March events include:

- Friday, March 5. 8:15-10:30 am. Read Across America. Need Readers who can read virtually to our students in English or Spanish. This can be pre-recorded or live. Please contact Laura Tomlinson @ laura.tomlinson@austinisd.org to sign-up for a spot.



Neighborhood Handyman

Sometimes you just need a room painted,
a fence repaired, a faucet changed or a fan hung.

That's what I do.

Gary 512 294 3268

Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy

Jose Luis Mejia (Principal)

Gus Garcia YMLA is now enrolling students for the 2021-2022 school year. Fill out the opt-in form online through our website: <https://garcia.austinschools.org/enroll>. Follow us on twitter to get the latest @GusGarciaYMLA. Call our school at 512-841-9400 to learn about our school and make an appointment for registrations. We accept students from out of district and from all of the greater Austin area.

Sadler Means YWLA

Rosalind Oliphant, PhD, Community Partnerships

Sadler Means will host its 6th annual Girl's Conference "Roadmap to Success," Saturday, March 6th from 10am-12pm. The drive-thru event is open to all 5th-9th grade girls in AISD. Award-winning musician Saul Paul will perform and each student will receive a "Success Bag" with games, activities, resources, and other freebies. Registration is not required but bags will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Thanks to a generous donor, the Teacher's Lounge is being beautifully renovated with fresh paint, new furniture, and other amenities. Updates are also being made to Sadler Means YWLA main hallway, common areas, and library to make them inviting and collaborative spaces for our students.

More than 100 girls throughout the district have signed up to join our fall 2021 6th grade class. Interested students can still opt in for this exciting learning opportunity by completing their choice sheets and selecting a track. Buses will be provided for students who need it. Check out our recruitment video here: <https://youtu.be/E2wN6EMojW4>

Meet Your Neighbor - The Refugee Boys

Martin Luecke (Note- this is a recurring story about an African refugee family that I befriended over two years ago here in Windsor Park)

When the virus arrived in March the Joas and Jaqueline family were quarantined like everyone else. Mom and dad still have their jobs and are working most of the time. The four boys who are still in school have been mostly learning from home.

Kesheni, the second oldest, has been accepted to the Job Corp training program out of San Marcos where he is also receiving English lessons.

Elise, the third oldest, is two online classes away from receiving his high school diploma. His English is the best of the family, and he was the first to receive a driver's license. He has a part time job working half days, which pays for his auto insurance! He is planning on getting a construction degree at ACC. I have been teaching both boys construction, and have employed them a few times for house painting projects. Back in November we painted a house for Matt Nelson, our Windsor Park neighbor who donated a 7-passenger van to the family in 2019. Matt didn't know I was putting them on the job when he hired me, so it was a nice surprise that he got to meet them working on his house.



Innocent and Fabrice are doing well with remote work, and their English is improving by the week. Shema is having a harder time. English is very difficult for him, and remote learning is just about impossible. This is a lost year for all those refugee students who don't know the language well. Ishara, the oldest son, is mentally handicapped and is unable to attend school or job training.

I have not been to their home since March, but three or four of the brothers come to my house once a month on Sunday evening after church and jump on the trampoline. We have dinner and sodas and also play a bit of soccer. Shema really loves my inversion table and will hang upside down for a long time. It's their only opportunity to get out of the apartment and do something besides grocery shopping. Thanks again to all you Windsor Parkers who donated cash and household items back when I started this thing. The family is quite happy and doing well. Their learning curve has begun to straighten out.

Please send me story suggestions: mwluecke@hotmail.com; 512.536.0465

Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact

Team Update

Rodney Ahart

On February 8, 2021, the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team met and reviewed two development projects slated for **51st Street & Cameron Road**, and **6203-6207 Berkman Drive**.

First, United Properties would like to build a mixed-use development on a site located at **51st Street & Cameron Road** with ground floor retail, multifamily residential, structured parking, north-south pedestrian and vehicular connections, and onsite open space. The contact team supported United Properties' request to submit a neighborhood plan amendment application and zoning application. This decision was only to let United Properties submit their applications. The zoning case will follow the standard approval process and the neighborhood will be able to provide input during three stages of the process with the contact team, Planning Commission, and Austin City Council.

Secondly, Pierre Fay would like to build a residential and retail project – Berkman Terraces - with ground floor parking on a site located at **6203-6207 Berkman Drive**. In 2018, the contact team supported the property owner's zoning request with the following conditions: limiting the height to 40 feet; limiting uses to Light Retail; prohibiting the service station use; prohibiting vehicular access, except emergency access, to Hickman Avenue; and reserving 10 percent of the residential units at 80 percent MFI. Fay's current request is to increase the height for his project from three stories to four stories in order to make the project feasible and construct the affordable residential units (which are not required for his site). Construction on the site is limited due to the proximity to single-family homes, and the requirements to preserve several heritage trees on the lot, and construct a fire lane.

Lastly, the **Windsor Village Shopping Center** - located at the intersection of Berkman Drive, Briarcliff Boulevard, Gaston Place Drive, and Westminster Drive - has been purchased and will be redeveloped by Transwestern Development Company. A working group of fellow neighbors active in the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team and Windsor Park Neighborhood Association was created specifically to review the Windsor Village Shopping Center Redevelopment site plan and advocate for the provisions established for this tract in the Austin City Council adopted Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan. The working group has established six community priorities for the redevelopment of the site:

1. Assign commercial space on the ground floor of the buildings
2. Provide ground floor commercial uses that are welcoming from all street frontages: Berkman Drive, Briarcliff Boulevard, Gaston Place Drive, & Westminster Drive

3. Ensure available and accessible leasing space for neighborhood services
4. Establish dedicated green space on the site for neighborhood recreation and congregation
5. Interface with and accommodate the adjacent civic uses (Windsor Park Public Library, Harris Elementary School, and the Austin Mennonite Church)
6. Guarantee compatibility setbacks for single-family residences along Northridge Drive, Westminster Drive, Sweetbriar Avenue, and Briarcliff Boulevard

The Windsor Village Shopping Center redevelopment project will have an enormous impact on the quality of life for the families of Windsor Park and the future development potential of our neighborhood for decades to come. Therefore, the working group will continue to advocate for a development that successfully embraces the vision of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan and the established six community priorities. We, too, want to thank the 590 people that participated in the Windsor Village Shopping Center Redevelopment Survey and will share a summary of those responses with Transwestern Development Company.

For more information, please contact Rodney Ahart at rodney@windsorpark.info

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The advertisement features a background image of a modern house. In the foreground, there is a portrait of Rene Camiba Ibarra, a man in a suit holding a small dog, and a photo of a modern interior with a blue armchair and a sofa.

March 2021 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The March winners are Matt and Nicole Mangum of 1412 Northridge Drive. They have lived on Northridge for five years. They appreciate the interest that many of their neighbors take in their yards. This inspired Matt and Nicole to improve their yard. It took them three years to get their yard to its present state. They were helped by a local landscaping company, Somos. A neighbor who is a welder built the steel planter box.

To help conserve water they chose drought tolerant plants and installed a 250-gallon rain barrel. Their plants include Upright Rosemary, Agave Parryi, Dwarf Maidenhair, Ducher Bush Rose, and Bougainvillea. All looked great before the freeze – and I hope and expect many to survive. They also have a Mountain Laurel and two more mature trees.

Their latest project is a pollinator garden replacing a sunburned patch of grass. It includes Purple Skullcap, Golden Showers, Silver Ponyfoot, Blackfoot Daisy, Dyckia Frazzle Dazzle, Dianthus, Orange Bulbine, Crazy Blue Russian Sage, May Night Salvia, and Pentas. The golden showers, dyckia frazzle dazzle, and dianthus are their favorites because they are resilient, have an interesting texture, and are attractive all year.

The plants do not take Matt and Nicole too much time. Because the St. Augustine grass takes too much of their time and water, they plan to gradually replace their lawn with sustainable native plants.

The Mangums will get a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. Shoal Creek is remodeling currently, but they are open and have a good supply of plants, pots, and equipment. Please help us find the next Yard of the Month winner - nominate a neighbor's yard or your own yard even if you do not think that it is perfect. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681, or email wpna.yom@gmail.com.



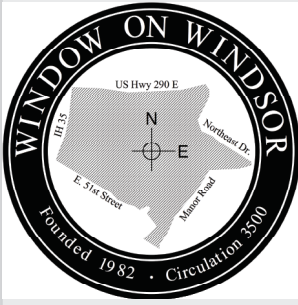
WINDSOR PARK BOOK CLUB

Barbara Haefeli

The Windsor Park Book Club is still meeting! We have been meeting since the pandemic began – on Zoom. We would be happy to have you join in the discussion any time. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7 – 8:30 p.m. If you're interested, contact Allen Michie at allenmichie@gmail.com. Our reading list for the next two months is below.

March 9th - 'Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostokovich and the Siege of Leningrad by M.T. Anderson

April 1st - Hard Times by Charles Dickens



WEB: <http://www.Windsorpark.info>
 NEWSGROUP: <https://groups.io/g/windsorparkatx>
 FACEBOOK: WindsorParkAustinTx

Contact Us

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

WPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM - CUT OUT AND SEND IN

WPNA is a 501(c)(3) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax deductible.

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☐ Non-voting donations - gladly accepted

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Referred by: _____

Mueller Update – March 2021

Rick Krivoniak

The Mueller Commission's February meeting was cancelled about 1 hour before it was to take place, so we were unable to learn more about information from Matias Segura, Operations Officer for AISD, on the challenges the District has encountered during negotiations regarding the real estate transaction for the new northeast middle school site at Mueller, which have delayed the original date for the start of construction. It is unlikely the school will now open in the fall of 2022.

The Mueller Commission will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future. Contact Program Manager Matthew Schmidt at (512) 974-6415 or Matt.Schmidt@austintexas.gov at least 24 hours prior to the second Tuesday of the month to learn about participation or listening opportunities. More information is available at austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

WPNA SCHOLARSHIP - APPLY NOW!

High School Seniors could receive a **\$1,000** scholarship toward college expenses. If you live in Windsor Park OR attend Windsor Park High Schools – then this opportunity is for you!

The application is due **March 31, 2021 at 11:59 pm**. Start today! Application and further info. at <http://windsorpark.info/scholarship/> Questions? email schools@windsorpark.info

Library Update

Library services - including many reading groups- continue. Please check out the calendar at your local library.

Austin Police Department District Representative for Windsor Park

Officer Andre Black:
 (512) 974-6875