



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Letter from the President

By Dan Strub

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, Aug
15th**

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

If you missed the July monthly meeting, you missed a good one. We had Kendra Garrett from Austin Justice Coalition speak about their work for greater racial equity in Austin. Part of that is restructuring what APD does by taking some calls that they current respond to and giving them to more appropriate service providers, like mental health and homeless calls. She also talked about a tool that they created to gather community input on the City budget, starting with the current budget and reallocating those funds where citizens think they would be better spent. The results of that tool will be shared with City Council for the 2021 budget. Finally, Kendra spoke about the need for equity within AISD, starting with the search for the new superintendent and including a reassessment of AISD police funding and policies.

We also had Chandra Villanueva of Every Texan talk with us about the current school funding from the State. I was surprised that she supported the State's move to replace State funding for the end of the last school year with federal funds designated to help schools with the extra costs incurred by the Covid-19 shutdown. Chandra explained that the move would put the State in a better position to fund the schools for the 2020-2021 school year, because State revenues are down from the Covid shutdown and the drop in oil prices. Funding the 2020-2021 school year will still be difficult, as will the next biennial State budget to be set by the Legislature next Spring.

If you missed the meeting but want to watch it, you can find the video on our WindsorPark.info website.

**Aug Meeting
Focus:
BE WELL
EVERYONE
and SUPPORT
EACH OTHER!**

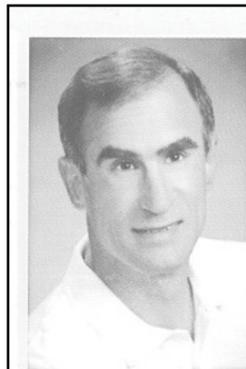
The August meeting will also offer valuable information to Windsor Parkers. We will have a panel of folks with experience in working with people who are homeless or are having mental health challenges. They will talk with us about ways to help without calling the police. We will also have Gary Gemar and Jill Fagan from the Austin Transportation Department bring us up to date on the East 51st Mobility Project, telling us the proposed design and schedule for improvements along 51st Street from Manor Rd to I-35. Join us at 10:15 AM on August 8 on the WindsorPark.info website, or on the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Facebook page.

**Panel Discus-
sion on mental
health and
responses to
homeless needs**

And finally, by the time you read this Belfast Dr/Glenwood Dr from Cameron to Broadmoor will have been made into a Healthy Street, part of a City initiative to pilot selected roads to encourage greater and safer bicycle and pedestrian use. The road will be partially blocked with temporary barriers, barrels, and cones and closed to through traffic. Local traffic, emergency vehicles, and services can still use the road to access addresses on those streets. The City is going to continue to evaluate the program as streets are added, including considering feedback from the public. You can tell the City what you think about current Healthy Streets at this website: <http://austintexas.gov/HealthyStreets>

**Austin
Transportation
East 51st Street
Molbility**

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



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Scholarship Spotlight: Olivia Isabella Hansen

Alice Graulty

Last month we featured our very first scholarship recipient, Emilio from 2015. This month we want to tell you about a 2017 scholarship recipient, Olivia Isabella Hansen, who grew up on Corona Drive. Three years ago, after receiving the Windsor Park Scholarship, Olivia left Austin for Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where she has now just finished her junior year and is studying human biology with a minor in studio art. Olivia stays really, really busy: One of her jobs is as a lab researcher at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. When school is in session, she's also a supervisor for her school's fundraising call center and works as a sports medicine assistant for the football team.

Did you do a double take when you read "infectious disease" above? Me too. What a crazy time to be studying and working in that field. Olivia plans to pursue an MD/PhD in virology or immunology, with thoughts of, one day, practicing academic medicine or returning to the National Institutes of Health as a higher-level researcher.

Of the impact the WP scholarship has had on her, she says, "It's very meaningful to have the neighborhood that I quite literally spent my entire life in assist me in that way." Olivia has taken on a lot of debt and knows that before she's finished, she'll have to take on more. "I've had to take out nearly the entire cost of my education (minus my school's financial aid) after freshman year in federal and private student loans. While this is daunting, I'm reassuring myself with the knowledge that I am entering a very secure field of work that will enable me to handle that debt..." We will, indeed, need experts like Olivia in the field of virology and immunology, more than ever.

Help us give Olivia and other former Windsor Park Scholarship recipients an additional scholarship for the fall. See page 7 for more info. Please donate now! www.windsorpark.info/scholarship

New Principal for Harris Elementary

Mrs. Zoila Cardenas has been appointed by the Austin ISD Board of Trustees as the new principal of Harris Elementary School. Mrs. Cardenas previously served as an assistant principal at Wooten Elementary and Pecan Springs Elementary in Austin Independent School District. She has ten years of experience as a bilingual elementary teacher. Mrs. Cardenas earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a focus on Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas State University in San Marcos, a Master's Degree in Spanish Language and Culture from the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Lamar University in Beaumont.

Mrs. Cardenas believes in a team approach to leadership, and is a strong proponent of building trust and community by using clear, consistent communication, as well as through welcoming parents and community to be an integral part of the school and is looking forward to working with the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association.

Watch her Welcome videos here:

Spanish:

https://youtu.be/Vv_1ra97eVk

English:

<https://youtu.be/o8wjk6hKUsI>

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[Meet Your Neighbor, continued from page 5]

“Travis County Fire Control Headquarters, 1962-1983.” My former boss had told me many stories of the old days of being a first responder, when Travis County did not have a fire department.

As a senior in college Lee was the organizer, creator and Fire Chief of the volunteer fire department, initially made up of his younger brothers and a handful of other teenagers. They built their own “quick response trucks” and had old hand me down equipment. They fought a lot of grass fires. Lee says the Sheriff’s office would call his house whenever there was a fire reported out in the county. “The CB radio would announce a fire, and all the volunteers would jump in their cars and meet us at the site.” He was dispatching and responding from his house on Reinli, at that time on the edge of Austin. “This is back when there were few highways, no speedy roads in the county. You had to memorize the best ways to get places.” Today Lee is Fire Chief Emeritus of the Travis County Fire Control Organization, a one-of-a-kind honor.

Lee is one of those people we owe a debt of gratitude, and I thank him. Lee actually knew the pulse and people of old Austin, by first name, and has contributed in many ways to Austin’s safety and spirit. Look for Lee the next time you vote; he will be wearing his Fire Chief’s cap. Thanks to Steve Spear for suggesting this story. If you have a great neighbor who is doing something of note, contact me: mwluecke@hotmail.com; 512.536.0465

Music Together Online
Early childhood music and movement classes - now enrolling!



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Garden Guide – Brave the heat to prepare for Autumn’s bounties

William Glenn

It is tough to get motivated to work in the garden when it is so hot. Some easy preparations now, though, can yield tremendous results in a few weeks. Grow some produce: It’s a wonderful thing to grow your own food, and it also allows you time to literally be grounded. Gardening has health benefits, and get us out of the dang house for a bit. A quick read on “Ecotherapy” or *Shinrin yoku* (“forest bathing”) supports that when you’re in nature, your heart rate slows, your cortisol levels drop, and you will simply feel better! Clear weeds, and prepare compost-rich beds now for veggies. You can start seeds indoors, and transplant them outside in September. Consider selecting a new fruit tree to plant soon. Finally, consider butterflies, birds and bees will be looking for a nectar-rich flower to power their journeys. A shallow dish of muddy water will be appreciated too. At our great local garden centers, they’ll have a whole suite of pollinizer-plants like Milkweed, Mistflower, Lantana and more. See you in the garden!



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Windsor Park June 2020 Market Statistics

 \$451,636 <small>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</small>	 \$302.98 <small>AVERAGE PRICE / SQFT</small>	 12 DAYS <small>AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET</small>
 19 <small>NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD</small>	 \$585,000 <small>MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small>	 \$315,000 <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.)

Yard of the Month – Aug 2020

Sara Jane Lee

The August winners are Lotta Smagula and Amanda Rose of 6203 Linda Lane. They have lived on Linda Lane since 1998 and are members of WPNA. They have gotten many ideas for their yard from the local “Grow Green” booklet and from other yards in the neighborhood. It is easy to find their house number; it is on their mail box, the porch railing and Texas shaped plaque in the front yard.

They have several trees in their front yard. When they moved in, they inherited the Chinese Tallow and the Crepe Myrtles. They added the Mexican Plum, a birthday present from Lotta to Amanda. Initially, they planted a cactus garden to be low maintenance and sun proof. Their neighbor gave them a Prickly Pear Cactus and Century Plant Agave. They bought Red Yucca and Parry’s Agave. Later, they have added more color and variety to their yard. Around the Chinese Tallow they have Mexican Feather Grass, Cedar Sage and a Salvia. Indigo Spires Salvia surrounds the mail box. Near the house they have Ti plants, Knock Out Roses and Hot Lips Sage.

Lotta and Amanda change plants as they go along, getting rid of the unsuccessful ones or the ones that they no longer like. Recently Lotta spent about two weeks reclaiming the front beds from weeds and laying down a weed barrier adding and removing some plants. Now it takes them about two hours a week to weed and water it. Most of their plants are drought-tolerant and they mulch well.

Lotta and Amanda will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 Hancock Drive.

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; 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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Meet Your Neighbor - Lee Basore

Martin Luecke



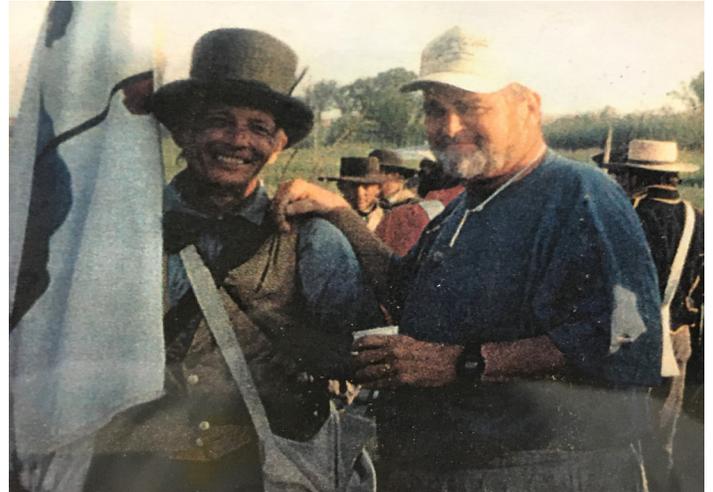
Next time you're heading west on Reinli street, look to your left just before the Earthshaker Church parking lot and you will see the last house before hitting the Interstate. Inside dwells a true native Austinite and the longest tenure of homeownership in Windsor Park.

Lee Basore was born in the original Seton Maternity Hospital 80 years ago, where everyone was born in those days. His parents bought the Reinli house, surrounded by many acres, in 1948 - six years before the start of Windsor Park. Lee earned Eagle Scout at 16, later graduated UT, and became a commercial artist, which he says is a graphic designer these days. But a funny thing happened to Lee in his senior year at UT: a local election judge asked for help with checking voter information at the next election. Lee agreed to help and began his volunteer election official work for Travis County in 1962, which he is still doing. That's 58 years of insuring democracy in Windsor Park and Travis County. In 2019, Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir awarded Lee the "Champion of Democracy" gold medallion. "I worked the March election this year, but now it's different" Lee says somewhat dejectedly. Lee's house has many red white and blue decorations – a testament to his civic pride and engagement.

"I'm a student of history" he says, pointing at photos of himself carrying the historically correct flag of the Battle of San Jacinto, which he made based upon personal letters he discovered researching a book he was writing but never finished. Lee became involved with the Texas Independence historical re-enactment group in 1985 and over the next decade appeared in several Hollywood movies, always carrying the flag. Over the years Lee has made many of the flags of the

Texas war for independence; five are hanging in the museums at Gonzales, Goliad and Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Lee's expertise was often revealed on the set when filmmakers needed important details to make their movies authentic. I recognize Sam Elliott in an on-location photo from the film "Two for Texas". "We were discussing the scene where Sam Houston's horse is shot out from under him and he was wounded." Lee's love for Texas history is also



evident in the artwork he created for commemorative event cover envelopes featuring the Texas Independence postal stamp.

Lee and I know some of the same people from old time Austin, including former Constable Mike Simpson and my old boss who used to run Capitol Ambulance in those days. We both knew the exact same story about the 1966 UT tower shooting and the death of Billy Speed, the first policeman on the scene. We got on that subject because at Lee's front door is a sign that says [continued on page 3]



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August 2020 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Due to the increasing spread of Covid-19 and following the City of Austin's lead, Mueller's park facilities, including the pools at Ella Wooten and John Gaines, will remain closed. The City has not yet provided a date when these facilities will re-open.

Work continues on the coming Jessie Andrews Park, bordered by Philomena, Eberly & Robert Browning streets near the Austin Film Studios, and named for the first woman to graduate and to teach at the University of Texas at Austin. It will feature Mueller's newest public art sculpture, "Ocho," a large metal octopus designed by nationally renowned Dixie Friend Gay, who created the metal spider sculpture and the mosaic Nessy sculpture in other Mueller parks. Inspired by creature movies like "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" and "Mysterious Island," Ocho's head is 12 feet tall and has some tentacles about 20 feet long. It will top the park's restroom building and is made of forged metal and hard-coated sculptural foam, with color-shift paint that mimics an octopus' color-changing skin. The park is anticipated to be completed late this year.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission currently meets online during business hours with support from the City's IT staff. At submission time, no meeting dates were set for August or beyond. For information on how to view meetings or to address commissioners via telephone, call 512-974-2499 or 912-974-2210 in advance, or visit the Board & Commissions section under Government at AustinTexas.gov. RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, are available at austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

Cicada Killer Wasps

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program

Cicada killer wasps are very large wasps reaching up to 1 1/2 inches long and can be somewhat frightening if you see them flying about your lawn. These wasps have a reddish-brown head and thorax, a black and yellow abdomen, and wings with a rusty tinge. Females are capable of stinging but are rarely aggressive. Males are territorial - they will buzz near you if you enter their territory and will ignore you once you leave their area.

Please note that cicada killer wasps are often mistaken for Asian giant hornets (AGH), also referred to as "murder hornets". AGH have not been found in Texas and have only been located in Washington state within the U.S.

Cicada killers can be considered beneficial insects since they help to control cicada populations. Cicadas are stung and paralyzed by female cicada killer wasps, then carried back to a burrow dug in the ground. The female wasp pulls the cicada into the burrow where it has an egg deposited upon it. When the egg hatches, the cicada killer larva eats the cicada(s) provided.

Cicada killer wasps usually do not warrant any control methods. If people are uncomfortable with large wasps flying over their lawn or do not like the holes caused by the wasps, then insecticidal dust can be sprinkled around the opening of the burrow. Tamp the dust around the opening with your shoe. As the wasps work on cleaning the entrance to the burrow, they will pick up the dust and eventually die. For more info, check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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JUNE 2020 Windsor Park Market Statistics

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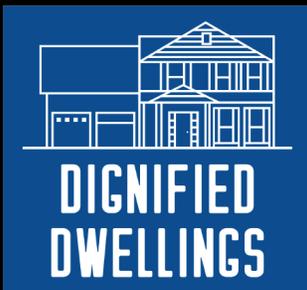
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AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (JUNE 2020)	\$302.98
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (JUNE 2020)	19
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,524
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	12
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	2*

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

Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

CLIMATE CORNER - The High Cost of Meat

Martin Luecke

The cost of a pound of meat can range from \$1 for chicken and up to \$100 for certain steaks. But there are hidden costs including methane and CO² production and use of grain as feed. The meat industry says the average pound of beef requires almost 5 pounds of corn, and research shows each pound of beef creates 22 pounds of CO².

Data from several years ago shows the US meat industry creates 500 billion pounds of CO² per year, with 385 billion pounds of methane. As the planet heats, giant bubbles of the gas are also being released in the Arctic circle because of permafrost melt. It's methane that is our real problem for climate impact because its 10 times more harmful than CO². Methane is a multiplier in the greenhouse gas equation, and therefore much more dangerous because it is exponentially speeding up the heating of the planet.

In America we are currently using 70 percent of our grain to feed livestock. As my friend who runs a vegan restaurant said: "America could feed the world with what we produce if we just stopped eating meat." It's a salient point considering the massive amount of resources dedicated to the meat industry including oil-based fertilizer to grow feed, diesel powered farm equipment to plant and harvest and fuel for long distance transportation of cattle.

One action we can take is to reduce our meat consumption. There are plant-based products in our grocery stores that are very meaty tasting and could easily replace three meat meals a week in your household. The goal should be to reduce our meat consumption over time, be open minded to trying new things, and to vote with our pocketbooks.

You, dear reader, can test this theory by visiting our new Facebook page: Windsor Park Carbon Shrinker. The Climate Change Committee has built a google docs spreadsheet where you choose from ten options of carbon reduction, input the action, and the spreadsheet adds up the reduction. Just click on the top post which contains the link to the spreadsheet. Then add your name and line of information for each of the categories you can reduce and watch as the entire neighborhood participates in reducing our entire carbon footprint. A more plant-based diet will change our collective footprint dramatically. And you can start TODAY!

SCHOOLS COMMITTEE UPDATE – Aug 2020

Emily Vitris

The Schools Committee is thrilled to announce that following our June WPNA meeting, we were able to raise almost **\$650 for our neighborhood scholarship fund!**

The members of the Schools Committee are eager to make a matching gift and are willing to match up to \$725. It's not too late to give! If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, you can submit your donation through our website: www.windsorpark.info/scholarship or you can mail your donation to WPNA, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761. Be sure to indicate that your donation is for the scholarship fund.

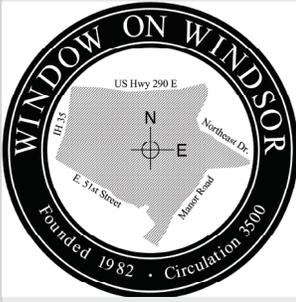
If you would like to learn more about the committee's most recent letter to the AISD Trustees and Superintendent Cruz regarding the equity audit, you can find the document here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ey8mD3P3_FKyk4BCxzSmaHXsAsUvLw2wTrmEz9Z0Z2g/edit

The Schools Committee is also excited to announce a recent effort to support former scholarship recipients. **For previous scholarship recipients who are enrolled in college this fall, we are offering an additional \$500 scholarship upon proof of enrollment.** We are thrilled that the neighborhood's continued support of the scholarship fund has provided an opportunity for us to show these students we care.

Would you like to show you care? Consider joining us for our next Schools Committee meeting on August 12 via Zoom. Email emily@windsorpark.info for more details.

Also, see below for advocacy groups focused on AISD NE Austin schools:

- East Austin Coalition for Quality Schools (<https://www.facebook.com/EastATXCoalition/>)
- Reframe the Game (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/reframethegame/?ref=share>)
- East Austin Schools Manifesto Coalition (<https://www.facebook.com/EastAustinSchoolsManifestoCoalition/>)
- Austin Justice Coalition (<https://www.facebook.com/austinjusticecoalition/>)
- Integrated Schools Austin (<https://www.facebook.com/integrationschoolsaustin/>)
- UT Institute for Urban Policy & Research (<https://m.facebook.com/IUPRA/>)
- Save Austin Schools (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2460186314212062/?ref=share>)



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Make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:
 WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761
 Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!

Library Resources

The Austin Public Library continues to provide Curbside Service at some branches in our region: Windsor Park, University Hills, and Carver. You can place up to 7 holds using the APL website, or you can call your local branch and ask them to place holds for you. If your card has expired, you can renew it online. Books borrowed before the libraries closed can now be returned at the book drops. Check library.austintexas.gov for current information.

The library is not issuing NEW full-service library cards at present. Austin residents can obtain a free E-card on the APL website. You can access many online resources using your E-card.

The Summer Reading program is in full-swing online. The Summer Reading book giveaway for kids has also started; check with your local branch for how to get a book for your kiddos. The Library 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 email or “chat” with a librarian online by selecting “ask us” on the website.

WPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM - CUT OUT AND SEND IN

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