



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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July 2020

WPNA President's Letter – Join Us, Amplify Your Voice

By Dan Strub

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, July
11th at 10am.**

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

Have you been watching our monthly meetings? If not, you have been missing out. Since we went online in April, we have had our City Council members talk about the City's response to Covid, AISD trustees and staff tell us of AISD's plans for ending the 2020 school year and resuming in the Fall, our Climate Crisis Committee showing us their carbon footprint model, and both Austin Water and Austin Energy talk about things you can do to lower your utility bills and get rebates. We have awarded our annual scholarship and sent a resolution to AISD on equity across the district. All of this good information with complete social distancing! You can watch the meetings live on both our Facebook page and the Windsorpark.info website, and ask questions or provide comments through the Facebook page. You can even watch the meetings after they happened on the webpage. They are still at the same time as the in-person monthly meetings, 10:15 AM of the second Saturday of the month.

We are looking for someone to serve as Treasurer for the Association. Barrett Sundberg has resigned from the position, and we need someone to step in to take his place. If you have experience in simple bookkeeping, are a fast learner, or just are looking for a way to become more involved and help the neighborhood, please email me at president@windsorpark.info.

**July Meeting
Focus:**

**BE WELL
EVERYONE
and SUPPORT
EACH OTHER!**

**Still planning
our speakers
for July**

**Updates will be
posted online
before the
meeting**

I want to leave you with a quick reminder – the year is half done, yet many of you have not joined or renewed your memberships in the Association. Memberships run from January 1 to December 31, and provide the funds to make our organization run and enable us to print this newsletter for you every month.

Membership also makes our voice louder to our elected representatives, making us more effective when we ask for improved schools or amenities such as sidewalks or speak as a neighborhood on issues like racial justice or housing or the future of Austin. Join using the membership form included in this newsletter or online at windsorpark.info/membership and help make our neighborhood and wider community a stronger, better place.

Climate Corner – The Third Degree

Barrett Sundberg

As summer heats up, air conditioning becomes a great comfort but also a significant energy use. Based on articles from energy.gov, each degree warmer or cooler of your thermostat setting can affect your energy use from cooling by 3% or more per day. That's based on average temperatures in USA.

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

What about our southern heat? A study published in ACHR News, the HVAC industry newsletter, examined summer temperatures in Atlanta and concluded that each degree of temperature setting made about 7% difference in energy use – their estimate was 34% improvement by raising the temperature five degrees.

How long would it take to get used to? Guidance by OSHA for workers says that the body takes 5 to 7 days to adjust to heat changes. Try upping your temperature a few degrees this summer – after a week, you might feel more comfortable than ever. Especially because you know you're reducing your AC's carbon impact!

See page 5 for more resources and links for info

Mealybugs

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Mealybugs are pests of landscape plants and houseplants. Outdoors, they are often active during times of warm, dry weather, but can be a problem indoors at any time of year. Infestations usually start at the base of stems and then spread from there as populations increase.

Mealybugs are a type of unarmored scale insect. They are sexually dimorphic, with males and females looking different. Males have wings and can fly while females remain wingless throughout their life. Immature (nymphs) and female mealybugs are oval, soft-bodied and covered with a white waxy powder.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which is used to penetrate plant tissue to suck out juices. Feeding by mealybugs can lead to yellowing or wilting of the plant and distortion of the leaves. With larger infestations, the insects may cause stunted growth, premature leaf drop or plant death. Mealybugs excrete honeydew, which is a sweet, sticky substance on which a fungus called sooty mold can grow. Sooty mold can indirectly harm plants by blocking sunlight from reaching plant surfaces and reducing photosynthesis.



Tips for mealybug management:

- Conserve beneficial insects; there are many insects that feed on or parasitize mealybugs
 - To help conserve beneficial insects, use other methods to manage pests before choosing a pesticide.
- Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge the insects from the plant
- Insecticidal soap
- Horticultural oils
- Other insecticides labeled for mealybug control (look for active ingredients such as azadirachtin, pyrethrum, or pyrethrin). Read and follow all label instructions.
- For severely infested plants, it may be best to throw the plant away and buy a new one

If treating houseplants, move plants outside during treatment then move back inside once treatment has dried.

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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MAY 2020 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (MAY 2020)	\$308.43
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (MAY 2020)	13
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,556
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	11
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	4*

*As of June 13th, 2020 - Single Family Homes

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Meet Your Neighbor - The Bamboo Lady

Martin Luecke

Outside the edge of Windsor Park, just a little past the Bertha Means Middle School, where Bradley Drive turns into Willamette Drive, there is a dry creek crossing with a massive green wall on one side. It's an imposing figure unlike any other place in the '23. And if you stop, like I did, and peer into the green wall, you will see a bamboo forest surrounding a large live oak and a red chair. If you have good timing you might see the Bamboo Lady working the forest.

Her name is Carole Meckes (pronounced Caro-lee Meck-es), born in the Bronx, grew up in Queens, and living on Willamette Drive since 1991. Technically her address is in University Hills, but a neighbor to Windsor Park by about 200 yards. The forest is actually two separate properties, both owned by Carole: one with her house, and the other covered in bamboo. Neighbors say they remember the bamboo forever, and the guess is that someone planted it back in the early 50's. "When we first moved here the bamboo was so thick you couldn't see very far." Carole's late husband Mark, who had already been enchanted with bamboo, stoically cleared out the dead poles, and together they created their bamboo info website: bamboocraft.net, where you can still find growing tips and a bamboo forum to answer all your bamboo questions like "how long do they live?" (answer: 7 years).

Today Carole is wearing her standard bamboo gear: a seasoned green apron, and a tool belt with a pair of 30-year-old Craftsman life-time guarantee pruners in a holster next to a pruning saw hanging from a magnetized holder. As we enter the opening of the forest right next to her driveway, I stop to marvel at the height of the poles, some of which are as tall as the live oak tree. "What I'm doing most of the time is harvesting or grooming the poles that have died out naturally" Carole tells me as she shares different grooming techniques, including the actual removal of a 30-foot pole. There are multiple paths through the forest, and with the late afternoon sunset shining gold on the leaves, the space becomes magical. A few feet away there is a living bamboo structure that looks a bit like an old playground jungle gym, made by a UT design student. "I counted recently and discovered I have 19 species of bamboo here." She points out a bunch of black poles and gives their Latin name. "Bamboo is covered in wax, which makes it waterproof, and impossible to paint. But with a heat gun I melt the wax and make the pole shiny and smooth" as she holds up a finished version from a nearby pile.



In the back yard of her house sits an amazing collection of poles in various heights and colors, available for sale. Some are 40 feet tall. There must be 10,000 cut poles assembled around the property. Most people use them for building garden fences and garden stakes. Some of her clients are making calligraphy pens, smoking pipes, and musical instruments. "My bamboo husband transplanted a lot of species here over the years." It's a stunning sight, with the nearby dry creek bed at least 30 feet below us, the plunging hillside thick with poles. If you strain, you can see Little Walnut Creek sparkling in the distance.

Carole has a day job as the assistant manager of the St. David's Hospital gift shop, but every night after work she wanders out into the forest with her tools. She touches a nearby pole "I can tell by feeling that it grew this year." Upon touching the three-inch-wide pole I detect softness, like baby's skin. "Once you live around bamboo..." she pauses, and I finish her thought "...you get a feel for it." Carole laughs for a bit and confesses "It's my life." Carole is currently president of the Texas Bamboo Society, serves as an American Bamboo Society at-large Director and volunteers at the Zilker Botanical Garden's bamboo grove once a month. You can reach her at BambooCraft.net or BambooBranch.com.

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

Yard of the Month – July 2020

Sara Jane Lee

The July winners are Shauna West and Chris Volloy of 6302 Haney Drive. They have lived on Haney since 2009. They have gotten ideas for their yard from the trails running through Mueller and from other yards in the neighborhood.

Because the yard near their house is shady, the part near the street is sunny and the rest is mixed, they have had the fun of choosing plants for each zone. They have a sidewalk leaving a strip of land near the street and another sidewalk leading to the house. One side of the street sidewalk is Horseherb, the other is planted in Indian Blanket, Silver Ponyfoot and other plants. A variety of plants brightens the narrow beds lining the sidewalk leading to the house

Some of their plants Bee Balm, Plumbago, Delphiniums, Fox Glove, 2 varieties of Rosemary, Columbine, Spicy Jatropha, Indian Blanket, Japanese Aralia, Red Yucca, several varieties of Lantana, Mexica Honeysuckle, and a variety of Lilies including Algerian, Lily of the Nile, Calla Lily, and many Daylilies. They also have Purple Fountain Grass and Spear Grass. In the middle of their yard they have two small Crape Myrtles, one white, the other watermelon pink. Both have blue-black purple foliage with hints of red.

Chris loves the way the Purple Fountain Grass sways in the wind and Shauna loves the flowers in the beds by the sidewalk. They have worked on the yard since they moved in. Some things have worked, some have not. Each season they tweak it. Using hardwood mulch cuts down on their water usage. Chris, a welder, fixed the old metal edging that outlines the beds. He also made their mail box.

Shauna and Chris will receive a \$50 Gift Certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery, our long-time sponsor for Yard of the Month.

Do not be shy; if you like a certain yard or more than one, tell us. We may not have seen your yard, or your neighbor's yard. Feel free to nominate your own yard! 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.



Library Resources for the Summer

Dana Newlove

Your library has services for you. The Austin Public Library is still doing Curbside Service only. You can place up to 7 holds on physical items and, when they are ready, pick them up at the Windsor Park Branch (the Carver and University Hills branches are also doing Curbside Service). You can place holds using your account on the APL website, or you can call your local branch and ask them to place holds for you. All of the online resources are still available to Austin Public Library Cardholders. If you are a resident of the City, you can attain a card on the APL website: library.austintexas.gov.

The Summer Reading Program is happening, but it's online only. There are age-specific activities for children (0-5), youth (5-12), teens (13-18), and adults. Complete "Quests" and "Challenges" to earn virtual badges sent by email. Teens can vote on which Challenge the librarians will have to perform at the end of summer (some choices: Dye Hair; Pie to the Face; Spicy/Weird Food Challenge). The winning challenge will be performed on video and posted to APL+. Find the Summer Reading Program at <http://austinsummerreading.org/>

APL+ is an online collection of videos produced by library staff and posted on the APL website. There is content for all ages, including book talks, quizzes, story times, writing prompts, zine making, etc. APL also has a COVID-19 resource page that includes general information, financial resources, a job portal that provides numerous resources for those needing employment, and more. If you have any questions, you can call your local branch or the reference department at Central (512-974-7400). You can also "chat with a librarian" by selecting "ask us" on the APL website.

Climate Corner Extras – July 2020

Barret Sundberg

Calculating the exact impact of each degree of temperature setting for air conditioning depends on many factors, according to ACHR News (none of which I pretend to understand) – "conductive heat gains, infiltration, radiant gains, internal gains and latent load." However, they conclude that raising the temperature setting is "easy to do, requires no investment, and the savings can be significant." They note that where many sources estimate savings at 1% to 3% per degree, those sources are usually based on heating costs; savings for air conditioning can be much greater.

<https://www.achrnews.com/articles/94014-set-up-a-few-degrees-for-significant-savings>

The US Energy Dept advises also that it is helpful to install a programmable thermostat, especially if you have periods when you are away from home for 8 hours. Raising the temperature setting another 10 degrees when you're gone but having it cool down when you expect to return can save another 10%.

The smaller the difference between your home's temperature and the outside, the lower your cooling bill (and carbon impact). <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/thermostats>

Other fun sites found while researching:

Physics professor who ran his own tests, concluded that running AC used to 5 to 20 times as much energy as the rest of his house

<https://dothemath.ucsd.edu/2012/09/rocking-the-ac/>

HVAC contractor's site says not to micromanage the temp when you're home:

<https://mspplumbingheatingair.com/blog/3-dumb-things-you-do-with-your-thermostat-that-cost-you-money>

OSHA site that gave timeline for the body's acclimatizing to heat changes:

https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/acclimatizing_workers.html#:~:text=Much%20of%20this%20adjustment%20to,the%20body%20to%20fully%20acclimatize.





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July 2020 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Some of Mueller’s public amenities like the park restrooms, picnic tables, sports courts and dog run are open, though that may change with little notice, and precautionary pandemic behavior is strongly advised. The splash pad and playscapes remain closed. At this time, Mueller’s pools are open only to Mueller residents.

The steps along the western edge of Lake Park lake will undergo about six weeks of repair work, starting in early July. The portion of Mueller Center Drive between the offices and the lake will be closed for some portion of that time.

For various reasons, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas has put a hold on their project for a new headquarters at 51st Street and Berkman, but construction has not slowed at Mueller.

The 120-room, 5-story Origin Hotel is expected to break ground by July 1st across the Aldrich Street Paseo from B.D. Riley’s Irish Pub and next door to the Thinkery. Mueller’s first boutique hotel, designed by renowned San Antonio architects Lake Flato, will have about 7,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission does not meet in July. At submission time, no meeting dates were set for August or beyond. The City currently holds virtual board & commission meetings of no more than 90-minutes, and held during regular City business hours so the City’s IT staff can provide tech support for them. Citizens may address the commission via telephone. For information on participation or how to view meetings, visit the Board & Commissions section under the Government tab and AustinTexas.gov. For RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, visit austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

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Windsor Park May 2020 Market Statistics

 \$461,646 <small>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</small>	 \$301.80 <small>AVERAGE PRICE / SQFT</small>	 11 <small>DAYS</small> <small>AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET</small>
 12 <small>NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD</small>	 <small>MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small> \$590,250	 \$313,500 <small>LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small>

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

Austin’s real estate market continues to hold strong during COVID-19. Sellers are still experiencing multiple offers and quick sales. Buyers are experiencing record low interest rates, some seeing UNDER 3% on 30 year conventional loans!

If you haven’t looked into refinancing your current loan, my preferred lender would be happy to run some numbers for you. You can really come out ahead, especially if you have the equity to remove mortgage insurance.

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.)

WPNA Scholarship Spotlight: Emilio Vargas

The Schools Committee has been following up with past scholarship recipients to hear about their accomplishments and to offer support in the face of Covid-19. This month we are highlighting **Emilio Vargas**, a Northeast HS student who was one of our very first scholarship recipients in 2015. We were elated to find out that not only has he finished his undergraduate degree, but he's currently pursuing his master's in criminal justice at Texas State University.

Like so many of the students who apply for the Windsor Park Neighborhood Scholarship, Emilio is working 40 hours a week while he's in school, a balance he admits is challenging to maintain. He was grateful to hear from us saying, "The best thing I can think of that would help me through this difficult time would just be words of encouragement."

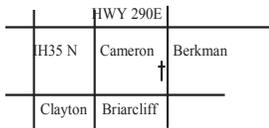
We plan to offer Emilio, and other past scholarship recipients who are still in school, an additional scholarship for the fall 2020 semester.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION MATCH: If you can donate to the scholarship fund, now is the time! The Schools Committee is offering to match the first \$725 we receive. Not only will funds raised now allow us to offer these one-time additional scholarships during such unprecedented times, but they will help set us up for the 2021 school year. To donate, visit www.windsorpark.info/fundraising and click «Donate» on the right side under «Scholarships».

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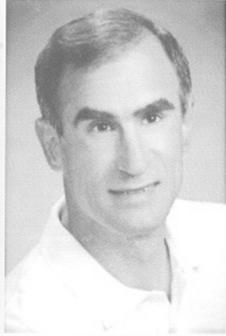


6100 Berkman Drive



Sunday School- 9:15am Worship - 10:30am
Office # 452-5796

We would love to see you this Sunday
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encouragement and discover God's plan for you.



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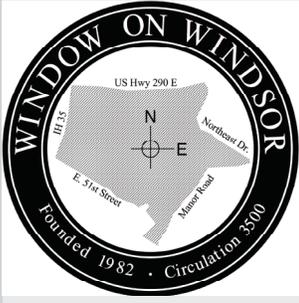


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WPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM - CUT OUT AND SEND IN

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

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NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT GOES BOTH WAYS

Please support & enjoy your local businesses as we navigate together the impacts of Covid-19

Visit the WPNA Map on our website and select layers for businesses or services for you in our neighborhood:

<http://www.windsorpark.info/>

Students and families - please keep in touch with AISD and your local schools for services and support throughout the summer

<https://www.austinsisd.org/covid19>

Families may call the Family Support line at 512-414-9187. You can also send a Let's Talk! text to (512) 886-6434.

Las familias pueden llamar a la linea de apoyo familiar al (512) 414-9187; también se puede enviar un mensaje de texto al (512) 886-6434.

Resources for anyone:

- <https://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/food-assistance/get-food-now>
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/neighborhood-assistance-center>
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/neighborhood-centers>
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/austin-city-council>

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