



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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June 2020

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

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

STREAMING!

June Focus:

**BE WELL
EVERYONE!**

**Environmental
Focus
Climate
Committee on
Carbon
Footprint
and
Austin Water &
Austin Energy
on Rebates**

Got something for
the newsletter?
Get it in by the 15th
to [newsletter@
windsorpark.info](mailto:newsletter@windsorpark.info)

President's Letter – Sheltering in Place & Reducing Environmental Impacts

By Dan Strub

We are all spending an unusual amount of time at home these days. The AC runs all day, we are washing our hands more often, there is lots of baking and gardening going on, generally running up our utility bills. What can we do to reduce our energy and water usage? What can we do to reduce our carbon footprint and lessen our burden on the climate? Glad you asked.

At the June WPNA meeting, we have invited representatives from Austin Water and Austin Energy to talk to us about what we can do to reduce our usage, as well as what programs they have in place to give us money to make positive changes. We are also going to feature our own Climate Change Committee to tell us about their new carbon footprint model that helps measure our carbon emissions and savings from choosing more environmentally friendly behaviors. Just because we are socially distancing and staying home more does not mean that what we do does not affect the climate, or that there is nothing we can do to make things better.

In May, it was great to hear from AISD Trustees LaTisha Anderson and Arati Singh, and AISD Executive Director of Communications and Outreach at our second online WPNA meeting. They spoke about restarting school in the fall, the search for a new Superintendent, and the equity audit that we passed a resolution in support of. Big thanks to Emily Sawyer for moderating the discussion, which is available to watch on the Windsor Park website, WindsorPark.info.

I am always flattered when our elected officials and folks who have had their plates full in dealing with the disruption take the time to talk to us as a neighborhood, listening to us and answering our questions. I have to think they are willing to talk with us in part because we are a very active and engaged neighborhood. And it does help that we represent several hundred of our neighbors who are members of the Association. Your joining the Neighborhood Association makes all of our voices louder and shows that we want to be involved in what happens to our city, our neighborhood, and our children.

WPNA Schools Committee Update – AISD Equity Audit

The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Schools Committee sent a follow-up email in May to the Austin ISD board of trustees and administration regarding the WPNA's February resolution asking the district for an equity audit. Our position is that the external equity audit should be a top priority, but we worry it's at risk of being overlooked because of the superintendent search and the Covid-19 crisis. In addition to inquiring about the status of any planned or ongoing 3rd party equity audit of the district, we shared our ideas and priorities for some specific areas we would like it to include.

We look forward to sharing more information with the Neighborhood Association, getting input from you all, and deciding whether we should adopt another resolution as a full neighborhood association during our June meeting! If you have questions or ideas, please email schools@windsorpark.info

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR / CLIMATE CORNER COMBINED – Install a Solar Array

Martin Luecke

As part of the WPNA environment focus this month, Meet Your Neighbor meets Climate Corner in this story. The Climate Crisis Committee is working on a Carbon Reduction calculator website and our main goal is to get Windsor Park to reduce its collective carbon footprint. One way: install a solar array.

Once upon a time I was a solar array system installer and worked on many houses around Austin. I have watched the cost of systems drop significantly over the decade as technology has improved. In 2014, my neighbors Gary and Bonnie Lockhart built a 4.5 kWh system on Cloverleaf (Meet Your Neighbor profiled Bonnie three years ago). What caught my attention was the end-of-the-day cost of building a system and the fact that it pays for itself in five to seven years, with a 25-year warranty.

Gary and Bonnie worked with Austin Energy to acquire all the various rebates available from the city, along with the 30% federal tax credit. “It was easy to do” Gary says matter of factly. Six years later, he is extremely happy with his system; it has never given him one problem or required any maintenance. And now, in year seven, it generates income. “It’s money in the bank” Gary smiles. “It’s great.”

A few blocks away on Coventry Lane, Selwyn Polit has similar reports. Selwyn is a website developer and serves on our Climate Crisis Committee. His 4.75 kWh system was installed in 2015. “The first thing you do is weatherize your house.” Most houses need attic insulation upgrades, but weatherization can include A/C ducts and doors and windows. The idea is to improve your house in every way possible to save energy. Solar is just another way of saving energy, and ultimately reducing your carbon footprint.

The Lockharts paid for their system at the time of installation, which garnered them the greatest number of rebates and tax credits. Selwyn opted for a solar loan, which is exactly what it sounds like. He has a 20-year fixed rate of \$72 a month, which included all costs and services involved with weatherizing and system installation, and also had significant rebates from Austin Energy. Selwyn says his electric energy costs have been cut in half and is in fact paying for the loan in savings. He says his only mistake was not getting a better interest rate.

Consumer Reports suggests that you could finance your solar panel purchase with a home equity loan. Because your house serves as collateral you can get low interest rates (currently 3 to 5 percent). There is also a home equity line of credit available, and a new thing called Solar Leasing which requires no money from the homeowner. Consumer Reports advises against leasing because the homeowner can potentially lose control of their roof.

“Every home in Austin is a snowflake and unique” says Marta McDougale when talking about getting rebates for installing solar. Marta works in the Energy Efficiency Services office, also known as the Rebate Department at Austin Energy. “We have rebates for all kinds of things: pool covers, chicken coops, rain catchment” Marta explains. “We provide rebates for upgrades on home performance. For example, we give a 25% rebate for the cost of insulation.” Today Austin Electric’s solar rebate is capped at \$2500. Marta then makes the important point: the city pays 9.7 cents per kWh you produce, which is subtracted from your monthly statement. The question is: how many kWh do you want to produce? Gary and Selwyn both want to add more panels.

Selwyn says he has needed only one maintenance job in five years, but when he was looking at his system readout during our interview, he realized one of his 19 panels is not online and will require some work. The warranty is complicated by the many different electrical parts involved. Some items have 20-25 year warranties but service / labor fees are not covered after five years, although parts will be free. Marta advises to call three companies and go through the bid process to compare systems, warranties, and prices.

One effect of having a solar array is the owner becomes very aware of their energy usage, which naturally makes them conserve energy. Selwyn shows me a four year history graph of energy consumption and production at his house and it’s a testament to the idea of each person being responsible for their carbon footprint. Selwyn has produced 26 Megawatt Hours of energy in that time, and saved more than 38,000 pounds of CO₂, which is equal to not driving 55,000 miles. Our personal reduction of energy use and creation of renewable energy are major parts of dealing with the climate crisis.

Contact me with story ideas: mwluecke@hotmail.com 512.536.0465

2020-2021 Scholarship Recipient – Janelle Robles

The Windsor Park Schools Committee is pleased to announce that Janelle Robles is the recipient of a \$1000 WPNA scholarship for the 2020-21 school year.

Janelle is a senior and soon to be a graduate of Northeast High School. She attended Andrews Elementary for PreK-3rd grade, J.J. Pickle for 3rd-5th and Webb Middle School. Janelle hopes to enroll at the University of Houston this fall and major in Architecture. Janelle participates in community clean-ups, assists her mother at home by taking care of her siblings, competes in art competitions, and has been an active member of Junior ROTC at Northeast. She was elected to the Commanding Officer position for two years in a row, starting as a sophomore, which is not common at that young age. Janelle has completed over 100 hours of community service through ROTC including helping a family in Houston rebuild their home following Hurricane Harvey.

Janelle's teachers described her as "motivated, focused, and filled with integrity." When asked how community involvement has shaped Janelle she said, "Being there to support someone can help them and even yourself. Helping others has shaped me into the kind of person that makes others say good things about me. I want to do the kind of things that will make others think positively about me."

Please join us to celebrate Janelle and her accomplishments at our June neighborhood association meeting. If you're inspired by her story, please consider giving to the WP Scholarship Fund. For more information on how you can contribute, please email schools@windsorpark.info or click on the donate button on our website: <http://www.windsorpark.info/scholarship/>

Harris Elementary School

Harris Elementary staff are excited that this summer they will be getting a new gym floor, new carpet and furniture in the library in addition to 2 new playscapes! New and Improved! Harris is a Dual Language campus and is also proud to be a partner with many community resources, including the Andy Roddick Foundation, Communities in Schools, and the VIDA Clinic. Be sure to register online for the 20-21 school year as projected enrollment is crucial.

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APRIL 2020 Windsor Park Market Statistics

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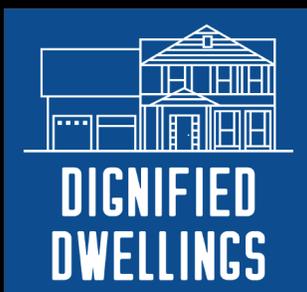
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AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (APRIL 2020) **\$278.36**

OF HOMES SOLD IN (APRIL 2020) **8**

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD **1,752**

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS **7**

ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET **9***
*As of May 14th, 2020 - Single Family Homes

Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

Resolving a WP Mystery

Nathan Sany

“I’ll meet you next to the Blanton kid astronaut mural. You know the one... It’s right there on ____.”
“Waffles sure would hit the spot! I’ll see you at Gossip Shack on ____ later tonight.”

What word is missing? How would you pronounce it when shooting the breeze with a pal?

For me, there is only a short list of Great Windsor Park Mysteries. One mystery pertains to the largest fish to be caught in the creek that runs through Bart Park. Another regards who Windsor is/was. One Great Mystery can be solved with a quick vote from residents of the neighborhood.

You know the lane that runs from Berkman Drive to Springdale Road? Rogge Lane is the one. I’m keen to determine - once and for all - how we should pronounce the word “Rogge”. I’ve had my fair share of debates with neighbors and housemates about this topic. Unfortunately, consensus is hard to come by on this question. Please take seven seconds to visit this link to record how you pronounce Rogge. We will announce the winning pronunciation in a later newsletter or on the WPNA website.

Form: <https://forms.gle/xcjtBW2B7f9E7b1x6>

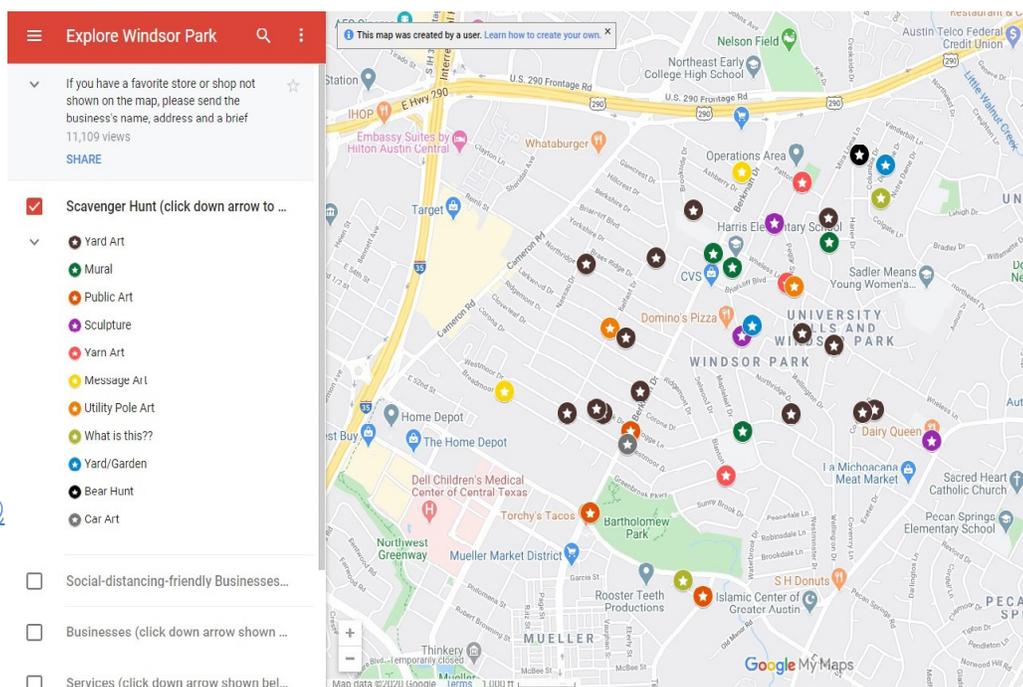
WP Map can help you explore – with social distance intact

Mohan Rao

Health experts continue to recommend being active outdoors for our mental and physical health, as long as we practice appropriate social distancing, of course. It seems like Windsor Park residents have taken this recommendation to heart. It’s been great to see so many families out on walks or riding bicycles. There is now yet another incentive to go out and explore the neighborhood.

On several social media threads, Windsor Park residents have shared their favorite spots in the neighborhood that are fun and interesting. The Revitalization Committee has compiled such spots and has included them in a new map layer called “Scavenger Hunt.” The map layer can be a handy tool for children and adults to explore the neighborhood and is available on our WPNA website, www.windsorpark.info. The map is interactive and has several useful layers.

Another relatively new layer is called “Social-distancing-friendly Businesses” and it shows various nearby businesses such as restaurants and pharmacies that continue to serve the public and have adopted social-distancing measures. Please contact mohan@windsorpark.info if you would like to see a new place or business featured on the map.



Yard of the Month - June 2020

Sara Jane Lee

The June winners are Jennifer and Lily Koppen of 1501 Suffolk Drive.

They were inspired by what they found in magazine articles and by what they saw in their neighbors' yards. They take great pride in their Lemon Tree and their Blackberry bush. The latter has just started to bear fruit. Jennifer loves Lilies and has several varieties; that is why she named her daughter Lily.

They also have many Prickly Pear Cacti. Unlike many planted today, theirs have spines. They also have a Bougainvillea, a Salvia Greggii, Bulbine, a Plumbago, Purple Heart, and a Hibiscus. They also have Mexican Feather Grass and Purple Fountain Grass.

Jennifer advises choosing plants that you love and that are drought tolerant. Fell free to look and look until you find such a plant. She likes the way the different plants complement each other. Mowing and edging take up about two hours a week.

Do not be shy. If you like a certain yard, or more than one, tell us. We cannot visit every yard; we may not have seen your yard, or your neighbor's yard. Feel free to nominate your own yard -people have won that way. 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.

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June 2020 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

As many probably already know, the traffic signals at the intersection of Barbara Jordan & Mueller Boulevard are now operational. There are currently no other plans for signalized intersections within Mueller, though that may change. Once the middle school at Mueller is completed, there may be changes at 51st Street and Tilley that could include a pedestrian signal.

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) is still in the news regarding its downtown leases and existing building. At this time, a Mueller location is still being considered, but TRS has agreed to public input opportunities - not yet scheduled - as part of the negotiations.

Mueller's parks and swimming pools continue to follow the closure and quarantine protocols set forth for City of Austin parks and pools. Mueller Central offices are closed until further notice. Check www.texasfarmersmarket.org/mueller for updates on Mueller's Farmer's Market.

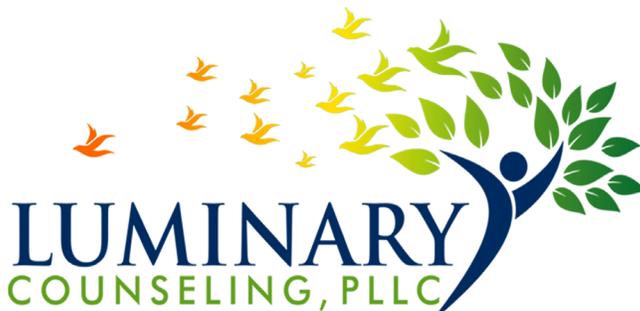
The May 12th Mueller Commission was cancelled due to the Corvid-19 pandemic. At submission time, no date had been set for any future Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission meetings. For most City Boards & Commissions, the City now requires commissioners to participate in virtual meetings from home or office computers using the Webex video-conference software, and online meetings are limited to 90 minutes during regular City business hours. Citizens may participate in meetings via telephone. For RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, visit austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

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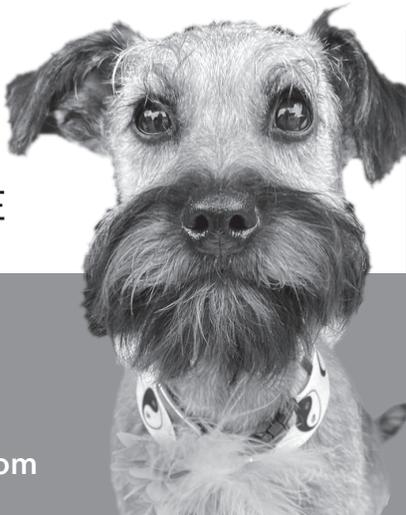
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Windsor Park April 2020 Market Statistics

 \$459,375 <small>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</small>	 \$290.58 <small>AVERAGE PRICE / SQFT</small>	 5 DAYS <small>AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET</small>
 8 <small>NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD</small>	 \$670,000 <small>MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small>	 \$295,000 <small>LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small>

*SINGLE FAMILY HOME STATISTICS COLLECTED FROM AUSTIN BOARD OF REALTORS MLS

We are still in a strong seller's market with even lower inventory than before. Homes are still getting multiple offers (often over asking price), making it a great time to sell. I've implemented a number of policies and tips to help you stay safe while selling.

Buyers are also experiencing a great time because of our record low interest rates, some seeing UNDER 3% for 30 year conventional loans!

I'm always happy to answer any questions, concerns, or fears you might have about your home, the state of the market, or real estate in general. (Or if you're just looking to be distracted, I'm happy to send you more photos of our puppy.)

Asian giant hornets

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

What headline can draw people away from thoughts of the current state of the world and Coronavirus? That would be MURDER HORNETS! I cannot think of a more sensationalized headline, so kudos to whomever came up with that attention grabber. This headline is popping up everywhere and quite frankly, it makes me cringe each time I see it. The correct common name for *Vespa mandarinia* is Asian giant hornet (AGH), NOT “murder” hornets.

Asian giant hornets are capable of inflicting a painful sting. Please note that while the sting can lead to death in some cases, it is not what typically happens. People receive painful stings from insects already here in Texas such as honey bees, paper wasps, yellowjackets, or even fire ants; and some people die from being stung. Death by insect sting usually depends upon the number of stings and how your body chemistry reacts to venom injected by the insect. Asian giant hornets are capable of killing other insects, including honey bees and other pollinators, but they are not doing this to be vicious or killing for sport. The hornets use insects they kill as food for their larvae, just like other wasps we have in Texas.

We do not currently have Asian giant hornets in Texas. If you think you have these wasps, then please send samples or images to me for identification at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

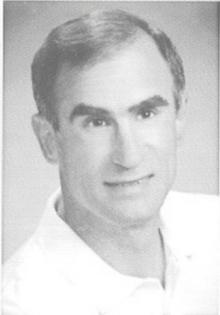
Asian giant hornets are large, around 2 inches in length, with an orangish head, brown antennae with yellow-orange base, brown to black eyes and ocelli (simple, dot-like eyes located between the compound eyes). Their thorax is dark brown with greyish wings and the abdomen has alternating bands of brownish-black and yellow-orange.

Some insects that may be confused with AGH to the untrained eye:

- Paper wasps are reddish brown in color & sometimes have yellow markings on their bodies and are up to 1” long
- Yellowjackets are yellow & black in color and are ½” long
- Cicada killer wasps have a reddish head and thorax with an abdomen that alternates with yellow and black markings; they can reach 1 ½ inch.

FACTS about Asian giant hornets in North America:

1. A colony was found late last year (September 2019) in Nanaimo, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. The colony was located and destroyed.
2. A sighting and dead specimen was found in Washington state in December 2019 in Blaine, WA. This was the first reported sighting of the Asian giant hornet in the U.S.
3. It is currently unknown how the hornets entered the U.S. and genetic testing leads to the conclusion that the hornets found in BC & WA are two separate introductions.
4. Agencies are currently monitoring & trapping with lures to discover any queens or workers. They are talking about attaching radio tracking devices to captured wasps to track them back to their nest.



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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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Library Updates – how your library can support you

A reminder to all, 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.