



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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

Vol XXXIX No.12

Dec 2020

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, Dec-
12th**

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

**Dec Meeting
Focus:
Membership
Drive
and
Volunteer
Appreciation**

**Best wishes-
for a safe and
happy holiday
season**

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

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

Letter from the President

Dan Strub

Sometimes I look around and am just amazed. Our little neighborhood association has so many people putting in long hours just because they believe that it makes our neighborhood a better place. I see my fellow officers, doing the daily routine things that make the association run. There are our new officers, stepping up to continue to move things forward. I see Amanda Rose, orchestrating the Window on Windsor every month. There's Meghan Dougherty, recruiting new sponsors to allow us to get this newsletter into your hands. Meg Brooks, who returned to be our interim Treasurer after doing it for so long and thinking that she could take a breather.

We have the committee chairs who do the on the ground work, bringing projects and new ways to better Windsor Park – Jeanette Swenson of Parks, Emily Vitris of Schools, Mohan Rao of Revitalization, Hector Martell of Transportation, Martin Luecke and Barrett Sundberg of Climate Crisis, Rodney Ahart of Beautification, Sara Jane Lee of the Yard of the Month, and Nadia Khan of Friends of Tannehill Branch. Of course, all of these folks are supported by the people who are on their committees, sharing the load, providing ideas, making things happen.

Then there are those who work quietly behind the scenes. We have a legion of newsletter deliverers, walking to your door every month to bring you the news. Mark Boyden, who hosts our webpage and moderates our list serve. Alex Wenckus, who is our webmaster, keeping our postings up to date. Chandler Brooks, who has been running the live streaming of our meetings so we could continue during this long COVID-19 shutdown. We have people like Rick Krivoniak and Gloria Neunaber who have given their effort, advice, and expertise for decades. Even the folks who have been watching our meetings, and attending before that, giving feedback and continuing the conversations that our meetings are supposed to start – your participation helps all of us get to a better place.

We have support from the community as well. Memorial United Methodist Church has hosted our meetings for years. Austin Mennonite Church has held the pancake breakfast fundraiser for our scholarship funds. Hope Lutheran Church has lent us meeting rooms for our executive committee meetings and retreats. There are our sponsors who believe that there is value in our efforts, and in our community. We have had a multitude of people who have come to speak at our meetings, including politicians, developers, public servants, non-profits, and plain citizens, because they think that we are an important audience.

So many people helping out in their own ways that I cannot hope to remember them all. Thank you all. Places with such a strong sense of community are rare, and I am thankful to be able to be part of it.

Do you think these efforts are worth supporting? Have you benefitted from the library, the playground sun shade or new pool at Bartholomew Park? Do you like the neighborhood sign at 51st and Berkman? Are you looking forward to the new Pomerleau Park? Do you want a say in the redevelopment of Windsor Village, or a potential bridge over Tannehill Branch creek? Become a member or renew your membership for 2021. The membership application is in this newsletter, or you can do it online at Windsorpark.info, or you can renew at our upcoming December meeting. There are so many ways to help. It only takes willingness to give a little time to making Windsor Park a better place.

A note of thanks and remembrance for our longtime neighbor and key member of the newsletter distribution team, Harold "Hal" Rutz who passed away Nov 17th. He will be missed by all who knew him and for all his contributions to Windsor Park. We extend our sympathies to his family.

Climate Corner – New National Era?

Barrett Sundberg

Since its climate resolution last year, WPNA has kept an eye on national legislation related to climate, to keep its pledge of seeking positive action from legislators and keeping neighbors informed about key items that individuals can ask for. Under a Biden administration, what climate moves are likely to occur, and what legislation if any is lined up?

According to Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AL), chair of the Senate Energy Committee, and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), member of the Senate Climate Solutions Caucus, the likeliest moves are executive orders such as rescinding orders by President Trump that weakened regulations on polluters, reduced efficiency standards for automobiles and appliances, and opened federal lands to oil and gas extraction. Another likely presidential option is to rejoin the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Based on an article in Greentech Media which interviewed both Senators, two key avenues of legislation are also possible even if Republicans do, as expected, control the Senate 2021-2022.

Bipartisan support already exists, Murkowski says, for increased R&D spending to develop better energy technology to balance the electrical grid as it scales up renewables use. Similar support is also there for investing in transmission capacity that is needed to bring wind and solar into existing grids. These are relatively “realistic” asks that neighbors can urge our Senators and Congressman to support. The Climate Committee plans to advocate for these directly, but additional messages from each neighbor increase the impact. Please visit <http://www.windsorpark.info> where we will provide links to contact your senators and congressman.

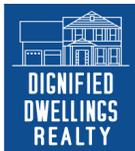
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OCT 2020 Windsor Park Market Statistics

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AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (OCT 2020)	\$302.48
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (OCT 2020)	12
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,647
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	11
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	6*
*As of Nov 13th, 2020 - Single Family Homes	

Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

Mueller Update- December 2020

Rick Krivoniak

A report on Mueller's affordable housing program was on the agenda for November's Commission meeting. The program is still very successful, though the pandemic has had an impact. A few families have required some financial assistance, and it's anticipated more may need help in early 2021. Fortunately, the Mueller Foundation is capable of providing that assistance. Besides three tax-credit apartment projects where all but a few units are affordable, most other apartment complexes at Mueller have at least 10% of their units available for tenants that qualify under the affordable program, with incomes at or below 60% of Austin's Median Family Income.

For a family of four in Austin, current MFI is \$58,550, and \$41,000 for one person. Habitat for Humanity has a row of homes nearing completion across from the new Jesse Andrews Park, and as a new section of Mueller opens, a number of new affordable row homes, garden homes and condominiums will be built. Homes in the affordable program are priced well below market value, selling in the high \$100,000s to low \$200,000s for those at or below 80% of MFI, or \$78,100 for a family of four, or \$62,500 for two person household.

One of Austin's best sushi restaurants, Kyoten Sushiko closed earlier this year, but chef Michael Che will soon open a new contender in the category. Che plans to open omakase sushi restaurant Tsuke Edomae in the same Mosaic at Mueller space at 4600 Mueller Blvd. #1035 in March.

Due to the pandemic, Mueller's NOEL Tower lighting event was held virtually on Saturday, November 26th this year, a bit earlier than usual. Following the City of Austin's protocol, the play, exercise and sports facilities at Mueller's parks have opened with notices to follow COVID-19 precautions. Mueller's pools have closed for the season, but are anticipated to open to the public for Memorial Day 2021.

The Mueller Commission will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future. <http://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac>

WPNA Schools Committee: How we can support our local middle schools

Shaleiah Fox & Alice Grauly

For the second month in a row, the Schools Committee highlights impactful and achievable ways you can support your neighborhood public schools. For December we focus on the middle schools in our neighborhood: Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy, Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy, and Webb Middle School. Stay tuned for features on High Schools in January!

Joining a school's **PTA** or **Campus Advisory Committee (CAC)** is one of the best ways to be involved and make a difference. Both organizations are open to anyone in the community, including residents and business leaders (even if you don't have a child at the school). PTA membership dues are a critical way you can give to a school. **To join a school's PTA get in touch with the school contacts listed below.** Community engagement is a predictor of better student outcomes and stronger schools. Get involved today!

Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy at 6405 N. Hampton Drive, is located on the border of University Hills and Windsor Park and is open to all female students in the Austin Independent School District. Sadler Means is an all-girls academy that offers a world of opportunities—from arts and athletics to science and engineering—to help students achieve their greatest potential.

- **Donate to "Must Be Present to Win" Campaign:** For Giving Tuesday (Dec. 1) and through the end of the year, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Sadler Means YWLA Attendance Incentives Campaign. They are actively

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- working to contact families, identify barriers to attendance, and devise ways to ensure our students are present. Your donation will help underwrite incentives to promote attendance. To donate visit our livingtree campaign: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfpkhte>
 - **Help with the Garden:** The Sadler Means Campus Beautification Committee recently cleared flower beds and planted greenery. Thank you, Home Depot in Mueller, for helping kick off the efforts. Sadler Means has gardening tools and volunteers, but **still need mulch, pea gravel, and plants (part-sun-part-shade tolerant, drought tolerant).**
- To get involved and learn more, please contact Dr. Rosalind Oliphant at rosalind.oliphant@austinisd.org.

Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy at 7414 Johnny Morris Rd sits at the top of a hill down the street from the Austin Tennis Center. Gus Garcia is an all-boys academy open to any male students in AISD. Rigorous academic coursework provides the foundation for success and leadership skills in high school, college and career, while enrichment programs in fine arts, athletics and career & technology help develop awareness and empathy in a changing world.

- **Spread the Word:** Get to know Gus Garcia so you can do the essential work of sharing with neighbors all it has to offer. Gus Garcia prepares young men for college, career, and life with the whole child in mind. They offer courses in health science, computer science, and career and technical education (like engineering and robotics!) as well as dual language.
- **Follow Gus Garcia on Social Media:** @gusgarciaymla (enjoy principal Mejia rapping about the importance of attendance!)
- **Watch the Promotional Video:** <https://youtu.be/wspawqTrOrg>
- **Schedule a Tour:** Call the school at 512-841-9400 to really get to know the school.

To learn more and get involved, contact Parent Support Specialist, Sandra Zachary at sandra.zachary@austinisd.org

Webb Middle School is in the heart of the St. Johns neighborhood (601 E. St John's Ave), just around the corner from Windsor Park. Webb, our co-ed option for the neighborhood, is an early college prep middle school and offers cutting edge courses in technology like animation, web design, and app development. Webb offers dual language and, as a community school, has a Family Resource Center on campus.

- **Volunteer with Webb:** Webb has opportunities to help with food pantry distributions, Coats for Kids distribution, community events, and tutoring
- **Donate to Families at Webb:** Families are in need of food or gift cards to HEB or Wal-Mart for basic needs, freezers to store food, laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, personal care items, and clothes (gloves, hats, shoes for students, and bras for girls). Donations will be given out to families at Webb with regular food pantry distributions.

To coordinate volunteering and donating, please contact Aida Ramirez, Parent Support Specialist, at aida.ramirez@austinisd.org

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Windsor Park October 2020 Market Statistics

 \$445,000 MEDIAN SALES PRICE	 \$291.15 MEDIAN PRICE / SQFT	 7 DAYS MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET
 13 NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD	 \$735,000 MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD	 \$230,000 LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD

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

Lack of inventory continues to drive our strong real estate market. Listings are going for thousands over list price and in multiple offers. I've been helping my clients determine what updates make the most impact and put the most money in their pockets.

Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac attempted to add an "adverse market" fee to all refi's, causing home owner's refi rates and closing costs to jump overnight. They eventually agreed to delay it through the end of the year. If you are considering a refi, do not wait! I'm happy to share the great lender who just did mine!

In the meantime, stay safe out there. I'm always here to answer all of your real estate questions whether you're looking to buy, sell, invest, or rent.

Andrews Elementary

Elizabeth Morales

We welcomed 260+ students back to in-person learning & give our thanks to the Andrews' community for their continued support. As we commit to providing quality education and support for all students, both in-person and remote, we are taking every precaution to ensure our Gators stay safe.

We are proud of the learning happening at Andrews and of our dedicated, experienced staff, as recognized during a visit from Austin ISD Superintendent Dr. Elizalda last month. We offer many programs, including Brighter Bites, Communities in Schools, The Neighborhood Longhorn Program, and much more!

We're calling on our community to support our initiative to increase outdoor learning opportunities by joining us on beautification days or reaching out to Community School Facilitator, Elizabeth Morales at elizabeth.morales@austinisd.org if interested in sponsoring benches, tables, or other supplies needed for our students.

Harris Elementary

Laura Tomlinson, Harris Elementary School Librarian

Bulldog Recess Kit Fundraiser. PTA's goal is to equip every classroom with equipment and balls for recess and W.O.W (Working Out for Wellness) time. Please donate to our wishlist: [A.CO/GY3P72F](https://a.co/GY3P72F). For more information see the [Harris Parent Weekly Newsletter](#).

Marathan Kids kicked off in November. Marathon Kids is an Austin non-profit that encourages students to keep healthy and active lives. Students run every day at school or at home and log their hours with the goal of reaching 26.2 miles.

Harris Bulldog Spotlight. Congratulations to Mr. Joshua Varela our incredible Cafeteria Manager since March 2020! He coordinates food services to give our campus breakfast, lunch, and dinners every day! He is a U.S. Veteran and served in the Navy. Thank you, Mr. Varela, for all that you do & for your service.

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, BASE Project Director

Blanton students and staff are looking forward to the winter holidays and festivities. Our school began operating in-person during the month of October for students choosing to return. Extensive precautions are being observed for the students and adults on campus at this time. We will continue to follow current public health guidelines and district mandates. Virtual programming is still available for students who chose to remain at home.

BASE (after school) is planning to begin in-person programming in January. For more information, please contact Karon Smutzer karon.smutzer@austinisd.org





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Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy

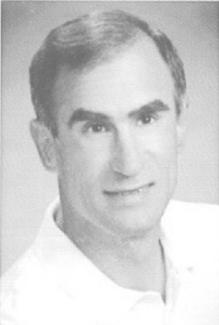
Rosalind Oliphant, PhD, Mentor Teacher

Texas Book Festival featured author Ibi Zoboi made a special virtual appearance at Sadler Means and discussed her creative process as a writer. Ms. Zoboi is a National Book Award finalist and the author of *My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* and *Pride*, books our young leaders are currently reading.

Principal Ms. De'Sean Roby recently announced the three Sadler Means students taking top honors in our Hispanic Heritage Writing Contest sponsored by the Austin Chapter of The Links. Winning entries were awarded a gift card and a school shirt.

Consistent attendance yields better results! Learn more about our Attendance Campaign at: <https://give.livingtree.com/c/sadler-means-ywla-must-be-present-to-win-attendance-campaign>

We launch our Media, Visual, and Performing Arts Academy in the fall 2021. Our MVP program will offer a diverse range of fine arts, expansive media experiences, and robust visual arts opportunities. All girls in the LBJ Vertical team (Harris, Andrews, Norman Sims, Pecan Springs, Jordan, Winn, and Overton) can automatically opt in by completing their choice sheets and selecting a track.



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December 2020 Meet Your Neighbor - Carl and Linda Harvey

Martin Luecke



Our neighbors on Westminster Drive since 1982, Carl and Linda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past August. Both native Austinites, the couple have lived on the East Side their entire lives, in Windsor Park for 38 years and delivered newsletters for 30 plus years. I think they are the longest continually serving newsletter delivery couple in Windsor Park history.

When I met the Harveys for this interview their house was being boxed up as they prepared to move closer to their family in Manor, so this is a bittersweet moment for the couple, who raised three children in this house.



Carl and Linda both taught Math in AISD. “What are the odds of that?” I innocently ask. It turns out, the odds were exceptionally high. “I saw God putting us together.” Carl says confidently, fifty years after the fact. My first question: How did y’all meet? Carl announces: “We met in the yearbook.” Linda looks surprised. And then Carl proceeds to unravel this very long tale of how he knew about Linda several years before they met, and how he would try to find her, and the more he told this story, the more it sounded like stalking. Linda felt the same way. Apparently, it was her first time to hear the story; Carl had some explaining to do. “I wanted to meet her and I finally got the chance.” Linda picks up the story from there, realizing with some astonishment that even after 50 years, there are surprises yet uncovered.

Carl and Linda taught in several schools in Austin over their careers. Linda was hired at Reagan High school in 1979, a few years prior to purchasing their house on Westminster Drive. She taught there until her retirement from the classroom in 2003. Linda then worked with UTeach at the University of Texas as a consultant for the next 17 years evaluating student teachers, which kept her in touch with changes in the profession. “It’s just fascinating today what teachers can do in a classroom with technology.” Then she frowns and points out her regret that we have stopped teaching grammar and handwriting.

Carl retired from teaching in 1996 and then heard the call to serve and has been Pastor of Turning Point Bible Fellowship for 24 years. Linda tells me the church is small in size but very community and family oriented with their adult children and spouses -Tenea, Shaneen and Sheldon, and grandkids very involved as ministry leaders. Linda serves as Women’s Director and is a Group Leader with Bible Study Fellowship leading a Zoom class every Thursday for what she calls “a diverse group of women.” Their oldest son Carl Jr., an electrical engineer at Cirrus Logic, is a pastor and the football chaplain at LBJ High School. Their other son Christopher, an administrator in Manor ISD, is a current member of the Manor City Council, and their daughter, LaChanda is a Health Coach for BackBone Wellness Center, and is currently in charge of helping Carl and Linda with health and diet changes. They have nine wonderful grandchildren, several of whom accompanied them delivering newsletters!

Their church has a grant to distribute food in the neighborhood and every Tuesday or Wednesday they oversee a team to box up food from their church kitchen allowing people to come by and pick up a box. They also volunteer every year at the Operation Turkey Thanksgiving event. If you know someone who needs help, there is a form to fill out on their website: <http://turningpointbfc.org>

In the early days the Harveys had 2 different newsletter delivery routes. “What I like is you get to talk to your neighbors here.” Carl says delivering the newsletter brought his whole family into regular contact with their neighbors. “We learned names, stood out in the yard and talked to people.” Carl remembers Mr. Albert, who would “cut your yard if it you wanted, watched your house when you were away, tell you who came by, and put up your trash can if you weren’t home. He was a great neighbor.” Linda recalls being on the Harris PTA where she met Gloria Neunaber back in the 80’s, and first got involved with WPNA. There are many fond memories here.

Ironically this edition of WOW will be the first one not delivered by the Harveys. Congratulations to the Harveys on 50 years of marriage. Good luck and Godspeed.

Please send me story suggestions: mwluecke@hotmail.com



Yard of the Month – December 2020 - 1607 Glenvalley Drive

Sara Jane Lee

Ashley and Whit Williams of 1607 Glenvalley Drive are the December winners. Like many of our other winners Ashley and Whit got ideas from other yards in the neighborhood. They also got ideas from books and from landscapes in other parts of Texas. Ashley is a trained wildlife Habitat Steward and their yard has been a Certified Habitat for over 10 years.

This is the second time that Whit and Ashley have won Yard of the Month. When they won in 2008, they had grass all over their front yard. A plumbing problem that forced them to dig up much of their yard changed everything. Now they have a small area of grass. The rest of their yard is gravel.

They have a Bur Oak, a California Fan Palm, Sago Palms, a Pomegranate tree, some Crepe Myrtles, a Retama tree, some Agaves including two huge Agave Americanas, Lantana, a Bamboo Muhly, and a Tropical Milkweed plant. Earlier this year the milkweed was a great host to the Monarch butterflies.

Their favorite plant is a Rose that they got as a clipping from Whit's grandmother's garden in Alabama. They got here and planted it in their yard where it would get some sun. It was quite healthy and sent out shoots that wanted to twist around something. It turns out that the rose was a pink climber named New Dawn. To keep it from running along the ground, they added a trellis.

Ashley and Whit will get a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. Right now, Shoal Creek is remodeling, but they are open and have a good supply of plants, pots, and equipment. It is still a pleasure to visit there. just go toward the back.

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 even if you do not think that it is perfect. 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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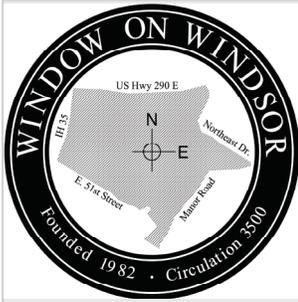
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Library Update

The Austin Public Library hosts a number of online clubs and events. You can find the full calendar of online events on the library website under the “Events” menu. When you register for an event, you will be emailed instructions for attending.

Read the World Book Club. December 10, 7:00pm *Convenience Store Woman*, by Sayaka Murata.

Just for Teens: Fantasy Club. December 13, 2:00pm. **Ages 13-18 only.** The topic: Music.

Graphic Novel Book Club. Holiday “Party”. December 14, 6:30pm.

Real Reads Nonfiction Book Club. December 15, 7:00pm. *Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women That A Movement Forgot*, by Mikki Kendall

Mother-Daughter Book Club. December 16, 6:00pm. Recommended for ages 8-12. This month: Book Share!

Graphic Novel Book Club. Adults only. December 16, 7:00pm. *I Will Judge You by Your Bookshelf*, by Grant Snider. *Book Love*, by Debbie Tung.

Romance Book Club. December 17, 7:00pm. *The Right Swipe*, by Alisha Rai.

True Crime Book Club. December 17, 7:00pm. *My Friend Dahmer*, by Derf Backderf.

Read-Watch-Talk. January 5, 7:00pm. What’s better: the book or the movie? Discuss! *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Just for Teens: Teen Council Social Hour. Meet members of the Teen Library Council. January 6, 5:00pm.

LGBTQIA Book Club. January 6, 7:00pm: *Juliet Takes A Breath*, by Gabby Rivera.

Spanish Language Storytimes, for children 5 and under: Tuesdays, 6:00pm; Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10:00am.

**Austin Police Department
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 Windsor Park**

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Officer Aaron Pippin:
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