



# WINDOW on WINDSOR

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

Vol XXXIX No.05  
May 2020

## President's Letter – May 2020

*By Dan Strub*

**Next  
Neighborhood  
Association  
Meeting**

**Saturday, May-  
9th at 10am.**

**STREAMING!**

We held our first online WPNA meeting on April 11 and I am still glowing from how gracious, responsive, and informed our Council Members Natasha Harper-Madison and Greg Casar were. They spoke on what the City is doing to address the coronavirus and what resources are available to us. They also stressed the importance of social distancing and wearing your masks when in public buildings or when social distancing is difficult. They spoke briefly about what budget impacts they expect – surprisingly few, since Council has built a contingency fund during the good years that we have been experiencing.

This online meeting was the first of who knows how many we will have. I want to thank Chandler Brooks and Meghan Dougherty for their hard work in making it happen. I apologize that not everyone was able to see it, since it was only live streamed over FaceBook, but we are working on posting it to the Windsor Park website ([www.WindsorPark.info](http://www.WindsorPark.info)) and live streaming the May meeting there as well. For the May meeting, we are hoping to have a representative of AISD come speak on the district's plans for wrapping up the current school year and how they are going to start the next school year. Look for announcements and requests for questions once we have a speaker confirmed.

Also, we have had to make a few changes to our normal procedures now that the meetings have gone online. The annual financial audit has been put on hold until we can meet in person to go over the books. Minutes from the meetings are still being taken, but not voted on, as we have no method of voting right now. The Yard of the Month is still being awarded, including the \$50 gift certificate to Shoal Creek Nursery, just not awarded in person.

**May Focus:**

**STAY HOME  
AND BE WELL  
EVERYONE**

**Update from  
AISD about  
wrapping up  
the current  
school year**

I also want to shout out to all of the neighbors who are chipping in to help each other. People are sharing what they have (in a socially distant manner), helping out people who request assistance, and working to cheer each other up. I understand there was a birthday parade for a child who was celebrating in these restricted times, and there have been people putting items in their windows for teddy bear and Easter egg hunts and thanking first responders and teachers. I know that these are trying times and the effects have not been felt by everyone equally, but I do think that we are pulling together to make it a bit better.

## May 2020 Mueller Update

*Rick Krivoniak*

The April 14th Mueller Commission was cancelled due to the Corvid-19 pandemic. If you aren't already aware, Mueller's parks are following all of the closures and quarantine protocols set forth by the City of Austin. Mueller Central is closed until further notice. Mueller's pools at Ella Wooten and John Gaines parks are unlikely to open as originally scheduled. Check [www.texasfarmersmarket.org/mueller](http://www.texasfarmersmarket.org/mueller) for updates on Mueller's Farmer's Market.

Got something for  
the newsletter?  
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to [newsletter@  
windsorpark.info](mailto:newsletter@windsorpark.info)

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) still has plans to locate at Mueller, but the agenda item for the March 23rd Council meeting was pulled along with most non-essential items. The sale of the land to another governmental authority will need City Council approval, but no date for that item has been scheduled.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will next meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. The City of Austin is still grappling with physical distancing meeting arrangements for all City of Austin Boards and Commissions, so plans for an online meeting are still being formulated. For RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, visit [austintexas.gov/rmmapiac](http://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac)

### Yard of the Month -

**1305 Glencrest**

*Sara Jane Lee*

The May winners are Cheri Cowart and Scott Rolfe of 1305 Glencrest Drive.

Unlike many yards these days, Cheri and Scott actually have a large expanse of grass. Their sidewalk is next to the street and one large bed separates the yard from the sidewalk. The other large bed hugs the house. Between these, they have grass and two trees, a Monterey Oak and a Chinese Fringetree. The latter has beautiful white blooms that look like snowflakes when they fall. In the beds, they have a Sweet Olive, Pomegranate, Knockout Rose, Barbados Cherry, Lantana, Lorapetelum, Queen Victoria Agave, a Bromeliad, several Succulents, Ice Plant, Dwarf Nandina, Sedums, and Skullcap. Some large rocks and plant containers also complement the gray stone mulch of the bed near the street.

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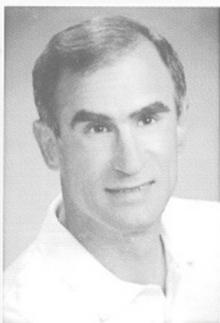


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Cheri and Scott have been working on their landscape for 10 years. The landscapes in local neighborhoods and parks have inspired much of their work. They have also gotten tremendous help from their neighbor Albert Vasquez in both design and labor. He has collaborated with them on designing the landscape, choosing the materials, and installing what they have chosen. He and his partner Michael Keane also perform most of the daily maintenance.

Cheri advises living near neighbors like Michael and Albert! By the way, Albert and Michael have won Yard of the Month twice.



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Do not be shy. If you like a certain yard, or more than one, tell us. We are looking for interesting yards, not perfect yards. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681, or email [wpna.yom@gmail.com](mailto:wpna.yom@gmail.com)

## WPNA Schools Committee Update – May 2020

Emily Vitris

Now more than ever, our community needs to feel our love and that includes all the amazing teachers who are working to support our children in a variety of virtual ways! Let’s show the love by honoring our amazing teachers and neighborhood schools during **Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8**. We’re asking that residents of WP place pictures symbolic of teaching in their windows. Needing an idea? An apple, hands holding the Earth, a simple sign with your favorite teacher’s name or school name are just a few of the many images that could provide encouragement. Share what you come up with on our Windsor Park Facebook page. This would make a great rainy-day activity for the kids!

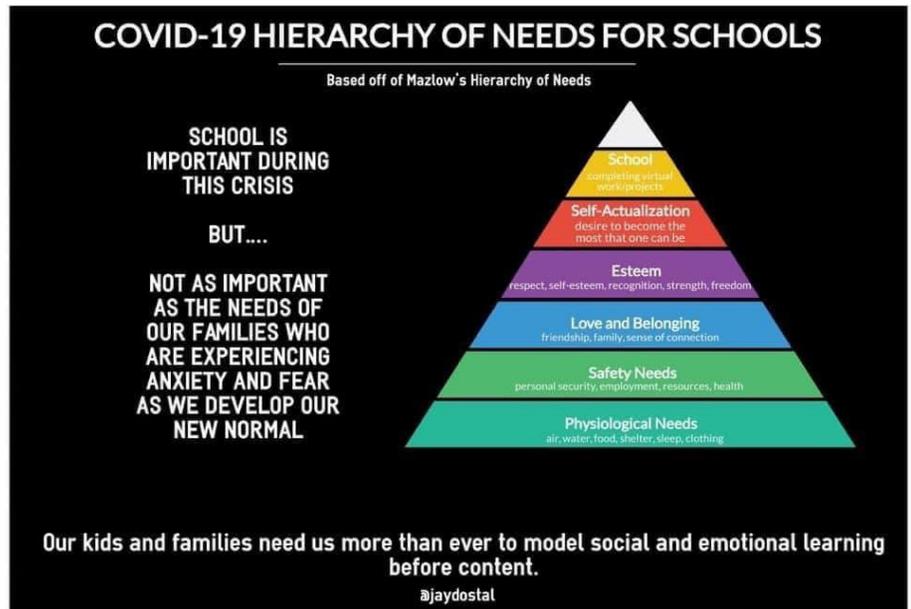
The Schools Committee will be deciding **scholarship winners** in early May and will honor the recipients at our June neighborhood meeting. If you would like to **donate** to this cause, you can do so at <http://www.windsorpark.info/scholarship/> Our high school seniors need our help now more than ever. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you are interested in joining or learning more about the WPNA Schools Committee, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Our meetings are now virtual. If you’d like to participate, please send an email to [schools@windsorpark.info](mailto:schools@windsorpark.info) for more details.

### RESOURCES:

Anyone can pick up food through the **Central Texas Food Bank Mobile Pantry**. Find a location near you by looking at their website: <https://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/get-help> or calling (512) 282-2111.

The AISD website lists resources: <http://www.austinsisd.org/covid19> including information about obtaining Chromebooks for student learning, Telehealth services and Wifi Hotspots for student use. Do you have an important resource to share with our community specific to families? If so, please email [schools@windsorpark.info](mailto:schools@windsorpark.info).

Please note that the meals provided via AISD are for students only. Meals may be provided to parents or caregivers, even when the child is not present, provided they have documentation at the point of meal service (acceptable documentation includes report card, birth certificate, student id, etc.) If a parent does not have certification, the child must be present to receive the meal.



### School Curbside Meal Sites

**Blanton Elementary:** Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,. Families are advised to stay in their cars and not enter buildings during meal pick up. Families do not need to be in a car to get the meals. Families who come by walking/biking/transit will still be able to receive food outside the campuses.

**LBJ Early College High School:** Curbside meal sites, open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families are advised to stay in their cars and not enter buildings during meal pick up. Families do not need to be in a car to get the meals. Families who come by walking/biking/transit will still be able to receive food outside the campuses.

### Other Meal Delivery Sites

Meals will be delivered Monday-Friday throughout the community at more than 50 locations. Sites were chosen based on 50 percent or more students receiving meal benefits.

Meal Delivery Sites in and near WPNA and approximate times are listed below. Austin ISD school buses will visit each of the sites for 15-20 minutes for meal distribution. Families are encouraged to arrive at the sites 10 minutes prior to the bus arrival. Meals will be picked up from the school bus, lining up 6 feet from the door of the bus and 6 feet from each other.

[Continued on page 6]

## Meet Your Neighbor May 2020 – The New Normal is Abnormal

*Martin Luecke*

We visit with two neighbors this month, Rita Stramel, who is one of our newest neighbors, on Berkman, and Jessica Rubino, who has lived on Thames for over a year. They are both in the medical industry, working at the very edge of the world’s newest threat. (Note: I write this column two weeks before publication, so certain information is stuck in time, and will not be up to date for May 1st)



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Rita is a Senior Administrative Associate at the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin. She works for Internal Medicine, pretty much the epicenter of pandemic preparedness. Rita is normally organizing events, planning meetings and travel coordination for a large group of personnel, but all of that has stopped and she has been redeployed to help organize for a possible surge of cases. “Medical personnel are super busy, not just with patient care, but getting themselves educated, and quickly providing new procedures and protocols. Lots of literature about Covid-19 is being published rapidly with sharing of information in real time. It’s hard to keep up.”

Rita is working from home, attending a myriad of Zoom meetings with various staff. Their conversations are cutting edge medicine driven by figuring out how to prepare and staff a hospital in a pandemic. “What I see from one day to the next is people doing what needs to be done in a very collaborative way, and I’m very heartened by that, because we all have anxiety about so many unknowns.”

Rita says she is trusting the experts and staying home. “Since working at home from March 13, I have learned one new technical skill every day just to do my job, and I’m certainly gaining a lot of new knowledge about how hospital medicine is practiced.” She has discovered that people often linger and chat after the meeting is over, apparently missing social contact.

On the other side of the neighborhood, Dr. Jessica Rubino is currently providing health care at the Austin Women’s Health Center and is in the middle of a legal challenge to Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s executive order to preserve hospital capacity during the pandemic. Unfortunately, the wording of the ban was vague and did not include the term abortion, which is one of the treatments provided by the clinic. A few days later Attorney General Ken Paxton said “we meant abortions.” The Center for Reproductive Rights and AWHC, along with Planned Parenthood, filed suit in March. “That’s when everything went topsy-turvy!” Jessica exclaims. They were granted a restraining order by the district court that the appellate court lifted before sending the case back to the district court, where they got another restraining order. Thus, from day to day, they could legally practice medicine, or not.

Jessica starts each morning with coffee and a conversation with her attorney. Some days she has to stay home. Meanwhile, some women can’t wait. The clinic sees a wide variety of patients, many of them poor, young and desperate. “Worrying about my patients is the only thing that keeps me up at night” she laments. In these women’s lives pregnancy is not an option. “I had a patient that couldn’t share with her family or she would have been physically abused. I gave her the pill and she was crying with relief. She said “I was planning on going home and killing myself if I didn’t get this today.”

Jessica says the current restraining order allows an abortion if it is an early medication abortion, or if it is at 22 weeks, which means forcing women in the middle to wait. “There’s a million things that can be a problem for pregnant people right now. It’s one more problem on top of losing their job and not able to pay rent.” Some Texas women are traveling to New Mexico for treatment. “One woman who couldn’t go out of state said “I’ll figure it out”, and that’s when people start dying” Jessica says pointedly. It turns out that pregnancy doesn’t stop just because the world stopped, and answers to these types of problems can be life altering.

This virus and the response to it are something we have not seen in our lifetimes. It is bringing out the best and worst in humanity simultaneously. The people on the front lines are your neighbors and allies; we are going to need lots of both in the present and near future.

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

## Blanton Elementary School

*Karon Smutzer, BASE Coordinator*

Blanton is continuing to follow the protocols issued by our district to protect our students, parents, and staff. Meals are being given to families daily while observing safe social distancing. Blanton students are being offered various online learning opportunities... zoom meetings with teacher and classmates, online lesson plans and phone calls.

In an effort to plan for the future, BASE (Blanton After School Enrichment) has continued to take enrollment information via phone for 2020-2021 school year. The program is nearly 85% full, but there are still a few openings for students new to Blanton. For further information about the BASE program, you may contact Ms. Karon at 512-826-2692 or [karonsmutzer@gmail.com](mailto:karonsmutzer@gmail.com).

Blanton appreciates the support offered by our community and looks forward to the time we may work together again.

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## Northeast High School

*Katherine Wallach, LMSW, Social Service Specialist, Family Resource Center*

Hi Northeast Raider Community! We love and miss you! **Students**, please check in with your teachers, and check BLEND. We are here to support you, and to ensure that you can keep learning and growing as a student this semester. **Parents**, if you need support, please call Mr. Castillo or Ms. Wallach, and we will connect you to the help you need at this time.

Graduation is tentatively rescheduled for August 11, 2020. Seniors, we are proud of all the work you have put in your entire educational careers. Keep going strong! We wish you all the best as you graduate and go out into the world.

To the whole community, you can now connect with us on Instagram @northeastchsaustinisd. Come check out Mr. McGruder's Instagram live weekdays at 12:30pm, and stay up to date with Northeast information. Please stay safe, Raider family. We are thinking of you.

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## MARCH 2020

### Windsor Park

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AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	<b>16</b>
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## Crape myrtle bark scale

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Crape myrtles are a popular landscape tree in parts of Texas, prized for their beauty. While this tree has been relatively maintenance free for years, that is no longer the case now that crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) has been found in Texas. Crape myrtle bark scales are small, wingless insects, pinkish in color and covered with a white, velvety covering. When you look at the bark of an infested tree, look for round to oval shaped white velvety insects. If you puncture one with a toothpick, it will exude a pink substance.

When inspecting crape myrtles for CMBS, look along trunks, limbs, as well as smaller twigs and branches found towards the top of the tree. You'll want to look for scale insects and sooty mold. Sooty mold is a black colored fungus that grows on honeydew; honeydew is an excretion from scale insects (and other small, soft-bodied insects such as aphids and mealybugs).

Heavily infested crape myrtles have CMBS that produce copious amounts of honeydew on the tree and surrounding area which leads to growth of sooty mold, turning landscape plants black. Infested crape myrtles produce fewer and smaller blooms which may be difficult to tell unless you have an uninfested tree to compare.

Only male crape myrtle bark scales fly. Others are dispersed by wind, birds, other insects, or landscape maintenance equipment to nearby areas. Once CMBS are in an area, they can move onto to nearby trees.

Control options are varied for CMBS. There are lady bugs that eat CMBS, but this may take time for control as the ladybug population is tied to the population of insects they feed upon. Ensure that if you buy and plant crape myrtles, that you inspect them and not plant any infested trees, or you select a different species of tree or shrub for the landscape.

Pesticide treatment for crape myrtle bark scale can be done with either a contact spray or a systemic treatment. Studies from TAMU discovered that contact sprays should be used when pest numbers are peaking (crawler/ nymph numbers peak mid-April through May), and two treatments should be done with the second treatment taking place 2 weeks after the initial treatment. Insecticides with bifenthrin as the active ingredient tend to work best.

Systemic treatments should be applied earlier, when the leaves are budding out. Systemics such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran are best used as a soil treatment in March so that they are taken up by the tree and in place for the crawler population in April-May. These products should be used when trees are NOT in bloom to protect pollinators.

The

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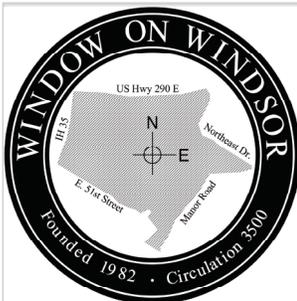
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For a video on how to treat crape myrtles for CMBS, you should go to this link:  
<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2018/08/28/how-to-treat-your-crapemyrtle-for-bark-scale/>

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, at 512.854.9600.  
[www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)



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There are many online resources available through Austin Public Library. If you have a resident library card, you have free access to all digital resources. If you don't have a library card but are an Austin resident, you can obtain an eCard free online. You will have to upload a photo of your ID and proof of address. If you are a non-resident, you can obtain an eCard for \$22/year. From the homepage, click on "About" in the blue menu, select "Library Card," and scroll down to "eCard."

With your card, you can access online books, movies, and audiobooks with any of your devices. You will need to download the apps: usually Hoopla, Libby, or RBDigital. When you try to check out an online item, the system should walk you through downloading the relevant app. If you have any trouble, you can get help either by emailing or live-chatting with a librarian. You can also "book a librarian" for one-on-one help. From the Library's homepage click on the "Ask Us" tab in the blue menu, and then select either "Email or Chat" or "Book a Librarian."

There are many other kinds of free online resources. Want news? Get the Austin American Statesman, New York Times, and over 200 other newspapers and magazines. Want to learn a language? Choose one from the 70 offered in Mango Languages. Want to learn Excel, study for the ASVAB, or look in Chilton for your car repair? Get all that in Niche Academy. The library's Information Guides provide a clearinghouse of community resources for everything from legal aid to writing groups, from social services to genealogy.

There are also numerous items for kids. From the Virtual Library tab, select "Homework Help" for a list of K-12 resources, including live online tutoring, video tutorials, bilingual materials, reference sources, and even Texas Driving Permit practice tests. Kids can also use their cards to access ebooks, audiobooks, and movies.

If you have any problems or questions, you can call 512-974-7400 and leave a message. A librarian will call you back. Help is available from 10am-6pm Monday through Friday. You can also text 512-337-4893 with your question. Or, as mentioned above, you can use the LiveChat or Email option on the library's webpage.