

E-mail: newsletter@windsorpark.info

Visit the website at: Windsorpark.info

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#### **SPONSORS:**

Contact Us

We must receive your content and check by the 15<sup>th</sup> in order to include your sponsorship notice in the following month's newsletter.

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(payable to WPNA):

WPNA
P.O. Box 16183

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         7.25 x 4         \$180         \$960				
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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 / Individual — \$15/person	N
☐ Family — \$20	a
☐ Sustaining — \$35 or more	fo
☐ Non-voting donations - gladly accepted	
Name(s):	
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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**

Dec 5, 2pm: Family Matinee Series: Inside Out

Dec 8, 3:30pm: Lego Lab

**Dec 8, 7pm**: Book Club, *Night* by Elie Wiesel **Dec 9, 7pm**: Holicay Horro Movie (rated R):

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale

Dec 10, 10:15am: Smart Opera presents Opera

Cat

Dec 15, 16, 17 & 18 - 10am: Holiday Book Sale Dec 16, 4pm: Mario Kart 8 Wii Tournament

**Dec 17, 6pm**: Echo and the Bats Holiday

performance - music for kids

Jan 5, 7pm: In Football We Trust

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

# The Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact

**Team (WPNPCT)** is a representative group of neighborhood stakeholders charged as stewards of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan, to uphold the implementation of the Plan's vision, goals and recommendations, and to review & vote on all proposed amendments to the Plan.

Meetings are the second Monday of each month at the Windsor Park Library (subject to change) at 6:30 p.m.

Contact WPNPCT Chair Steve Speir for more information at sspeir@austin.rr.com or call 512-451-5412 or 512-363-0251.

Everyone is always invited to attend and participate.

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#### **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. 12

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

DECEMBER LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 2015

Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 12 at 1pm.

Christmas Party at Nomad 1213 Corona Drive

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

#### Windsor Park Contact Info

#### Website:

www.Windsorpark.info

#### Email:

president@ windsorpark.info

# Newsgroup: groups.yahoo.com/



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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Email them to:

newsletter@ windsorpark.info

Dear Neighbors:

Fall is upon us, and the holiday season rapidly approaching. Our annual party will be held on December 12, 2015 in lieu of our regular meeting – the party will be at Nomad's from 1-3pm. Nomad is located at 1213 Corona Dr, just east of Cameron. The party is pot-luck, so please bring an item to share and your festive spirit – the holiday party is always a wonderful way to socialize with neighbors. This year, we will have music with a live band, and Nomad will be offering drink specials and a Windsor Park holiday cocktail. Bring your family, bring a neighbor, and come along to join the festivities!

Remember, association dues are on a calendar basis and expire on December 31st. The party is a great time to renew or join for the first time. Membership rates are posted at the back of the newsletter.

At our November meeting, the Association membership elected officers for the coming year. The results are below – contact details are on the back of the newsletter:

- President: Karen Pagani
- Vice-President: Charters Wynn
- Treasurer: Meg Brooks
- Secretary: Michael Tzaperas
- ANC Rep: Brian Graham

I am honored to have been re-elected. The other officers and I look forward to continuing to grow the association and pursue initiatives that will improve upon our community.

My thanks to the outgoing officers, Ward Davison and Meghan Dougherty, for their service and support of our community. Meghan, who has served wonderfully as secretary, will continue as Schools Committee Chair and continues to update our website.

The December meeting is all about the party, but we do have some Committee Chair positions open, so please consider if you would like to step forward for a role in leading a committee. The Neighborhood association grows due to the interest and focus of its members – so think of what you are passionate about that could add to the community.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season,

Sincerely, Karen Pagani, WPNA President



# December 2015 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

With Austin's booming housing market, it is now anticipated that the build-out of Mueller's single-family homes – detached "yard" houses, row houses and the 4-to-6 condo unit "Mueller Houses" – will be complete in 2018. Multifamily and commercial construction will continue at Mueller for at least a few years beyond that time.

The City of Austin hosted a noon-hour seminar on affordable housing the same day as November's Mueller Commission meeting, where Mueller's Affordable Housing program was on the agenda. It's not surprising to learn that no more affordable single-family detached housing will be built at Mueller, as the costs have simply gotten too high, though affordable row-homes and condominiums will continue to be built. A tax-credit apartment complex, where the vast majority of units are affordable, should break ground at Aldrich & 51st Street early next year, and another is anticipated on the Mueller's eastern edge sometime after infrastructure is in place in 2018. To date, each market-rate apartment complex built at Mueller has offered 10% of the units at or below 60% of Median Family Income, with the promise to maintain that affordability for several decades. Successfully offering an aggregate of 25% of its housing as affordable has made Mueller's program a nationwide model, far exceeding any similar developments around the country.

Charged with maintaining long-term affordability, the Mueller Foundation is assisting affordable home-owners who are challenging the changes instituted this year by the Travis Central Appraisal District that threaten Mueller's affordable home-ownership program. At the November meeting, Mueller Commissioners voted to send a recommendation to the Austin City Council asking that they monitor the ongoing discussions with TCAD, and to take appropriate steps to maintain the viability of the Mueller, and other, affordable housing programs.

Estimates are that, as Blanton's attendance zone is built-out within Mueller, around 50 more students would attend the school. Around 85% of Mueller school-aged children that are eligible to attend AISD schools are doing sogenerally about the same as the surrounding neighborhoods. The AISD Board of Trustees does see value in the land offer at Mueller, and is studying options that might be something other than an elementary school. The *Austin American-Statesma*n editorial board has recently opined on the very complicated Mueller school issue: <a href="http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/long-delayed-school-in-mueller-back-on-school-boar/npJ6n/http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/long-delayed-school-in-mueller-fix-problems/nn8PT/

In Rathgeber Village, at the future corner of Zach Scott Boulevard and Manor Road, construction has started on the Bennett-Rathgeber Mentoring Center, a 20,000 square foot facility for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas. It is within, and WPNA's boundaries, but is subject to a special section of Mueller's Design Book. We hope to hear more about this facility at a WPNA meeting early next year.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (i.e. Mueller Commission) does not meet in December. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6PM in Meeting Room 1 of the Carver Library, 1161 Angelina Street. Please send Mueller-related questions & comments to <a href="mailto:bc-Rick.Krivoniak@austintexas.gov">bc-Rick.Krivoniak@austintexas.gov</a>





# Phorid or Humpbacked Flies

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Humpbacked flies, also known as Phorid flies, are small gnat-like flies that do not bite. They often are yellowish to black in color. They get their name from the way their back is humped when viewed from the side. Sometimes they are called scuttle flies from their habit of running around in an erratic manner.

Phorid flies vary widely with some being pests while some species are beneficial and attack and kill red imported fire ants. Pest species that are found indoors are often associated with moist, decaying organic matter. These flies can become a problem in homes because they can mechanically transmit bacteria to food and food prep areas.

Common sites where larvae develop (and areas you would need to locate a.k.a. "the source") can include the organic matter built up on the inside of drain pipes; on aging fruits, vegetables or other food matter; the bottom of garbage cans, dumpsters or recycling bins; in broken sewage pipes; or under broken floor tiles.

Develop a sanitation plan. Locate "the source" where larvae are living and clean it thoroughly. If drains are accessible, clean with a stiff brush and flush with boiling water. Food should not be left out for long periods of time and trash/recyclables should be removed on a regular basis. Repair any plumbing leaks.

Spot treatments with properly labeled insecticides and fly lights can help reduce adult populations.

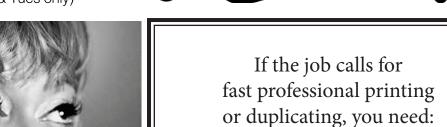
For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at <a href="https://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com">www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com</a>



We are happy to be in the Windsor Park neighborhood!

Mention this ad and get a **full set of lash extensions** for \$99, a \$250 value! (Mon & Tues only)







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# Let us cater your holiday parties!

Mention this ad for \$5 off of one sandwich tray.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

# WINDSOR PARK SPECIALIST



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.

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Windsor Park NA Park Stewards continue to work to maintain the landscaping in Bartholomew Park and the median at Berkman and 290. Bartholomew Park is a 69 acre park, and Austin Parks Foundation, Keep Austin Beautiful, Austin Parks and Recreation, Watershed Protection, Parks and Recreation Aquatics have all scheduled successful work days in the park. Windsor Park and PARD could not maintain the park without the help of volunteers recruited through those organizations. Thank you all.

In early November, Rosaena Recendez donated five young American Elm trees to the park. A beautiful tree, the American Elm does require a lot of water, but Jesse Neuman of PARD Urban Forestry agreed to accept them for park planting along Tannehill Creek where they will be naturally watered. Thank you both.

On November 17, Erin Cord of KAB, led a group of volunteers from National Instruments volunteers at the median at 290 and Berkman. They tidied up the space, re-defined borders, and planted wildflower seed-balls in the grassy area to on the east and west sides of the median, which we will all enjoy next spring.

The two playscape shades were installed before the onslaught of hot summer and appear to work well. WPNA does have funds set aside for the third shade, which will complete the project that WPNA membership undertook four years ago. My best estimate is that we have \$5,000-6,000 towards the \$20,500 cost of the third shade over the larger playscape. I look forward to a treasurer's report that will provide a list of donors since January 2015 and the amount that WPNA has on hand as we move into the final phase of the project, which was approved by WPNA at each stage of the project.

Finally, I have decided to resign as Chair of the Park Committee mainly because of a fractured tibia, which requires 6-9 months (For the next three months, my left leg is non-weight bearing.) to heal completely.

There's a lot to do in Bartholomew Park, and I hope that dedicated Windsor Park residents will continue to step up and volunteer.

I especially want to thank the volunteers I've worked with over the past five years for their dedication to the park: Bob Wheeless, Carol Kent, Janne Zochert, Daphne Jeffers, Rodney Ahart and the many of you who volunteered occasionally over the past five years. I especially appreciate Bill Stout and Ladye Anne Wofford at Austin Parks Foundation; Rodney Ahart and Erin Cord of Keep Austin Beautiful; Staryn Wagner, Jeff Clements, Mateo Scoggins, and Todd Jackson at Watershed Protection; and Sara Hensley, Brian Block, D'Anne Williams, Paul Slutes, Jodi Jay, Jeff Larson, Jimmy Cone, and Alberto Perez, staff at Austin Parks and Recreation. All have been supportive of our plans and suggestions for Bartholomew Park and have made useful suggestions and helped with implementation to make Bartholomew Park a neighborhood asset.

Thank you all and remember to get out and enjoy the park. Swimming pool is open for extended season! In addition to a trail system, soccer field, dog park, what else could we add?

Thank you all.



# Debby Reynolds

512-699-2130 debbyreynolds512@gmail.com www.turnerresidential.com

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#### **December** - page 9

# Yard of the Month – December 2015

Sara Jane Lee

The December winner is Irene P. Montoya of 1303 Hillcrest Lane. Mr. and Mrs. Montoya have lived on Hillcrest Drive for 25 years. Their yard has a variety of plants, some in pots, others planted in the ground. The palms and the lush greenery give it a tropical feeling. There are some areas of grass, but much of the yard is covered in mulch and small pebbles. Mr. Montoya used limestone blocks to divide the yard into separate spaces. He also helped plan the landscape.

Mrs. Montoya loves nature. Working in the garden relaxes her and gives her a sense of peace. Since she takes so much pleasure in planning then planting her landscape, working may not be the right word to describe the joy she takes from gardening. When she was growing up, she helped her mother and her sister work in the family garden. Her advice is to "create from within [and] to find inspiration every day surroundings." Furthermore, choose plants that do not require much water.

In addition to the palms, their plants include Shrimp Plant, Coleus, Elephant Ears, Ruellia, Begonias, and Rosemary. Mrs. Montoya loves vines. They run on the ground, on the house, and on some of the yard art. They include Passion Vine, Fig Vine, and Star Jasmine. The last grows over an arbor that frames the entrance to the house. Like many Austin gardeners, the Montoyas have modified their landscape, choosing plants that require less water and less maintenance. Mrs. Montoya collects water in rain barrels and uses that water to water the yard.

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

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

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











# OCT 2015 Stats

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT \$219.34 (Oct 2015)

# OF HOMES SOLD IN (Oct 2015)

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD 1,529

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS 11

# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET 22\*

\*As of Nov 13th, 2015 - Single Family Homes

#### Number SOLDS down....

Only six properties sold in Oct 2015 DOWN nearly 50% Month-Over-Month



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### **Formosan Termites**

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Central Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites. This article will focus of formosan termites.

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants, consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

The type of termite is determined by using soldiers (the group that defends the colony) or alates (winged reproductives) for identification. Formosan termite soldiers have a hardened head capsule that is tear-drop shaped. The alates have two heavy veins on the leading edge of the front wing along with hairs on the wings. If you suspect termites, you can submit sample insects to me for identification. Treatment would need to be carried out by a profession pest management company.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at <a href="https://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com">www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com</a>

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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.



WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 12 1-3 PM

Nomad, 1213 Corona

A festive gathering of friends and neighbors
Bring a dish to share
We look forward to seeing you there!



**December -** page 8

#### **December** - page 5

# Windsor Park Resident and Real Estate Broker



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# Harris Elementary Early College Prep

Gloria Cano, School Counselor

Harris Elementary has many exciting things going on. We held our Literacy Fair where students had a chance to participate in different activities and got a free book after visiting at least three activities.

Our Veterans Day salute was great. Kindergarten classes presented entertainment in songs and skits honoring our veterans and our freedom due to their service and sacrifice. The choir, led by Ms. Napoles our music teacher, accompanied the presentations.

Fourth and fifth graders attended Career Fair on November 13. They talked with a nurse, police officer, business owner, UT college professor and cosmetologist, just to name a few of the professions represented. The students learned about various careers and the skills needed to meet their goals for their future career. This event was coordinated by the school counselor, librarian Ms. Hinkle, and Communities in School. Our first Science Bowl of the year was on Nov. 17th. Fifth graders competed with one another in a game show format and received points for knowing science skills & concepts.

Our neighborhood partner, UMMC, and Harris will be registering parents in December for an English as A Second Language class for our parents. Classes will be offered two days a week from 9-12 at United Memorial Methodist Church on Berkman Drive. Manos de Cristo will be providing the instructors & materials. Cost for the class is forty dollars. For information contact UMMC, Manos de Cristo or Gloria Cano at Harris Elementary.

# John H. Reagan Early College High School

Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Service Specialist

For the second year in a row the Raider football team made it to playoffs. Several of the graduating seniors have received scholarships to play football in college! Great job, Coach Carey and all coaches, for helping foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and achievement.

On November 18, many people came out to StandUp for Reagan, the 8th annual community dinner. At this dinner students, parents, and staff were asked to provide feedback on what they believe makes Reagan a great school, what changes they hope to achieve, and what dreams they have for the school. There will be a follow-up community meeting in the spring to debrief on the feedback and incorporate it into our campus improvement plan.

Would you like your student to take college classes while in high school? Dual credit classes are offered at ACC and UT. The first step in the process is to contact the Early College High School Coordinator, Amie Dillawn. 512-841-3113. The next step is passing the TSI. Reagan offers tutoring amongst other supports to help our students pass the TSI. TSI is the test students must pass to be able to take college courses.

The Reagan Family wishes you a happy holiday season.



# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: MIKE O'BRIEN

Martin Luecke

Our neighbor on Rogge Drive since 1995, Mike first moved to Windsor Park in 1984, raised two daughters, and was involved in WPNA back in the 80's. He just retired from a career at Texas Parks and Wildlife as an exhibit sculptor, making the 3-D elements that you see at the 129 state parks, from life size dioramas to way-side panels on trails. If you've been to Enchanted Rock, you might have seen his bronze scale model of the rock there at the park.



His largest project for TPW was making a life size Columbian Mammoth and its baby, cast in bronze,

which looks a lot like an elephant, but is much larger. Now located at Lubbock Lake National Historical Landmark, Mike researched for a year before completing the sculpture. "I know way too much about mammoths," he said as he explained that Columbians lived in the southwest, and had 15 foot tusks. I won't share with you, dear readers, the political payoff of this particular work. Mike definitely knows too much, some of which he asked me not to print.



Mike's biggest achievement is the mapping of the dinosaur tracks at Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose up near Fort Worth. Back 112 million years ago the ocean went all the way to Dallas, and one day on a mud beach, a group of dinosaurs left a bunch of tracks that were immediately covered with a large amount of biomass, probably from a flood, which protected them from many, many layers of limestone sediment over the eons. Mike received a grant from the National Geographic Society to digitally map the site with help from a team of grad students at Indiana University. You can use Google Earth app on your smart phone to locate the tracks while visiting the park.

You will also find Mike's work on the face of the Bullock State History Museum. Six large bronze panels depicting various chapters of state history greet every visitor at the front steps, larger than life, big as Texas! Mike was on loan from TPW to the museum, which

built the project in 1997. It took Mike a year to finish the work.

Most recently Mike has turned his creative eye to a non-sculpture art project called "Memory, Method and Medium" which appears at G Gallery in Houston this month. Mike is using his old diorama skills to create a multi-layered series of images which he then photographs and prints on extremely thick paper. It's an idea he had 30 years ago and is finally completing. He may be retired at the moment, but Mike says that won't last long. He's got lots of creative work ahead.

Thanks for all the nominations! Please keep them coming to Martin Luecke 536.0465 or mwluecke@hotmail.com

#### **December** - page 6

#### **Andrews Elementary**

Andrea Williams, Assistant Principal

Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through this academic school year; time truly flies when you are having fun learning. The students in the Andrews Learning Community have been afforded numerous enriching opportunities within the classroom setting as well as out of classroom environment. For this, we are truly grateful.

Our 1st Grade students visited the Zach Scott Theatre to view a production of Winnie the Pooh which they enjoyed. Students in 4th Grade visited the Bob Bullock Museum. One of the main exhibits was the La Belle. Not only were students awed by this massive exhibit, but most importantly, they learned how this ship shaped our nation's history.

Who enjoys basketball? Well, our 3rd-5th Honor Roll students were selected to attend an NBA league game featuring two undefeated teams; Austin Spurs against the Grand Rapids Drive Pistons. The experience was memorable and the atmosphere was electric! This past month, three fifth grade vocalists were showcased at the AISD All-City Choral Festival. These students represented Andrews well. For that, we are thankful.

We invite you to join us for the upcoming events on our campus. Our monthly Campus Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting which will be held on December 2, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. On December 4, 2015, we will host our monthly Parent Coffee. You can expect delicious treats along with the opportunity to address concerns to the principal.

# Austin Achieve - Community Service project update

Emily Morrison, Austin Achieve Development Director

Ninth grade scholars from Austin Achieve walked the Windsor Park Neighborhood in early November, gathering trash as part of their fall community service effort. This project was coordinated by students in their college seminar classes, which prepares Austin Achieve scholars for college by offering financial planning classes, resume building exercises, and opportunities for community engagement.

For this year's fall Community Service effort, nearly 150 students walked the blocks to clean up the neighborhood. When asked why they did the project, Achieve scholars Rea, Josmar, and some of their fellow students told Austin Achieve administrators: "We decided to do this project because we care about our community and the way our neighborhood looks. We want to show our neighbors that we are loving and caring and we want to help people who have disabilities or those who cannot go out and make a change by cleaning their neighborhood. Also, it was really fun!"

#### **Bertha Sadler Means YWLA**

Ashley Ayala, Parent Support Specialist

We can't believe 2015 is almost over. Our Sadler Means young women have grown so much.

Ms Matula and Ms Williamson have guided our girls to success at their BPA (Business Professionals of America) competitions. They've learned so many skills that are useful not only now in the classroom but in their futures as well.

Ms Wartel is busy working with our Philanthropy Club. Our students are working on having an "attitude of gratitude". They've had two major projects so far this semester. The students ran a coat drive and greatly surpassed their goal. We are currently wrapping up our canned food drive. The girls are so excited to see their donation boxes filling up.

**December** - page 7

Ms Sansom is directing our young actresses as they prepare to put on their first play. Our young women are excited to be constructing their set and projecting their voices.

We can't wait to see what great things 2016 will bring for our young women and our community. We thank you for continuing to support Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy where our GIRLS LEAD THE WAY!!!

# **Blanton Elementary Update**

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

Mother Nature made for a hectic end to October and beginning of November. Blanton had to reschedule the BooFest for the first Friday in November, but we didn't get flooded on October 30 like some of the other schools. Now that our Halloween and Thanksgiving festivities are over the staff, students and parents are making plans for the Holiday break.

One of our own Blanton staff members is leading our adult exercise class and it is still going strong, they meet each Monday and Tuesday in the gym from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. everyone is invited to come join us in becoming fit and healthy. Camp Fire is finishing up with their 'Play to Learn' program that is offered to parents and pre-kinder students not enrolled in school. They are learning all about literacy and becoming more prepared to join us when they are old enough for school.

December 4 will be the Blanton Winter Fest - everyone is invited to come and enjoy the program. We will be having presentations from the Kindergarten classes, ACE classes and possibly our Honor Choir. PTA will be selling snacks, setting up craft tables and sponsoring our 'Pictures with Santa'. So come and enjoy the winter festivities.

On December 11, ACE will be hosting a Tamalada Festival - come and learn how to make tamales for the holidays. There will be a demonstration on how to prepare the tamales, then families will be working together to assemble and package the tamales and finally a tamale tasting. This event is expected to be quite large so we are limiting the number of families to participate to 30. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Karon at the number or email listed below.

Our PTA will meet on December 17 at 8:30 a.m. Every month we have a garden/beautification work day. We do monthly work to upkeep the campus fruit trees, raised planting beds and landscape. We invite the community to join us in keeping our school grounds healthy and vibrant – the December workday is the 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. Our winter break begins December 19 – school resumes January 5, 2016.

The ACE program continues to offer ESL classes for adults each Friday from 8:30-10:00 a.m. and Spanish classes for adults each Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our Strengthening Families workshop will be ending December 15 and the ACE program for first semester will be ending on December 10. ACE will resume programming on January 9, 2016.

\*\*\*ACE will also continue collecting t-shirts for the 'T-Shirts for Hunger Program' which will be an ongoing activity. The shirts are collected to make grocery bags to be used by the food bank when handing out food to the needy. Clean, gently used (no holes) t-shirts may be brought to the school and put in the t-shirt barrel and ACE will see they are delivered to Travis County. The best sizes are youth large, adult small and adult medium...they can be long-sleeve, short-sleeve or tank tops. We welcome our communities to participate in this activity....we thank those who have. The collection barrel is in the school office.

For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at <u>karon.smutzer@austinisd.</u> org or call 512-841-5678 to leave a message.