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Austin, TX 78761

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### 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  
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**Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!**

## Windsor Park Library Updates and Events

### Events and Book Club

**June 2, 3:30pm** Book Club for Littles  
**June 4, 11, 18 and 25, 10:15am:** All Ages Storytime  
**June 6, 2pm:** Family Movie, *Napoleon Dynamite*  
**June 8, 2pm:** Puppet Theatre presents *The Monkey and the Crocodile*  
**June 9, 7pm:** Book Club, *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*  
**June 11, 11am:** Music event for kids: **Alyse Black**  
**June 22, 2pm:** Austin Opera at Windsor Park  
**June 29, 2pm:** Literature Live! Found Puppet lab  
**July 2, 10am0:** All Ages Storytime

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

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<http://library.austintexas.gov/windsor-park-branch>

## Group Homes, Sexual Offenders & Community Safety

We will have speakers to address these issues at the **June 13th WPNA Meeting**.

Please attend to learn more about these important issues.

**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. 6

June 2015

## Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Saturday, June  
13 at 10 a.m.**

Memorial United  
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month.**

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## JUNE LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT REGARDING AUSTIN ACHIEVE

Dear Windsor Park Residents,

As raised at our April meeting, the community has numerous concerns relating to the public charter school Austin Achieve. WPNA has been following up on those concerns. **Austin Achieve will be holding a public forum on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 pm at the school at 5908 Manor Road.** WPNA has agreed to provide a moderator for that discussion. I hope you will attend the forum after reviewing the issues and responses here and continued on page 2.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> John Nordstrom, WPNA Safety Committee Chair, and I met with the director of the school, John Armbrust, to discuss the community's concerns regarding safety, the quality of life of the residents surrounding the school, and parking. The objective was to try to find some solutions to existing problems; anticipate and prevent future ones; and brainstorm ways that the school could be a better neighbor.

First, contrary to what many of us had understood, Austin Achieve will indeed be adding grades 9 through 12 in the coming years, offering instruction to freshmen beginning in August 2015. We reiterated concerns about where these students would park if they drove to school. Each grade will have between 125-150 students; this means that there will be approximately 250-300 students of driving age once the school reaches full capacity. Most of the current students live within 1-2 miles of the school; however, it is unclear how many of these students will drive to school when they can.

In an earlier conversation via email with Austin Achieve, I was told that they did not believe that many of their high school students would be driving to school due to the fact that a) "most of the students live within a couple miles of the school" and b) over 90% of the students currently enrolled benefit from the free lunch program. This to us did not seem like a sound logic and certainly not something that should be depended upon as system. We requested that the school institute a policy to either provide free, permitted parking on campus to students who wish to drive or, if that is not possible, institute and enforce a 'no-drive' policy so as to avoid student parking on residential streets. Mr. Armbrust was extremely responsive to these concerns. He has since stated that they will have the requisite number of parking spaces as per city code (no more, no less). However, he confirmed via email that "if [they] do have students who drive to [school] in the future, [they] would allow them to have permits to park on campus." Armbrust continues: "Additionally, we would actively work with neighbors to prohibit students from parking on certain neighboring streets."

Another major concern discussed at length is the school's close proximity (<300 feet) from a group home that houses—among others—a group of registered sex offenders. The community is **very** concerned that Austin Achieve is not being as pro-active as it should be in informing parents and students of the existence of the home, a home that has been part of our community for over 28 years and therefore preceded construction of the school. The two parents from Austin Achieve who attended our April meeting were unaware of the residence. Mr. Armbrust assured me that he has been diligently informing parents of the proximity of the residence to the school. I have seen the language that the school currently circulates regarding the residence and have suggested edits. At the time I am writing this, Mr. Armbrust and his staff are still considering those edits and revamping their notification system.



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me that he would look into ways to either mitigate or share the cost of the additional security required. Mr. Armbrust has already opened a dialogue with both Mr. Burkes and the state to address this issue.

Mr. Nordstrom and I suggested that the school’s website provide information about the neighborhood, its history, and its residents to better integrate itself into the community. Austin Achieve has already done this and even provides a link to the WPNA website. The link to that information can be found here: <http://www.austinchieve.org/campus-life/#communityprogramming>

We discussed how the school could contribute positively to the community. We suggested that it would be beneficial to require all students to do community service within Windsor Park. Mr. Armbrust liked the idea. In a follow up email he stated: “Austin Achieve will organize a minimum of two Community Service days per year focusing on the Windsor Park Neighborhood.” He also stated that, “additionally, as part of our ‘College Seminar’ class that all students have to take ..., students will be required to do at least 10 hours of community service per year. ...[Our] priority would be to serve the immediate area so as to be of benefit to the neighborhood we serve.” In a follow-up email he stated that he is “very comfortable to be on record guaranteeing 2,000 hours of community service” to the neighborhood per year. The WPNA plans on helping Austin Achieve’s students to fulfill this obligation, which I firmly believe will be mutually beneficial.

Austin Achieve received a “meets standard” rating its first year. It received a “needs improvement” rating for the 2013-14 academic year. The school is still in the process of appealing that second rating based on what the school claims were internal reporting errors. Regardless, the school has had some very recent and important successes that cannot be discounted. According to Mr. Armbrust, 86% of the students passed the reading portion of the STAR exam this year on the first round.

Austin Achieve did not consult with the community, the Association, or our Contact Committee early on. As a result, the school has gotten off to a rough start from a public relations perspective, as its presence and construction has caused real harm to some of our residents. It is our hope that the community service initiatives detailed above and a more open dialogue will reverse that trend; allow the school to contribute positively to our community; and improve its relationship with its neighbors. As Mr. Armbrust has said, “Austin Achieve has caused justified frustration from neighbors...and we do sincerely want to find ways in which we can be viewed from a...more positive light by the neighborhood... I do know of hundreds of families that are truly thankful that they have a public school option in their neighborhood and are grateful for us being here.” Armbrust also stated that, “the school is here to stay,” and so he remains hopeful that, “we can find ways to make lemonade out of lemons and find ways in which Austin Achieve can provide new benefits to the neighborhood.” The WPNA will continue to work closely with the school to make this a reality.

Sincerely, Karen Pagani, WPNA President

[Letter from the WPNA President, continued]

After my conversation with Mr. Armbrust, I spoke at length with Major Burkes, the owner of the group home close to Austin Achieve. It is clear that Mr. Burkes is very concerned about the safety and quality of life of both his residents and the community more generally and that he runs a very tight ship. His record certainly reflects this, as there have been—according to him and others with whom I have spoken—no major incidents involving residents at his home. Nevertheless, and despite very tight security at his facility, because of the presence of Austin Achieve, Mr. Burkes was required by the state to hire a security guard to walk the premises while school is in session for “neighborhood perception purposes” last year. This has cost Mr. Burkes roughly \$4600 per month. Mr. Armbrust was unaware of the additional cost incurred by the home due to the presence of the school. He in turn assured

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: ROBERTO O. MARTINEZ

On any given Friday Roberto Martinez is having breakfast with friends at Amaya’s restaurant. But it’s not the breakfast that is important. Roberto is on a mission, and if you receive an invitation to Amaya’s Friday roundtable, you will soon be asked to get involved.

Roberto’s passion is to make public schools a better place for kids. But it’s not just breakfast talk. For the past twenty years the now retired Civil Engineer has been training 14 and 15 year olds how to prepare for the job market through an Austin InterFaith program, placing more than 800 kids in summer employment. He believes kids need help and encouragement and someone to believe in them, and they will do the rest.

These days his new project is to go to the local schools and assist families to work together on this thing called education. Roberto sees perfectly good kids dropping out and not caring for many reasons, but the main one is the lack of parental interest. His method is to create a dialogue within these families that leads them to make more of an effort to make school a priority. But he is only one man, and what he wants is mentors to provide this kind of guidance for all kids on the fringe of success.



Roberto and his wife Alicia, a retired school teacher, have lived in Windsor Park since 1963, first on Suffolk, and then on Thames. They raised four children here. Roberto may hold the record for the man with the most boxes of Girl Scout cookies sold in America, having helped three daughters over many years. His favorite is the peanut butter sandwich.

During our interview he shows me photos of four rain gardens he has organized and built at various schools around town. The latest is being finished in the next week at the new Bertha Sadler Means Young Women’s Academy. He asks me to show up on Saturday morning to help out. Apparently, this is his way to get things done.

Over the years there have been many boards, commissions, task forces, and chairs for which he has volunteered. Sometimes it was at the request of the Mayor, sometimes it was his priest at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and sometimes he invented the idea himself. There are too many to list here. All of it, he says, was because his father taught him to always give back, to help without personal gain.

And so we meet for breakfast at Amaya’s, and there are all the players in his volunteer world, talking about their latest projects, their successes, their plans, and it is infectious, this feeling of changing the world. I get it now. It’s the feeling of doing something with your life by helping others achieve. It is definitely a passion worth sharing, and Roberto is keen to teach us all by his example.

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June 2015 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The June winners are Cathy and Pat Murphy of 1408 Larkwood Drive. They have lived in their house about four years. Both are architects and wanted their front yard to complement the modern lines of their house. They planned their garden for a year before they turned a spade. They took ideas from books, their travels, and online garden design sites like Gardenista.com. Cathy took classes in native gardening at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. They also walked the neighborhood to see what works in Northeast Austin.

Since there was no walk from their house to the street, they had large concrete steps installed and added planting beds on either side of the walk. St Augustine grass surrounds a large Red Oak that they inherited. They also kept a Yaupon Holly near their house because mockingbirds nest in it. The groundcover Silver Ponyfoot and river rock fill out the new beds. Bamboo Muhly and Foxtail Fern provide structure; Mexican Feather Grass adds movement. Coralbean, Fragrant Mistflower, Damianita, Blackfoot Daisy, Henry Duelberg Sage, Lantana, a Kidneywood shrub, and Texas Sotol add color and variety. On the west side of their driveway, they planted a Chinquapin Oak to provide future shade.

Cathy and Pat worked with Eden Garden Design to plan and install the new landscape. Eden installed it in December of 2013. Since their next door neighbors also were redoing their yard, Pat and Cathy designed their side yard to work with their neighbor’s yard. To conserve water Eden installed a drip irrigation system in the new beds. The Murphys also have a rain chain hanging down the side of their house. Their maintenance consists of fertilizing organically, weeding, deadheading dead blooms, and trimming back plants.

They advise that thinking about your landscape in areas will make the job more manageable. Plants and design elements can tie the areas together. Your landscape should complement your house. Both will look better.

The Murphys 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](http://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](mailto:yom@windsorpark.info), call 928-0681 or write WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761

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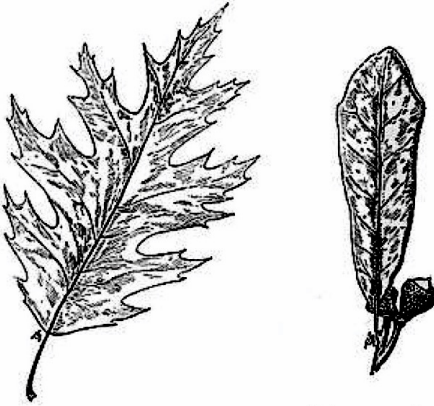
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For The Trees: A note about Oak Wilt

Tim Brosnan, ISA Certified Arborist and WP resident

June is a good time to talk about oak wilt. If you’ve lived in Austin long enough, you’ve probably heard about oak wilt or seen signs announcing when not prune trees to prevent the spread of oak wilt. It’s as serious a tree disease as you’ll find anywhere and the more homeowners know about it, the better off Austin’s urban forest will be.

All oaks are susceptible to the disease, but some are more resistant than others. Red oaks are seriously affected by oak wilt and usually die fairly quickly. On the other end of the spectrum, bur oaks and chinkapin oaks are somewhat resistant to the disease and have a good chance of surviving. Live oaks are somewhere in the middle – if detected early enough and treated, they may survive infection, though many eventually die.



Red oak

Live oak

The disease is spread in two ways – underground through roots or by tiny nitidulid beetles that fly from infected trees to healthy trees, taking the oak wilt with them. The reason it’s timely to talk about oak wilt in June is because February-June are the months when these beetles are most active and most likely to transmit infection. Therefore DON’T PRUNE YOUR OAKS THIS MONTH. Wait until July when our temperatures are hot enough to keep the beetle activity limited.

Here are a few tips:

- Always paint fresh wounds to living tissue immediately on your oaks. A thin layer of wound paint or latex spray paint will provide a protective layer between the exposed tree tissue and the beetles that feed on the sap present at the wound site. Note: Painting wounds does not help trees to heal. It is simply a disease mitigation practice

for oaks.

- Early detection is really important to a tree’s survival. Contact a certified arborist if your oaks take a sudden turn.
- Plan your oak pruning for the hottest or coldest months if possible, and avoid the February-June window.
- If you want to learn more, [texasoakwilt.org](http://texasoakwilt.org) is a great website

*Tim and his family have lived in Windsor Park since 2010. He owns and operates Brosnan Tree, a local tree care company. [brosnantree.com](http://brosnantree.com)*

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Update from University Hills Neighborhood Association “Rogue” Group Homes Task Force

In 2008, concerned area residents formed a citizens’ Task Force composed of representatives of the University Hills, Windsor Park, and Coronado Hills/Creeside neighborhood associations. The purpose of the task force was to alleviate a problem prevalent in our area of the city: “rogue” group homes. Please read on to learn how “rogue” group homes are defined, what populations they put at risk, what citizens have accomplished to date, and what you can do to help. *Note: Throughout the city are single-family homes that accommodate the elderly and disabled in a supervised, home-like atmosphere. These homes work with the State’s Department of Human Services and with non-profits such as Family Eldercare. These homes are not the subject of this article.*

1. What is a “rogue” group home?

“Rogue” group homes operate under the radar, as for-profit “businesses,” un- licensed in any way. They are not operated by anyone with medical expertise and generally have no live-in monitor, offer no services such as transportation and meals, and do not cap the number of residents. These homes do not work with the State’s Department of Human Services nor with non-profit support agencies. Running “rogue” group homes can be a lucrative business model due to the steady stream of government assistance that most of the residents receive.

2. How do I identify a “rogue” group home in my neighborhood?

Because of lack of supervision and services, “rogue” homes are generally easy to identify. Residents may mill around the neighborhood asking for help, especially food. Fights among residents may be frequent. Inappropriate behavior such as lying in the front yard is common. The number one tip-off is frequent EMS calls. With no other way to ask for help, residents may be calling EMS several times per week, even per day.

3. What remedial efforts have been accomplished?

In 2009, the UHNA Rogue Home Task Force was successful in getting legislation passed to address this issue. HB 216, authored by Representative Jose Menendez, offers cities a structure for implementing controls on group homes. This is accomplished through licensing, and based on a set of comprehensive model standards that address issues such as minimum space per person. The standards also address required services such as meals and assistance with medications. Task Force members are in universal agreement that these standards are comprehensive and reasonable. Link to HB216 and its history:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB216>

4. Have HB 216 Model Standards been implemented in Austin?

No, despite hours of effort by the UHNA Rogue Home Task Force, the City of Austin refuses to act upon this ordinance. Task Force efforts have included attendance at city meetings, as well as presentations to city staff, City Council, APD, Code Compliance, AFD, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services, and many other individuals and departments. Shockingly, many officials who should know about this law do NOT know. Other officials simply refuse to acknowledge that a problem exists. Meanwhile, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and El Paso have implemented the model standards of this legislation for their vulnerable citizens.

5. What is the City’s argument against the licensing and inspection of “rogue” group homes?

The city argues that it will be prohibitively expensive to regulate group homes operating under the ordinance. City of Austin research puts the annual cost at \$500,000 per unit. The State, however, estimates the cost would be \$2,700 per unit. It is important to note that these homes are businesses, and like other kinds of businesses can be subject to certain expenses such as paying for licensing. Food service establishments are licensed and inspected; so should group homes be.

In 2009, our research indicates that the costs of police/fire/EMS calls to only seven of the “rogue” homes in Northeast Austin was a staggering \$1,000,000 plus. This drain on City resources will plummet when the homes are licensed.

6. What can Northeast area residents do to help?

First of all, become familiar with HB 216 and the model standards. Then, lobby your council representative. Be on the lookout for “rogue” homes and report them to the UHNA Rogue Home Task Force. If you see someone you think is being victimized in a home, call the police. Get involved with the Task Force. For more information, contact Joan Bartz, Chair, UHNA Rogue Home Task Force, [jbartz29@mygrande.net](mailto:jbartz29@mygrande.net)

John H. Reagan High School

Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Services Specialist

In May, the dance team performed their annual Spring Show, which included a tribute to seniors. The Soul Raiders banquet was held on May 18 and graduating seniors received awards. The trustees’ dinner was held May 13 to honor students who exhibit excellent academic and civic achievement. Extra applause goes to this year’s valedictorian, Lydia Martinez, and our salutatorian, Sugey Zavala. *[Editor’s note: Sugey won one of the WPNA Scholarships]*

In addition, May focused on teacher and staff appreciation. Administration grilled hamburgers for staff on May 7. The Family Resource Center and PTSA kept the gratitude rolling with a BBQ Chicken lunch on May 14. Many parents and support staff brought homemade dishes such as beans, tortillas, corn salad, horchata, and macaroni and cheese. A special thank you to PTSA members, Maranda and Gabriel Magnuson, for helping plan the event and for grilling the chicken.

As the school year wraps up, the Reagan team would like to say a special thank you to all of our community partners. We could not be a great school without you. Some of these partners include: El Rancho, Communities in Schools, Just Keep Livin, The Harvest Foundation, Austin Assistance League, UT School of Nursing, UT School of Social Work, AmeriCorps, Doyle Valdez, Cornerstone Financial, and Exacta Bookkeeping.

Upcoming events include:

- June 1 to 4 - Finals for grades 9-11
- June 3 at 4pm - Graduation Ceremony at the Frank Erwin Center (buses available to take students and family leaving from Reagan between 1p-3p.)
- June 4 - Last day of classes.
- June 10 to June 25 - Summer school will take place at LBJ.

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Harris Elementary  
Gloria Cano, school counselor

The end of the school year is upon us – school ends June 4<sup>th</sup>. May was a busy month at Harris with field trips to the Windsor Park Library and the Thinkery for Pre-Kindergarten students, and to the Museum of Natural Science at UT for the first graders. The fifth graders completed their last Science Bowl - the winners were Ms. Berman’s class and they celebrated with a pizza party during lunchtime. Track and Field events took place on May 7 and 8 with many parents in attendance to cheer on their children.

Come see the new Bulldog mosaic that our Art teacher, Ms. Corin, and her students completed. Our bulldog mascot has his graduation cap on so that our learning community knows what our goal is after leaving here.

We thank our teachers for their dedication and hard work! They were celebrated throughout Teacher Appreciation Week with tokens of thanks each day. Many thanks to ATPE, our Partner in Education, for honoring our teachers with breakfast goodies and useful gifts. Our principal Ms. Martinez and the PTA provided lunch for the teachers as well.

In June we will have our annual Talent show where students perform for all the students and parents. Fifth grade will be honored in a special assembly where awards will be given and memories shared of their years here at Harris. Our thanks to Ms. Napoles who always prepares a great slide show highlighting the year’s events. We want to thank our parents, mentors and volunteers for all you do for our school. Support from the community helps Harris Elementary be a great place to learn!

Bertha Sadler Means  
Ashley Ayala

We are so excited to look back at our first year at Bertha Sadler Means Young Women’s Leadership Academy. This year, our young ladies have participated in academic and extracurricular competitions both on the local and national level. Band, art and theatre students have excelled, entertaining us and gaining awards.

Ms. Tole’s students have been doing some great work with the rain garden. Our courtyard is being transformed from a utilitarian space to an amazing outdoor learning space. Our girls are able to enjoy the beautiful space and grab a snack; Ms. Tole has installed some edible plants including chocolate daisies and mint!



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Our Business Professionals of America (BPA) students had a great year culminating with a run at Nationals in California! The competition was tough but our girls worked hard; each of the students that competed placed among the Top 10. They also got to play hard at Disneyland!

We look forward to all of the great things our Sadler Means Young Women Leaders will accomplish in the years to come. If you and your family are interested in touring or exploring enrolling your child at Sadler Means, please contact Ms. Ayala at 512-841-5788

LBJ and LASA High Schools  
Karen Donelan

Greetings from LBJ Early College High School and LASA High School - the end of the school year has arrived! Ten LBJECHS Seniors graduated from ACC with their Associates degree on May 14. June will bring final exams for all students. June 1-4, final exams will begin at 8:15 a.m., and the school day will end and buses will depart at 12:35 p.m.

Graduation is on June 5th at 1:00 p.m. at the Frank Erwin Center. Seniors must arrive one hour early. The Project Graduation celebration lock-in will be held at the YMCA on 183 that evening at 11:00 p.m. and end the next morning at 6:00 a.m. Tickets are \$15 each. There will be many wonderful activities for graduates such as food, games, and swimming.

AISD north Summer School will be held at the LBJ campus this summer. Registration will be on June 9. Classes begin on June 10 and end June 25. Make-up STAAR testing will take place in early July. The faculty and staff of both high schools wish you all a wonderful and safe Summer Break!

[School updates continue on page 9]

Parks and Neighborhood Beautification Update  
Jeanette Swenson

**Shade Sail Installation Celebration:** Saturday, June 6, at 10:30 - come to the park to celebrate completion of installation of the shades over the toddler playscape and toddler swings. Bring a picnic item to share and enjoy the splash pad and shaded playscapes, then head over to the pool for the afternoon. Thanks to all of the 102+ donors who have contributed to making the play area safer both from the damaging sun and burns from contact with playscapes. Fundraising to Shade the larger playscape continues....


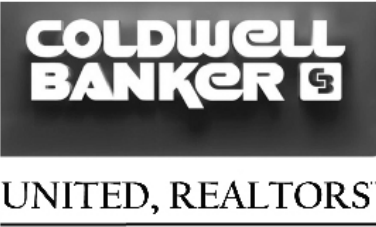

**Median at 290 and Berkman Completed:** The last dollar from Windsor Park’s Keep Austin Beautiful grant has been spent! Thank you to the 30+ volunteers who have shown up over the past year to prepare and plant three beds. Now, the challenge is **maintenance - watering, weeding and litter pick-up**. In 2015, we will need more volunteers to adopt a section of the median. Participation can be on your own time and probably takes about a half hour weekly per visit. It does include hauling water – two or three five gallon containers should be adequate. Please contact Jeanette Swenson or Rodney Ahart if you want to join the maintenance crew.



June 2015 Mueller Update  
Rick Krivoniak

District 1 Council Member Ora Houston appointed Mueller resident Dominique Bowman to the RMMAPIAC. D2 Council Member Delia Garza reappointed the Commission’s current chair, Mueller resident Michael Jones, D4 Council Member Greg Casar appointed **former WPNA President Martin Luecke** to the commission. Their terms technically begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, but the RMMAPIAC (and most other commissions) won’t meet in July.


The next RMMAPIAC meeting is at 6PM, Tuesday, June 9, 2015, in the Carver Library Meeting Room 1, 1161 Angelina Street. Please send Mueller-related questions & comments to bc- Rick.Krivoniak@austintexas.gov.

A more detailed Mueller update will be posted to the WPNA Listserv prior to the June 13<sup>th</sup> WPNA meeting.





<b>April 2015 Stats</b>	
AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (April 2015)	<b>\$197.87</b>
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (April 2015)	<b>12</b>
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	<b>1,523</b>
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	<b>59</b>
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	<b>16*</b>
*As of May 11th, 2015	
<b>Property Tax Valuations Are HERE!</b>	
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**



WPNA Scholarship Recipients Recognized

Meghan Dougherty

A year ago Rebecca Lowe came to our school committee meeting and made a proposal: let’s create a scholarship for a Reagan HS senior. She was moved to act after reading *Saving the School* by Michael Brick, which describes the effort to save Reagan HS from closure. She wanted to make a meaningful impact, something that would concretely show Reagan HS that Windsor Park Neighborhood supports them and their students. After a year of fundraising and liaising between our committee and AISD, we are proud and excited to offer our first annual scholarship to two highly deserving seniors at Reagan High School. Sugey Zavala and Emilio Vargas are the recipients of \$1000 each for their commitment to service in their communities. We far surpassed our expected fundraising goal of \$2000 by close to \$1000 in our first year of organizing this scholarship, which we consider a major triumph and an indication of the generosity and commitment of this neighborhood.



**Emilio Vargas** has been involved in community service from a young age, most notably through seven years in the Boy Scouts, where he has attained Eagle Scout. As part of his involvement in Boy Scouts he has provided more than 200 hours of service, including feeding homeless families, organizing CPR training for AISD, and cleaning up national seashores in the Florida Keys. The most touching part of his application was his description of his aunt, who raised him and his three brothers. She was the first female college graduate in her family and he credits her with showing him the value of education and community service. He states “when I complained about how corrupt or bad the world is, her response to me was, ‘What have you done to make it better?’” Emilio plans on attending Texas State in the fall and majoring in criminal justice.

**Sugey Zavala** is planning on attending Texas A&M to major in architecture. She’s ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in her class and has a long history of high academic achievement and

commitment to community. She’s been on Student Council for 2 years and National Honor Society for 4 years. She’s volunteered at the annual Hope Fest at Reagan High, and she’s gone to the middle and elementary schools in AISD as a spokesperson for the AVID program which helps students gain the skills needed to be successful in academics. She says that volunteering has helped her gain “the skills of understanding all kinds of people” and to see “how tied we are to one another as a community. I have seen that my success is their success and their success is mine.”

If you are inspired by these stories as much as we are, please donate to our scholarship fund. We have a fun-filled happy hour fundraising event coming up on **Friday, June 19 at the Nomad starting at 5:30**. The Nomad will donate a portion of the proceeds to our fund, and it’ll be an opportunity to meet neighbors, hang out, and have a refreshing drink.

If you are unavailable to attend that event, you can donate online through our secure PayPal account by visiting our website: [www.windsorpark.info](http://www.windsorpark.info). Alternatively, you can contribute at our monthly meetings by check or cash, or mail a check made payable to the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association to WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761. Just make sure to indicate that it is for the scholarship fund in the memo line. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the Nomad on June 19!

**Joe Hernandez,**  
(512) 657-8895  
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A black and white portrait of David Thoresen, a man with short dark hair, wearing a suit and tie.

**512.913.3759**  
[davidthoresen@johnhortonrealty.com](mailto:davidthoresen@johnhortonrealty.com)

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**WELCOME ...A PLACE FOR EVERYONE**  
A great place to meet new friends, find needed  
encouragement and discover God's plan for you.

Andrews Elementary

Saleem Blevins, Principal

On Friday, May 1, Fanny Andrews Early College Prep celebrated their annual Puestecitos, an event celebrating culture, music and food from different countries, in particular Hispanic and Latino tasty treats. On May 8th, Andrews’ PTA sponsored a movie night for students and their parents. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students took the last STAAR exam for this school year. On May 15th, students participated in a performance to celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* as well as Hispanic and Latino cultures of song and dance. As part of the after-school programs, first graders have been attending lessons at the East Communities YMCA to learn to swim.

The last few weeks of the school year will include many exciting events including Track and Field Day, Pre-K Graduation, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion ceremony. Teachers have also been preparing for a project to paint the portables in many bright colors. Although rain has interrupted some of the painting, Andrews’ art teacher, Ms. Suisman, has begun working on murals with students. These murals will eventually be attached to the portables to represent biomes. In June, construction will begin at Andrews. Air conditioning units will be installed on the roof, plumbing will be updated, all windows will be replaced, and the foyer, the front office, and the library will undergo many renovations.

Please remember, that on the first Friday of each month, the principal of Andrews, Mr. Saleem Blevins, has a Parent Coffee in the cafeteria. Andrews welcomes the community to join these parent coffees. As always, Andrews is very grateful for all the support it has received from the community. We wish to acknowledge ACE, CIS, the parents, the teachers, the many volunteers, and the community for the support we have received. We are especially thankful for the Mentors who give their time freely to help better a child’s life, and for the endless hours that members of Tzu Chi have given from their hearts to the students of Andrews. We hope all have a

wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing our scholars again in August 2015.

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

Blanton is wrapping up another school year and we had a very busy May. Our STAAR testing is finished with the exception of make-up testing. We congratulate all of our hard working students for trying their best. The wonderful turnout of volunteers, parents, staff and students made the Spring Carnival on May 1st a huge success and lots of fun for our test weary students. Our garden work day was May 9 - now is the time for cleaning up our planting beds and making sure we have watering schedules in place for the summer months. We had a Science Fair on May 14<sup>th</sup> and our students were able to showcase their special projects on which they invested so much time and effort.

Despite a week of rainy weather, A.M.P.E.D. Fest on May16th was AWESOME!!! We simply moved inside to watch wonderful performances from our students in the school and ACE. There was great food to eat and the arts & crafts sale was housed in the gym. Staff, parents and students all worked very hard to make this special day one that will be remembered as a great success.

On Friday, May 29, we honored our many volunteers with a Volunteer Appreciation Event. Blanton has been truly honored by a vast group of volunteers and we are pleased to recognize them. Coach Po is scheduling the Track and Field Day for June 3<sup>rd</sup>; our students love participating in this energizing and fun event every year.

We would like to congratulate our PTA for being a finalist in the Austin Partners in Education (APIE) ‘PTA of the Year’ competition. Our PTA is very active and extremely deserving of this recognition. If you would like to see some of the ‘family-type’ activities happening at Blanton Elementary, check out our Facebook page.

The last day of school is **June 4**; however, we’ll still be around! The school is planning a summer school designed for our primary students and ACE will have a summer camp for six weeks. The ACE summer camp will take students on field trips and plan special activities to keep learning active during the summer months.

We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for any special events. Keep an eye here and on our Facebook page for news of Blanton Elementary. For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at [karon.smutzer@austinisd.org](mailto:karon.smutzer@austinisd.org) or call 512-841-5678 to leave a message.  
[School updates continue on page 8]