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SPONSORS:

We must receive your content and check by the 15th in order to include your sponsorship notice in the following month's newsletter.
Mail check (payable to WPNA):
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Austin, TX 78761

For Questions or to send Graphic Content, contact:
sponsorship@windsorpark.info

Type	Size (in.)	1 month	6 Months
Business Card	3.5 x 2	\$45	\$240
Quarter Page	7.5 x 2 or 3.75 x 5	\$90	\$480
Half Page	7.25 x 4	\$180	\$960

JOIN WPNA

All residents of Windsor Park are eligible to become voting members of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association. If you would like to join the association, please send your dues, at the level appropriate for you, to the address below or bring them to a monthly general meeting. Memberships are renewed yearly and expire on December 31 of each year. In order to vote on WPNA positions, you must have been a member for 30 days. Business members are welcome but do not have voting privileges.

The money received for dues is used to produce our newsletter and to support our other neighborhood programs. Because WPNA is a 501(c)(3) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax deductible.

- ☐ Student/fixed income — \$5/person
☐ Standard — \$10/person
☐ Family — \$15
☐ Sustaining — \$25 or more
☐ Business/Non-Resident (non-voting) — \$25 or more

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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!

Windsor Park Library Updates and Events

Events and Book Club

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime
July 6, 2pm: SRP Event, Visit with a Park Ranger
July 7, 3:30pm: Book Club for Littles
July 13, 2pm: SRP Event, Cantaro
July 14, 7pm: Book Club, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
July 15, 4pm: Windosr Park Anniversary
July 24, 2pm: Super Smash Bros, WiiU Tourney
Aug 1, 2pm: Family Movie - Adventures of Tintin
Aug 4, 3:30: Book Club for Littles
Aug 11, 7pm: Book Club, *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan
Aug 12, 7pm: Book your Summer, Ugly Beats in Concert

Library hours:
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 9pm
Friday: 1pm - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm Closed Sundays

5833 Westminster Dr. • 512-974-9840
<http://library.austintexas.gov/windsor-park-branch>

A special thank you to sponsors for the Andrew's Elementary Portables painting day:

Tres Amigos, H-E-B, Home Depot, TeleDynamics, and Thundercloud Subs

Numbers count! A strong neighborhood association advocates more effectively for Windsor Park! Join us today!

Austin Police District Representatives

East of Berkman
Officer James Scoggins
(512) 974-8393 | james.scoggins@austintexas.gov

West of Berkman
Officer James Hyatt
(512) 974-5500 | james.hyatt@austintexas.gov



WINDOW on WINDSOR

Vol XXXIV No. 7
July 2015

Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

Saturday, July 11 at 10 a.m.

Memorial United Methodist Church,
6100 Berkman Dr.

We serve LOCAL Fair Trade coffee from Trianon Roasting Co.!

Windsor Park Contact Info

Website:

www.Windsorpark.info

Email:

president@windsorpark.info

Newsgroup:

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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 15th of each month.

Email them to:
newsletter@windsorpark.info

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Dear Neighbors,

I'd like to thank all of you who attended the happy hour fundraiser for our Reagan Scholarship Fund. **Special thanks to the Nomad Bar on Corona for hosting!** The event was certainly a success as **we raised over \$300 for the fund.** We intend on having similar such events in the future, so please feel free to suggest ideas or other venues.

Larry Graham from Texas Gas Service presented at our June meeting to update us on work that they will be doing in the neighborhood. They are replacing gas lines and doing proactive maintenance and necessary repairs. The most intensive work will be on Manor, although they will also be working along Northeast Drive in July/August. Unfortunately, they will have to go down the middle of the road on Manor between Springdale and Wheless during the month of July. Accordingly, traffic will have detour to go toward downtown. On the bright side, driveways and private property will not be affected, and there will not be any gas outages. The goal is to have most if not all of the work done by the middle of September. Texas Gas is reaching out to contact neighborhoods and AISD and encourages anyone who has questions about the repairs to contact Michele Eiben at Michele.eiben@onegas.com.

[Note: Texas Gas Service will post periodic updates on their website, www.texasgasservice.com, and via Twitter (www.twitter.com/texasgasservice) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/TexasGasService).]

Bob Wilson from the Northeast Austin Drive A Senior program presented as well. The program provides seniors who do not have a means of transportation with rides to doctors' appointments, shopping, and the like. They currently have 350 seniors they transport. Last year they had 32 drivers, but they are very much in need of more volunteers, as they currently have 40 seniors waitlisted because they do not have enough drivers. If you have some time to spare (even just a few hours a month) please consider giving one of our seniors a ride. The program provides additional insurance. If you would like to apply, please visit www.Driveasenior.org, and select Northeast Austin.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting where TxDot (among others) will be giving a presentation.

Onward, Karen Pagani, WPNA President

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: RUBY TAYLOR

Martin Luecke

“I’m not really that interesting” says Ruby Taylor when I ask for an interview. I respond that her neighbors disagree. After a few pleasantries, she launches into a history of her life, making sure to pause once in while so I can keep up.



Now 93, Ruby is the classic mid-20th century American housewife: grew up in rural Giddings and married a career military man at 19 (a few months before Pearl Harbor), stay at home Mom with dinner ready at 5:30, hosting the occasional party, and involved with their church. Nothing truly interesting there except for the part about living in Japan, Hawaii, and so many other places she can’t remember them all at once.

Each place remembered comes with a story, like when she worked at the post office in Harlingen during the second world war with a lady who was “deaf and dumb, but we don’t say that anymore.” The date was August 14, 1945, and it was announced during work that Japan had surrendered and the war was over. “You could hear a pin drop, nobody said or did anything, but that lady sensed something had changed and asked in sign language what happened?” It was a seminal moment in history, shared across the boundary of language as Ruby signed back as

best she could in simple letters: war over.

With a military life, many of the events of the last century were much closer and real, like the time spent in Japan watching the vanquished country recover. “Everything was recycled, used as many times as possible. It was the cleanest country I ever saw.” And despite the terrible price of war, instead of being embittered, the people remained extraordinarily nice.

Somewhere along the way Ruby felt the pull of being creative, and after attending an oil painting class, took up the hobby with a passion. Her work is hanging all over the house, and in other houses as well. “A lot of my paintings are commissions. I once had a woman bring in a piece of cloth and asked that her painting include the colors from the cloth.”

There is a wide variety of subjects at hand, and this lady is suddenly becoming more and more interesting. “We need to fix immigration” she offers bluntly. She has a way of surprising you, and I can tell she truly cares about how America treats the 12 million undocumented people living here. “They’re the hardest workers around, and they should have a chance here.” Definitely not your average nonagenarian opinion.

Next year will mark her 50th anniversary of living on Briarcliff Avenue after her husband was stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base. Having lived in so many places over the years, Ruby said to her husband that Austin “is the last time I move!” She does not regret it. We talk about the newsletter and she informs me that she delivered it to her block for a couple decades. She also was a volunteer for Drive a Senior for almost as long, and joined the WPNA back in the 80’s. Her “wonderful neighbors” keep Ruby connected, and these days she uses Drive a Senior to get around and stay independent. How do you do so well for your age? I ask. She says she was lucky, had good genes, and was always positive. That sounds like a classic recipe for us all.

Nominate an interesting neighbor by contacting Martin Luecke at 536.0465 or mwluecke@hotmail.com.

For The Trees: Summer Tree Care Tips

A Column by Tim Brosnan, ISA Certified Arborist and WP resident

Water

We’ve had an unbelievably good year of rain so far, but temperatures are on the rise, and during periods of high heat and low rainfall it’s important to ensure that your trees are getting the water they need.

Water as much of a tree’s root system (pictured below) as possible, rather than at the base of the trunk.

Pay special attention to young trees because their root systems are less established and will dry out quicker than mature trees. Most young or recently planted trees’ roots will be located within the drip line (the outer edge of the tree’s canopy). Water deeply rather than frequently. A slow saturation every week or two is better than frequent light watering.



Tree roots extend far beyond the trunk and the majority of the feeder roots that absorb water located in the top 6-12 inches of soil.

Mulch

Mulching around the base of your trees helps to maintain soil moisture, protect roots, supply nutrients, suppress weeds and grass, and keep soil from compacting. Mulch should be applied 1-3” thick, the wider the better.

Don’t pile mulch against the trunk, as this can be problematic for tree health.

Consider an organic mulch with added compost to provide nutrients to the tree. Sylvan Mulch from the Natural Gardener is my favorite.

Storm damage

May’s storms took a toll on many trees in Central Texas. If storm damage in your trees has not already been taken care of, it makes sense to do it now. Splits, cracks, broken limbs and hanging branches are important to address sooner rather than later so that they do not grow into future hazards.

Avoid heavy pruning

Summer heat can be stressful for trees. Light pruning is fine, but heavier pruning is best left for winter months when the tree is dormant. Light pruning of oaks is fine in summer (paint all wounds to oaks) because the beetles that spread oak wilt fungus are less active with the high temperatures.

No planting

Save tree planting for late fall or winter. Summer temperatures often prove harmful or fatal to newly planted trees. *Tim and his family have lived in Windsor Park since 2010. He owns and operates Brosnan Tree, a local tree care company. brosnantree.com*

Blanton Elementary Update

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

The first day of school is August 24.....however, before that, we’ll be having a meet and greet for parents, students and teachers! **Check out the school marquee for the date and time for the Meet and Greet.**

Blanton is still a busy place during the summer. In June, the school hosted a 3-week summer school to give students an additional boost for the upcoming school year. The ACE program offers a six week summer camp, (three weeks in June & three weeks in July) where the students benefit from both academic and enrichment classes. The ACE program will begin registration for its first session on August 12th from 2:00-6:00 p.m. This program will be downsizing some of its classes to accommodate the addition of a Pre-K class and a Kindergarten class as requested by many parents. *****Special Request: We would love donations of old magazine. Please send an email to the address below, leave a message at the phone number so we can make arrangements to pick them up or drop of donations any afternoon between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. at Portable 3B, south side of the school.** Contact Karon Smutzer at karon.smutzer@austinisd.org or call 512-841-5678 to leave a message.

Vacation Bible School at MUMC

Memorial United Methodist Church is offering a fun filled Vacation Bible School in July. We will be exploring and describing our place in God’s creation July 17-19 at “God, the World, and Me.” Inspired by Psalm 8, we will be looking at God’s creation through science, music, art, and the Bible. Our main ideas are:

- God made a vast universe. He is big and we are small.
- God made people with extra care and we should take special care of ourselves.
- God gave us responsibility to care for His creation- animal, vegetable, and mineral.

Register by July 3rd and the fee is only \$10. Walk-ins will be accepted if space is available at a \$20 fee. Scholarships are available by contacting the church at secretary@memorialumcaustin.com. The registration from can be downloaded from our website at www.memorialumcaustin.com. Memorial United Methodist Church is located at 6100 Berkman Drive. Vacation Bible school will begin at 5:30 pm on Friday, 9:00 am on Saturday, and worship on Sunday will be at 10:30 am.

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Sunday School- 9:15am
Office # 452-5796

Worship - 10:30am

We would love to see you this Sunday

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10 Ways to Enjoy Bartholomew Park
Jeanette Swenson, WPNA Parks Chair

1. Enjoy shaded Playscape and toddler swings thanks to 111 individual WP donors, Austin Parks Foundation, IBC Bank, Mueller Foundation, WPNA, and Frost Bank.
2. All pools, slides, and splashpad are now open. Sign up for lessons at PARD Aquatics.
3. Disc Golf restored to 18 holes.
4. Volunteer to maintain landscaping or pick up trash on

- walks through the park.
5. Participate in planning for trail installation. CM Greg Casar alerted WP Parks Committee that \$290,000 would be released in 2016. Community planning meetings will be announced in the fall.
 6. Lifeguard training pilot at LBJ and Reagan high schools completed.
 7. Watch for new natural gas pipeline, which will heat the pool more cheaply than propane. Pool will again have extended season and city lifeguard training will be at Bartholomew pool.
 8. Donate to WPNA Playscape fund to shade the larger Playscape. Approximately \$16,000 needed.
 9. Volunteer with Austin Parks Foundation for WPNA National Public Lands Day project in late September.
 10. Suggest other park needs / wishes: diving lessons, soccer field, dog park, connections to Mueller Hike and Bike Trail...
- To volunteer, add suggestions or questions: call 512-627-1295 or email jeanetteswenson@yahoo.com

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July 2015 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The July winner is Ryan Malone of 1313 Corona Drive. Though Ryan’s mother is an avid gardener, Ryan did not get interested until she bought her own house. When she (yes, Ryan is a woman) bought her house about three years ago, she kept the basic layout of the yard. The front beds were pretty bare. Using “pass along” plants from her mother and a family friend, she began to fill in the beds using native and adapted perennials.

She has Hill Country favorites including Echinacea (Purple Cone Flower), Liatris, Gaillardia, Rock Rose (Pavonia), Irises, Mexican Mint Marigold, Columbine, Salvia Coccinea as well as some like Crinum Lily and Sweet Olive shrub that are often found closer to Houston. She also has a Yaupon Holly, a Mountain Laurel, an Elm, and a Black Diamond Crape Myrtle. She has no grass in her front yard. Instead she has a lush carpet of Horseherb. Yes, Horseherb, that plant with the small heart shaped leaves and tiny yellow flowers is no longer considered a weed. “Grow Green,” a local guide to appropriate plants for Austin, lists it as a groundcover.

Starting in the winter of 2012-2013, Ryan began spending more time in her garden. A friend from Houston came up several times offering planting help and advice. Ryan’s aim is to reproduce a Hill Country landscape in miniature. To encourage growth in the spring she waters using water from her rain barrels. She hopes to get her perennials established well enough to only water in times of extreme drought. Weeding takes most of her time.

She advises walking around the neighborhood to see what works and what you like. She also reminds us that there will be failures. In that case just try a different plant.

Ryan will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 Hancock Drive.

Pictures of the Yard of the Month are displayed on our website, www.Windsorpark.info as well as our Facebook page. Check them out.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? You can nominate more than one. Tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood every month. We may not have seen your great yard. Don’t be humble. We love to get nominations. To nominate a yard or yards, e-mail us at yom@windsorpark.info, call 928-0681 or write WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761

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July 2015 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Computer records dating back to May, 2004 show I’ve now written somewhere over 135 Mueller Updates. Some earlier ones were no doubt lost in data transfers to newer computers. I thought I’d take this opportunity to express some personal sentiments about Mueller.

After fighting locals & legislators who wanted Mueller to remain an airport, Austinites finally voted in 1993 to move aviation out of our neighborhood. A vision statement and six community goals for Mueller were set in 1997, calling for, “an alternative to land-consumptive and automobile-dependant development patterns…” and for the reuse to pay for itself, provide economic development, revitalize east Austin, promote energy & water efficiency, offer a range of housing to promote diversity, and to be compatible with nearby neighborhoods. Aviation ceased in May of 1999, and the City Council adopted a Master Plan in 2000. A development agreement with Catellus in was signed in 2004. Dell Children’s Hospital and the first businesses opened in 2007, and just before the end of that year, the first residents moved in.

Due to the grassroots leadership of the neighborhoods around Mueller, it has been a far less controversial development than many in Austin. (Remember the Triangle?) It is paying for itself as planned, even with 25% of the initial housing offerings being affordable. (Most developers max out at 10%.) Mueller will add over \$1 billion to Austin’s tax base at build-out, meanwhile contributing \$65 million-plus in taxes over and above its bond payments.

Still, some folks just don’t like it, even accusing Mueller’s new residents of gentrification. Since it was previously an airport, it’s hard to apply the normal definition of that word to Mueller. At first, the affordable program seemed, well… not affordable to those who’ve lived nearby for any length of time, but now many of us realize we could not afford to buy in our own neighborhood as Austin’s real estate market has wildly boomed. Can Mueller be blamed for that?

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Far more chain retailers than local shops have opened at Mueller; understandable to some extent because of the high cost to a small, local business for that first build-out in new commercial spaces. The big-box stores did come in early on, as the smaller retail market was very soft during Mueller’s formative years. And sadly, some Austin business leaders still have a bias against “east of I-35” locations. Luckily, that is changing, but it does linger. I do wish that had been different.

It’s also not as non-auto-dependant as many had hoped. At least all of Mueller’s streets have sidewalks, as should every street in a walkable community. All residences have ally-loaded garages, so there are no driveways interrupting the neighborhood sidewalks. Bicycles have been reasonably accommodated, but drive-through banks persist and the lack of transit options has meant many who moved to Mueller still must rely on automobiles. CapMetro won’t locate bus stops until the full infrastructure is in place meaning few buses until the site is built out. With development out east, 51st Street traffic has really increased lately. It’s hard to say if Mueller is to blame for most of it, though I’m sure that popular new H-E-B is a culpable for some of Berkman’s increasing traffic volume. In early plans, Berkman extended into, but not through Mueller, something I really wish was the case today.

Mueller’s parks are its true gift to the community. They provide a spectacular example of stormwater management designed to be an amenity, and every city should take note that well developed and maintained parks will attract crowds. As with everything, there are pros and cons, good and bad. But Mueller is what it is today at least in part due to many folks around it who pushed for something better than just selling it off to the highest bidder.

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Summertime Fun!
Meghan Dougherty, Schools Committee Chair

We’ve made it through another school year! The school committee has stayed busy till the end: we assisted painting portables at Andrews Elementary, we awarded two \$1000 scholarships to Reagan HS seniors, and we held a happy hour fundraiser for 2015-16 scholarships at the Nomad. **We’d like to send a special thank you to sponsors for the painting day at Andrews: Tres Amigos, HEB, Home Depot, TeleDynamics, and Thundercloud Subs.** In addition, we’d like to thank everyone who generously contributed to the scholarship fund, which enabled us to provide not one, but two scholarships this school year. We hope for many more successes and opportunities for involvement in the next school year. As a reminder, we meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 in the Windsor Park Library. Please join us!

Even though school is out, learning is hip all year round. Here are some findings to consider: summer break has a detrimental effect on both reading and math skills, and the negative effect of summer increases with increases in students’ grade levels. Lower-income students in particular suffer the greatest losses, losing roughly two months of reading achievement.

Luckily reading books plays a major role in reversing the summer slide, and the library stays open all summer long. According to one study, giving kids twelve books to read over the summer was as effective as summer school. It’s important to let your children choose their own books (even if it is the latest biography of Justin Bieber): they will be more motivated to read and it helps them build connections to knowledge they already have.

So check out the Austin Public Library this summer. There are Summer Reading Program events for children at the Windsor Park Branch in July. Happy Reading!

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[Ora Houston update, continued]
Town Hall Meetings: The first Town Hall meeting focused on economic development in District #1. **The next one is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th, 10 am - noon, at the High Pointe Baptist Church, 12030 Dessau Rd, Austin, TX 78754. The focus will be on the Code Department, people who call the streets of Austin home, and the Wildfire Division.**

Submitted 51 citizen’s assistance forms to the Automated Citizen Assistance Program, which directs issues to the appropriate departments and Assistant City Managers. This system allows people to receive information directly from the department. Your emails and phone calls to assist with particular issues in the district are invited and welcomed, however, the fastest way to get a response and for us to track data, is to call 3-1-1. When you call make sure you get a service request number and ask for a call back if you want someone to respond to your call. The 3-1-1 call center actually has a faster response time than sending an issue to the office.

An additional 25 issues were sent to specific Assistant City Managers and departments to follow up with constituents regarding policy or historical issue or to determine what other options might be available to address their concerns.

The staff has met with seven neighborhood associations, the Austin Neighborhood Council East (monthly) and the Austin Neighborhood Council.

I worshiped with 12 communities of faith and will continue to reach out to others regarding their participation in a ‘ministry of presence’.

I have represented the district at 53 events to read a proclamation, welcome groups to the city/district or speak to the community members (like SafePlace event for teenagers, Mr. Overton’s birthday, on KAZI radio,



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and cultural celebrations.)

My conversation with agents for new developments and/or zoning changes centers around the need to re-view the neighborhood plans (if there is one) and meet with neighbors prior to meeting with me. It is critical that developers respect and get input from the people who live in the area and work to design a reasonable solution and reach workable compromises. I am also asking City staff and developers to consider the impact of each development on surrounding neighborhoods. We are working with the Code Department to find a solution to the ‘rogue’/‘pop up’ homes for vulnerable populations which are located in the district. There are no minimal requirements to protect the people who live in those houses. The Health and Human Service Council Committee has initiated public hearings to address

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this issue.

Throughout it all, I also participated in the Austin Citizen’s Police Academy for 15 weeks and graduated on May 21st. It was an amazing experience and learned more than I ever knew about the training and the job of our peace officers.

I encourage everyone to get involved with your neighborhood association and with the work of the City Council. Please feel free to share your ideas and thoughts about possible solutions with the office by calling 512-978-2101, or visit our website at <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/district-1>

PINK HOUSES

Pink Houses First Friday Happy Hour will be at ‘Bout Time II on Friday, July 3, starting at 6PM.

For earlier updates on Pink Houses activities, join the Pink Houses Yahoo group at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/pinkhouses/info>.

In Memory of our Neighbor Larry Wynns

Larry D. Wynns, Sr. of Austin, a Windsor Park neighbor of 47 years, passed away on May 4th after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He and his wife, Ruby, have been valued members of our community for almost half a century, and have many friends in the neighborhood. We extend our sincere condolences to Mrs. Wynns and to the family. A celebration of Larry’s life was held on May 9th at the Ramsey Funeral home in Georgetown. You may share a message or memory in the online memorial guestbook at www.RamseyFuneral.com.



Larry was born June 17, 1933 in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He met his soul mate at the skating rink and they spent the last 56 years together leaving a legacy of love in their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He served in the USAF during the Korean War and last September went with Honor Flight to see his veteran’s memorial for the first time.

Larry worked for the FAA in Oklahoma City, before moving to Austin in 1967 to work for TRACOR. In 1989, Larry went to work on the Space Station for Grumman Aerospace in Houston, where he retired in 1997. He was a Master Mason for over 25 years and was also a member of the Scottish Rite.

Larry was a devoted husband, dad, and poppaw. He had a contagious laugh that could fill a room and he never met a stranger. He loved to fish and work on computers, as well as remodeling his home, where he and his wife have lived for 47 years.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Edward F. Wynns and Marjorie Evelyn Wynns; daughter, Diane Celeste Wynns Ferguson; and first wife, Jacqueline Robertson.

To cherish his memory, Larry leaves behind his wife and soul mate, Ruby Carolyn McNabb Wynns; sons: Barry Lance Wynns and Larry D. Wynns, Jr.; daughters: Linda Sue Wynns Lunsford and April Suzanne Wynns Jones; grandsons: Lee and Eric Wynns, Marc Tabor, Jeremy Ferguson and Mateo Wynns; granddaughters: Lauren and Meagan Jones, and Lauren Aleman; as well as 10 great grandchildren.

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May 2015 Stats

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (May 2015)	\$223.17
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (May 2015)	8
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,603
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	32
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	16*
*As of June 12th, 2015	
Property Tax Valuations Are HERE! If you would like me to pull comps to assist with tax appraisal protests....EMAIL ME! :)	

JOHN PAUL PORTER

(512) 563-8176

JohnPaul@DigDwell.com

3RD GENERATION WINDSOR PARK RESIDENT

NO OBLIGATION Personal Property Valuations

Update from Council Member Greg Casar

Bartholomew pool update

I’m excited to share that the process to bring a new gas line extension to Bartholomew Pool is underway. My of- fice has been working with Texas Gas Services and the Parks Department to guide the process and hope to see this project in our upcoming budget this fall. I will continue to keep you updated, and look forward to the opportuni- ties for having Bartholomew Pool heated (economically!) in the winter months for both swimmers and for training lifeguards.

Traffic concerns at 51st and Cameron

Earlier this month I asked our Transportation Department to visit the corner of 51st & Cameron with me and sev- eral neighbors to see first-hand the traffic issues that have occurred since the changes to the right-turn onto the I-35 frontage road. The transportation engineers have already retimed the signals to make the intersection smoother. They also committed at our meeting to re-studying the traffic patterns once the Cameron Road ramp is opened to see how new traffic is behaving and to see if additional changes are needed.

Transportation staff is also dedicated to finding a solution to these issues and believes that this serious traffic prob- lem would not be occurring if the new access ramp being built by the Texas Dept. of Transportation (from north- bound IH 35 onto Cameron Road) were completed. Unfortunately, since that ramp is not yet complete, removal of the right turn lane on Cameron has caused a traffic mess. I believe it was a major mistake that this construction schedule was not successfully synchronized—we are now working with the Texas Department of Transportation to move quickly toward both short-term and long-term solutions.

Assisting low-income renters in Austin

This month I sponsored and passed a resolution to expand funding for programs that benefit low-income tenants. The resolution confirmed City Council’s intent to increase funding for our tenant assistance programs by \$740,000 in the coming fiscal year. When we finalize the budget in September, we’ll work to ensure that this funding is real- ized in the approved budget. Just this month, I spoke with District 4 residents who recently lost their homes and had to move in with friends (along with their kids) because of significant increases in rent and fees at an apartment

July - page 7

[Greg Casar update, continued]
complex in the Windsor Park area. These tenant assistance programs are powerful and could have ensured that these lower-income renters in Windsor Park could stay in their homes. As the cost of living rises rapidly in today’s mar- ket, our community investment in rental assistance is critical.

Working to preserve affordable housing in District 4

In June, our Council also moved toward establishing Homestead Preservation Districts, one of which is in Windsor Park. Homestead preservation districts provide an opportunity to maintain affordability in areas even as develop- ment drives up the price of housing. The Homestead Preservation District in our area includes the housing between I-35 and Cameron Road, north of 51st street. Long-term, the goal will be to ensure that new tax dollars and new construction in the area both improve quality of life and also ensure continued affordability in the area.


Keep in touch

My next set of office hours will be July 31 from 1pm to 4pm at a location to be announced—please contact my Communications Director Shelby Alexander at 512-978-2157 if you would like to set up a 20 minute appointment. As always, my office and I are available at 512-978-2104. If you need to reach me immediately please shoot me an email at Greg.Casar@austintexas.gov. I want to hear from you!

The

WINDSOR PARK SPECIALIST

and Resident



Every house in Windsor Park has a story. I have lived and invested in Windsor Park for nearly 8 years. I love being an active member of the neighborhood and that makes all the difference. Whether you are buying or selling I will help you with unparalleled experience that goes beyond the transaction.

KAREN PAGANI

512-786-7224

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Five Months and Counting...an Update from Council Member Ora Houston

In January 2015, I was sworn in to represent the 77,000 people in District #1. What followed can best be described as a whirlwind. A whirlwind full of new information, protocol, constituent contacts, relationship building on many levels, city processes and procedures, questions asked and answered, great support from city employees on how to hang on, many contacts with advocacy groups, interest group and developers, representing the district at various events and providing information regarding the ‘blended family’ who live in District #1 to people who have limited or no knowledge about the opportunities and challenges which impact them. I am proud to say that our Team has worked extremely hard to address the concerns of our constituents in a timely manner. Staff has an incredible sense of empathy for our constituents, because each of us has experienced similar issues. Below you will find some information regarding our work during this time:

[Ora Houston update, continued on page 8]