



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Vol XXXVII No.04

April 2018

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, Apr.
14th at 10am.**

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

**April
Meeting Focus:
APD Neighbor-
hood Represen-
tative**

**Officer Harold
Ristow
and**

**Natalia Lee
from APD
Vehicle Theft
Division
discussing
safety**

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

April Letter from the President

By Meghan Dougherty

Windsor Park is a really large community. Did you know that there are about 16,000 people that live in in our neighborhood? One of the challenges of living in such a large community is feeling connection and a sense of belonging. I often go days or even weeks without seeing some of my neighbors, much less stopping to chat with them. I'm more likely to chat with someone on Nextdoor than to actually walk next door! I realized that I've had some new neighbors move in, and I've barely gotten to know them, so I'm going to rectify that by having a small neighborly gathering at my house soon.

Aside from the social aspects of getting to know your neighbors, there are important safety considerations as well. I'm glad I know how many people and animals live next door to me. If there were a fire or an emergency, I'll be able to tell emergency responders how many people and pets to look for. Also, I know who typically visits my neighbors' homes, so if I see unknown people walking around, I'll be more likely to ask questions or call the police. Speaking of safety, given the recent scare of package bombs throughout East Austin, we're inviting our APD neighborhood representative, Officer Ristow, to talk about safety and security during our neighborhood meeting on April 14. There will also be a booth manned by APD at our block party, so if you can't make the morning meeting, stop by the block party in the afternoon and chat with our local police.

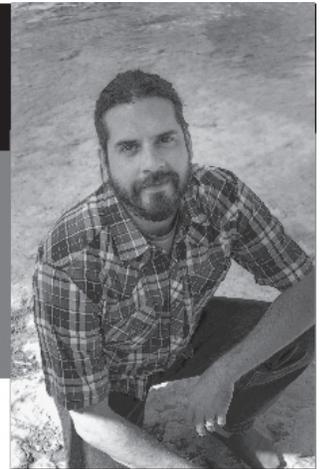
The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association is dedicated to helping build connections within the neighborhood. We kick off our meetings each month with coffee and donuts and citizen communication time, an open forum where everyone is invited to share information for the good of the community and association. One reason why we print and hand deliver the newsletter each month is that it provides organic ways to connect with community members. If you see your newsletter deliverer, take a moment to greet them, get to know who they are, and thank them for volunteering their time.

Finally, don't forget that we're holding our annual block party on Saturday, April 14. I can't thank our key organizers enough - Joe Marotta, chair of our social committee, along with Shanda Sansing, Shrie Spangler, and Gloria Neunaber, have done so much to organize a fun day with food truck, games, prizes, and entertainment. Please stop by, even if just for a bit. WPNA will also have a table out, and we'd be happy to sign you up as a member. We're about two-thirds of the way to our goal of 350 members for 2018. If you join at the block party (or if you're already a member) you can receive a free raffle ticket. Prizes include tickets to the Alamo Drafthouse, a free month at Camp Gladiator, or gift certificates to Hank's. Prizes will be drawn throughout the day of the event. So stop by, meet some neighbors, enjoy music and entertainment, bring plants to share at the plant swap (hosted by Yard of the Month), eat some food at (Windsor Park-owned) mmmpanadas food truck, and greet our friendly officers at the WPNA table for your raffle tickets! We look forward to seeing you on April 14, 1-5 pm at Windsor Village (across from the Windsor Park Library). And let us know, *how do you build community?*

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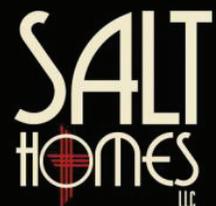
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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: JANELLE MEYER

Martin Luecke

Our neighbor on Larkwood Court since 2010, Janelle and husband Marcus moved to Windsor Park after she “clubbed and dragged him by the hair”. And here, they are raising their two single digit kiddos Major and Milou.

You might not know their names, but you know their tree: it’s the one with art hanging all over it on Berkman. The Giving Tree, I call it.



Janelle tells the story: “So when we first moved in we had a tree company come out to trim up the trees. They told us that tree should be cut down because it was dying. I wasn’t ready to cut it down so I decided to try to love it while it was here.”

And so Janelle began making art with a tree. Right now the tree is decorated with long colored tubes of water hanging to the ground. I had to stand next to it to figure out how she did it. “We had these plastic bags at work that we were throwing away and I just thought how perfect they were for the tree.”

That’s how most of these projects work. There’s the idea, and then there’s figuring out how to do it without spending money. After eight years Janelle has created seven different recurring pieces. The crowd favorite is “The Wishing Tree”. Janelle hangs dozens of blank cards in the limbs with a sign that says “Make a Wish”. “The first time I did it, the wishes were all really big, like world peace, equality for all. This year they were all small and personal wishes, like ‘make grandma feel better.’

It’s a healing thought, the wishing tree. And the many art projects over the years have made for a dialogue with Windsor Park. “People leave cards and notes, some saying Thank You and others sharing stories. We get knocks on the door all the time from random people reacting to the tree.”

Janelle’s day job is almost predictable: Interior Plantscaping. She makes art out of plants for office buildings. Biophyllic design is all the rage these days, like painting, but with plants. Janelle’s art creates interaction between humans and plants. “It’s on everyone’s radar to bring this green inside - it creates a sense of awe which recalibrates people all at once.” Janelle and her team maintain the great wall of green at Whole Foods, which was the first of its kind in the world. “Once a week we get on a lift and take care of it.” Cool.

At this point it’s no surprise that Janelle is using plants to provide a calming agent to people at work and at home. “My only regret is how busy Berkman has become. I love this house, I love this neighborhood, but the street is intense. As I think about it, I like that flow of energy.” Then she tells a story of how people sometimes hang out of their cars with cameras while driving by.

Windsor Park is lucky to have this flow of creative energy right on our main street. Just be careful when taking photos.

Please send me suggestions for stories: mwluecke@hotmail.com or call 512.536.0465



8 Ways to Be Involved in Our Neighborhood Parks

Jeanette Swenson eanette@windsorpark.info and Jordan Shade Jordan@windsorpark.info

1. Help create and implement the plan for Pomerleau Pocket Park, 1906 Patton Lane (see below). Stop by and share your ideas at the April 14 Block Party. Sign up for the Pomerleau Park email list. Share your ideas and your skills with us.
2. Attend Austin Parks Foundation Adopt-a-Park Summit, mid-May 2018. There is lots of useful information about park planning, fundraising, park adoption, and much more.
3. End of April or early May, volunteer to re-fresh, re-plant, and repaint the splash pad area in preparation for mid-May opening of the splash pad. Sign up at Austinparks.org.
4. Advocate for construction already approved and funded trail between the splash pad and pool. The trail was supposed to have been built in 2017, but has been put on indefinite hold. Contact: Parks and Recreation (PAR), Charles.Mabry@austintexas.gov.
5. As part of the trail construction, the serious erosion approaching the bridge on the splash pad side needs to be addressed. Also, there is a serious erosion problem at between the basketball court and Tannehill Branch Creek, which will require co-operation between Parks and Recreation and Watershed Protection. Contact: PAR District Manager for Bartholomew and Pomerleau Parks Albert.Perez@austintexas.gov and Watershed Protection Matteo.Scoggins@austintexas.gov and Staryn.Wagner@austintexas.gov.
6. Join Friends of Tannehill Branch Creek and participate in the maintaining the tiny park that Nadia Khan has established. Advocate for a bridge over the creek through Promiseland to connect Windsor Park internally to Mueller. Contact: Nadialeslie@hotmail.com.
7. Consider volunteering to maintain a piece of the landscaping in Bartholomew. Lots of possibilities: Butterfly garden, entrance spaces, pump house area, rain garden on south side of pump house, gardens on West side of Shelter A and East side of Shelter C. These have low water requirements, but do need periodic weed and grass removal to keep them at their best. Contact: Jeanette@windsorpark.info
8. Use our parks. Communities are stronger when they enjoy and support public spaces. While you are enjoying the parks, pass on to Jordan and me your ideas, concerns, or needs for our parks. The potential for Bartholomew (59 acres) and Pomerleau (2 acres) is huge.

Pomerleau Park Update

Jordan Shade

The spring It's My Park Day event at Pomerleau Park was a great success. Volunteers from the neighborhood came out and mulched trees, created a crushed gravel entryway, and jammed on ideas for the future vision of the park. Thanks to all the volunteers! Ideas heard so far are addressing everything from community building, to park safety, to staying cool through the long, hot, Texas summer and lots more!

Do you have ideas for this space? We're continuing to collect community input and would love to hear from you! We'll have an activity set up at the Windsor Park Block Party, and will continue seeking input in other ways. We're hoping to have Pomerleau open to the public permanently by the end of the year. To continue pushing towards this goal we need to keep demonstrating neighborhood support and buy-in. Stay tuned for a series of monthly events in the park to keep the momentum alive!

Want to get involved? Sign up for email updates by writing us at: jordan@windsorpark.info

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Yard of the Month - April 2018

Sara Jane Lee

The April 2018 winners are Sandy Davis and Patricia Chapa who live at 1316 Cloverleaf Drive. Sandy and Patricia live next door to our March winners, the Reinhardts. Like the Reinhardts, who have lived in Windsor Park for 52 years, Sandy and Patricia are longtime residents. They have lived on Cloverleaf for 21 years. This is the second time that Sandy and Patricia have won Yard of the Month. They won in August of 2003, making them the 3rd winners since we began Yard of the Month in June 2003.

When they moved into their house, the front yard landscape consisted of grass and three trees, two Catalpas and one Sycamore. They got suggestions and help from their friends Michael Wilger and Paul Licce. Both men are previous Yard of the Month winners, and Paul was a member of the Yard of the Month Committee. It took Sandy, Patricia and Michael about a month to design and install the landscape. To conserve water, they had an irrigation system installed. Sandy and Patricia spend about two hours a week weeding and pruning.

Their favorite part of the yard is the corner with Ranunculus, Larkspur, Iris, and Texas Scarlet Quince, Lantana, Poppies, Shasta Daisy, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, and Blackfoot Daisy. They also have Pride of Barbados and various wildflowers. Near the house there is a Mountain Laurel, a Tulip Tree, and a Saucer Magnolia. They also have a Possumhaw Holly, a Loquat Tree, Yellow Bells, Rosemary, and Rock Penstemon.

Sandy and Patricia's advice is to start with a plan, use a good soil mixture, and plant drought tolerant plants.

Sandy and Patricia will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery. Please support the Nursery and tell them that you live in Windsor Park.

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; feel free to nominate your own yard. People have won that way. 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.



Andrews Elementary

Gabriela "Gabbie" Soto, Principal

Upcoming events in April:

- Coffee with the Principal on April 6th at 8:30 at Andrews Cafeteria
- STAAR for 5th grade Math and Reading & 4th grade Writing - April 10-11th.
- Online Registration Orientation for SY 2018-2019 begins on April 18-19th.
- Campus Advisory Council/PTA Meeting at Andrews Library, April 26th, at 4:30 p.m.
- Teacher Appreciation Week, May 7-11th

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

March was very busy with our Diversity celebration, family movie night and garage sale and of course, spring break. During April the STAAR testing will begin on campus, but we also have more fun times planned 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.

Important April dates for parents and community:

- April 2 - Adult ESL Classes, 8:30-10 a.m. every Mon. & Fri., room 108
- April 20 - Principal's Coffee, 8:30 a.m.
- April 20 - ECO Heroes Day (student participation only)
- April 20 - Spring Fling Carnival, 4:15-7:00 p.m. PLEASE JOIN US!!!
- April 30-May 4 - Library Book Fair. Call school office for times. GOOD BOOKS TO BUY!!!

Afterschool programs: A quick note about the ACE after school program who has been part of Blanton for five years. The grant that provided funding for this program will come to an end in July, so the parents are working to put together a very low cost program to continue in the place of ACE.

Registration for the new BASE (Blanton After School Enrichment) program will begin taking registrations immediately. They are hoping to provide care for 100 students which is about 15 students per grade level. For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at karon.smutzer@austinisd.org

Harris Elementary

Kimberly Blankenship

April will be a busy schedule of opportunities for students to show what they know through assessments and a start to end of year activities. During the weeks with state testing days, April 9th -13th and May 14th – 18th, Harris will be closed to visitors. Harris staff members are excited to support students and build community through notes of encouragement for testers!

Community building continues to be a priority through a school-wide picnic event in April where groups of students from different grades will get to spend time with teachers and students they don't usually see over a picnic-style lunch.

The Harris community is gaining an incredible resource as new therapy services will be housed at Harris and offered to the Harris community. Harris was chosen as a VOCA grant recipient school within AISD, which supports the new VIDA clinic offering therapy services at Harris. For more information about this opportunity, contact the Harris school counselor at 512-414-4653.

- April 10th 4G Writing STAAR & 5G Math STAAR
- April 11th 5G Reading STAAR

Reagan Early College High School

Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Services Specialist

- April 5- Late start. Classes begin at 10:15am
- April 10-12- ELA STAAR End of Course Exams. Please make sure your students get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast.
- April 28-St. Johns Unity Walk and Kids Fest. There will be lots of fun games, contests, music, rides, etc. Meet at Webb MS at 9am to participate in the walk. The festival starts at Reagan at 10am.

Parents, please keep in mind that there is no summer school this year. Subsequently, students are being offered multiple options to make up lost credits during the school year. If your student needs to recuperate lost credits please contact their school counselor to ensure they are participating in a credit recovery program.

To volunteer at this year's Kids' Fest please contact Julia Remington at [512-414-6361](tel:512-414-6361).

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Mueller Update – April 2018

Rick Krivoniak

The Texas Farmers' Market is launching the only weeknight farmers market within the City of Austin. Starting in May, Wednesday evening markets will be held from 5 to 8 PM in Mueller's Browning Hangar, rain or shine. Along with family-friendly activities, more than 40 local vendors, many from the popular Sunday market, are confirmed for the producer-only market, meaning all farms and ranches are regularly inspected to ensure the standards that are being portrayed are met.

Partnering with the Sustainable Food Center, the Mueller Farmers' Market also accepts SNAP Lonestar dollars, doubling their value for up to \$30 on fresh fruits and vegetables. The market is served by Capital Metro routes 37 and 350, and metered parking is available along Aldrich and Simond Streets and in the McBee Garage at \$1 per hour.

A recent thread of Nextdoor postings revealed the general confusion about reporting maintenance and trash issues at Mueller's Lake Park. A public access agreement with the City of Austin keeps Mueller's parks accessible to the general public except for curfew times imposed on all users, but the parks are owned by the Mueller Property Owners Association (POA) and maintained by their property management company, Associa Hill Country. During Mueller Central business hours, an Associa on-

site representative is available at 512-703-9202, or email them at contactus@muellercentral.com. Other contact information is available at muelleraustinonline.com

Austin's Historic Landmark Commission unanimously voted in favor of historic zoning for the Mueller Control Tower, sending the matter for consideration by the Zoning & Platting Commission on April 3rd, and then to City Council on May 10th for a final decision. The zoning change applies only to a 1,024-square-foot area at the 84-foot tall tower's base. The building is a compact 18-foot-square at the bottom, expanding to 20 x 20-feet at the ninth floor control room. Local historic zoning and state historical status (a process yet to begin) would make it easier to bypass certain building code requirements that would allow for public access to the 57-year-old structure.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (RMMAPIAC) will next meet at 6:00 PM April 10, 2018 at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building (Chestnut Community Center), 1183 Chestnut Avenue. Click <https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac> for RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes and other documents .as.gov/rmmapiac and other documents are [s://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac](https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac)

Business Focus: Saint Beatrice – at Floor Centers of Texas

Elizabeth Kubala

Saint Beatrice is the saint of happiness and the name of a new business in Windsor Park. The business is owned and operated by two sisters (Mary Katherine and Kelly Jo) and their mother (Jo Ella). The three of them have been traveling to Mexico regularly for many years. They all love the brightly colored, hand-made clothing and artwork from there, and over the years have brought back many goods crafted by local Mexican artists.

After lots of requests from friends to bring back extra, the trio got the idea of starting a little import business and using it as an opportunity to promote fair trade and showcase regional artists. They started with pop-up parties and trunk shows in people’s homes. Soon they had enough merchandise that they needed a place to store it between shows. They turned to Floor Centers of Texas on Cameron Road, a natural choice since their family owns it. The women started storing their merchandise in a little room at the side of the store.



Photo: Jo Ella Broussard, Mary Katherine Koch, Isabella Koch & Kelly Jo Stuth in San Miguel de Allende

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Before long they realized they could turn the little room into a shop. If you walk in now, you will see brightly colored tops and dresses hanging from floor to ceiling. You will see jewelry, linens, ornaments, religious artifacts, bags, purses, pottery, oil cloth, and even dog bowls. Call before going to make sure they are open: (512) 484-9996. There are no regular hours yet, but they hope to set some in the near future.

Floor Centers of Texas has been in the neighborhood for 6 years. The family was originally attracted to the area because it was one of the few centrally located places where they could find warehouse space. Now they have come to love the neighborhood for its diversity, its food trailers, and its eclectic businesses.

Their plan for Saint Beatrice is to grow the business so they can support more Mexican artists and educate more people about the different regions of Mexico where the art originates.

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Ladybird beetles

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Ladybird beetles, also known as ladybugs, are beneficial insects that can help eat pests in the landscape. While they help to control various soft-bodied insect pests, they are best known for eating aphids in the adult and larval stage. One ladybug can eat up to 5,000 aphids during its lifetime. Ladybugs may supplement their diet with flower nectar and honeydew in times when prey is scarce.



Ladybug eggs



Ladybug larva



Ladybug pupa



Ladybug adult

Ladybugs have a complete life cycle with four life stages- egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Adults come in a variety of sizes and colors. They are oval with a domed body shape, are brightly colored, and have contrasting markings. After mating, female adults lay eggs in clusters on plants, usually near aphids, mealybugs, or scale insects. The eggs are yellowish-orange and look like footballs sitting up on end.

Larvae emerge from eggs to feed on the insects that are found nearby. Larvae are alligator-shaped, and often greyish-black with bright markings. Larvae feed on insect prey for several weeks before pupating on the plant. The pupae are non-feeding, non-moving, and are unprotected by a cocoon.

To conserve the ladybugs that you find in your landscape, learn to recognize all stages of the beetles. Make wise pesticide choices and target use to specific areas. Add plants that can provide pollen and nectar for the beetles to supplement their diet.

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



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR UPDATE:

Walter and Rae Olenick

Martin Luecke

I profiled Walter and Rae Olenick and the saga The Orchard apartment complex a few months ago. At the time the Olenicks were involved in a law suit with the City of Austin, which was levying fines over \$800,000 against the complex.

Since that time the lawsuit has been dropped, along with the fines, and the Olenicks have sold the property to their neighbors to the south, who are clearing the land.



After many months of threats, confusion, and doubt, Walter was pleased and said it was “the best of all possible outcomes.” Walter reports that, because of the city’s delay of his pending sale, the property increased in value by \$300,000.

He and Rae purchased a fourplex near Lake Travis and now have a great view of the hill country. They miss Windsor Park, but are happy with their new lives.

National Week of the Young Child April 16 – 21, 2018

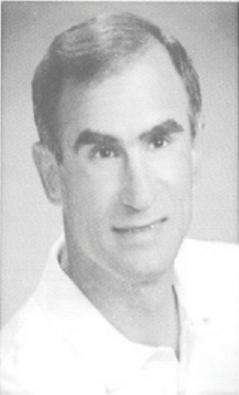
Gloria Neunaber

Nationally and locally, organizations, teachers, caregivers, and family members will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) April 16 – 21, 2018.

Quality early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make for our children’s future. Research shows that children attending high quality early childhood programs are more likely to develop the language, pre-mathematics and social skills they need to succeed in school. Families with small children in Texas should be aware of the differing requirements for child care that include the Minimum Standards from the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, the Texas Rising Star Standards of the Workforce Commission, the national standards of the National Accreditation Commission, and the highest quality national accreditation standards of the NAEYC. Those requirements are all available on-line. Two child care centers in Windsor Park currently hold the highest NAEYC standards.

Celebration scheduled for Sat 21 April 10am – noon

The Austin Chapter of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children will hold the closing celebration event for the Week of the Young Child on Saturday, April 21st outside the playground at the Mueller Lake Park from 10 a.m. till noon. Austin families are invited to stop by anytime to play some games together and learn more information about quality standards for children in care at child care centers, family day homes, and preschools. Come out to have a fun time and help celebrate young children!

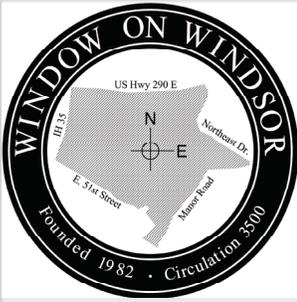


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Contact Us

President..... Meghan Dougherty 512-709-4912
 Vice President Dan Strub..... 512-297-3708
 Secretary..... Emily Vitris 773-459-0064
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Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!

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Add'l Name : _____

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Local Library Happenings

Dana Newlove

Editor's Note: During the next 6 months, as the Windsor Park Library is closed for renovations, other local branches continue to serve the neighborhood. Please check out these great offerings.

UNIVERSITY HILLS BRANCH

- All Ages Storytime: 11:00am Wednesdays
- Pajama Storytime: 6:00pm Mondays
- Art Smart: Celebrating Asian Dragons: Friday, April 6, 3:30pm
- Animanga Club, Blue Exorcist: Wednesday, April 11, 5:00pm
- Robotics Workshop: Friday, April 13, 4:00pm
- Perler Beads Saturday: April 14, 12-4pm: We provide the supplies, you bring the patience!
- Audiobook Club: Wednesday, April 18, 7:00pm: Ready Player One, by Ernest Cline
- Lego Lab: Friday, April 20, 4:00pm
- Saturday Movie Matinees, 2:00pm April 21: Annie; April 28: Cinderella
- AARP Free Tax Preparation: 10:00am-1:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays. LAST DAY is April 12
- Film Series, German Cinema of the 70s: April 25, 6:30pm: In the Mood for Love

ST JOHN BRANCH

- Yoga: Mondays, 6:30-7:30pm
- Dual Language Storytime/ Hora de Cuentos en dos Idiomas: Thursdays, 10:15am
- Talk Time: Saturdays, 11:30am-1:00pm (English conversation practice)
- Introduction to Computers/Computadoras para principiantes: Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm
- Saturday Movie Matinee: Saturday, April 7, 1:00pm
- Art Smart: Celebrating Asian Dragons: Wednesday, April 18, 3:30pm
- Videogame Free Play: Thursday, April 26, 3:30-5:30pm