

E-mail:
newsletter@windsorpark.info

Visit the website at:
Windsorpark.info

Newsgroup:
groups.yahoo.com/group/windsorpark/

Contact Us

President.....Karen Pagani.....512-786-7224
Vice PresidentCharters Wynn512-914-2031
Secretary.....Michael Tzaperas.....512-913-9566
Treasurer.....Meg Brooks.....treasurer@windsorpark.info
ANC Rep.....Brian Graham.... ancdelegate@windsorpark.info
WoW Editor.....Amanda Rose newsletter@windsorpark.info
Sponsorships.....Chad Cotton..... sponsorship@windsorpark.info

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):
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 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 / Individual — \$15/person
- ☐ Family — \$20
- ☐ Sustaining — \$35 or more
- ☐ Non-voting donations - gladly accepted

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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

Feb 4, 11, 18, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime
Feb 6, 2pm: Family Movie Matinee - Minions
Feb 9, 3:30pm: Lego Lab
Feb 16, 3:30pm: Free Play Gaming
Feb 18, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime
Feb 25, 10:15am: All Ages Storytime
Mar 1, 7pm: Indie Pop-Up Lens: The Graduates
Mar 8, 3:30pm: Lego Lab
Mar 15, 3:30pm: Free Play Gaming

*The Book Club also meets at the Library.
Please call the library to find out the schedule.*

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 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 Conor Kenny at conor@conorkenny.net or 512-968-3050

Everyone is always invited to attend and participate.

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

Austin Police District Representatives

Officer James Scoggins

(512) 974-8393 | james.scoggins@austintexas.gov

Officer James Hyatt

(512) 974-5500 | james.hyatt@austintexas.gov

Officer Veneza Bremner

(512) 974-4118 | veneza.bremner@austintexas.gov



WINDOW on WINDSOR

Vol XXXV No. 2

February 2016

Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Saturday, Feb.
13 at 10am.**

**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:

[groups.yahoo.com/
group/windsorpark/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/windsorpark/)



Follow us on Facebook!

[WindsorParkAustinTx](https://www.facebook.com/WindsorParkAustinTx)

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

Email them to:

newsletter@windsorpark.info

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

WPNA PRESIDENT'S LETTER - FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Neighbors:

Thanks to all of you who attended our January meeting at which Friends of Austin Neighborhoods (FAN) gave us a presentation. FAN, much like the ANC, is a collective of neighborhood associations that tries to influence policy regarding growth and development throughout the City of Austin. In the coming months the WPNA officers will do our best to keep everyone informed as to FAN's endeavors and, perhaps in the near future, the WPNA's membership will vote on whether we want to also join FAN. My own personal belief is that, regardless of one's stance toward development or toward the ANC or FAN, the WPNA is best served when we are well informed as to the activities of all of these groups and we are more influential when we are voicing our membership's feedback and concerns in as many venues as possible.

At our January meeting we also heard from the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (WPNPCT). In response to complaints and concerns that both others and myself have raised, the WPNPCT has made efforts to be more transparent about their membership, bylaws, and activities. I do appreciate these efforts. However, I do have some remaining concerns about the composition of the team and certain practices regarding both membership and transparency. First, as recently November of 2015 the WPNPCT struck all of the language from the bylaws that required them to maintain a public website that contained updates, the bylaws, and the names and contact information of all of the members. In all fairness, I was told that this was because of a lack of resources and the group has since started a Yahoo group that is open to the public that contains some (though not all) of that information. And it is true that the city does not currently provide any of the contact teams with a website or a budget. However, it seems as though that edit to the previous bylaws is a dangerous one from a purely philosophical perspective and should be seriously rethought.

Further, according to the information I currently have, 5 of the 14 members live on just two streets that are adjacent to one another. To what extent this is by accident or design is not a question I can answer. Regardless, considering that the WPNPCT is responsible for giving feedback to the city on all issues that concern changes to zoning, it is imperative that the group be as diverse as possible in every respect (there is also a dearth of renters and minority members on the team at present, for example). Currently, the WPNPCT's bylaws state that—after attending three meetings—an individual can be nominated or self-nominate to become a member, at which point the current members vote on the nominee. Considering that only 14 of 31 slots are filled and, again, given the current geographical distribution of the members, the necessity of being voted on to the team seems dubious to me. As it stands now a major question concerning not only the WPNPCT but also contact teams throughout Austin is whether—if one fulfills the membership requirements and has attended the requisite number of meetings—one has the right to become a member without having to be voted on by existing members. I know where I stand on that issue. If you feel strongly about this issue one way or the other please do consider both attending future contact team meetings and expressing your preference to your council members.

[continues on page 2]

[President’s letter, continued from page 1]

The WPNPCT meets the second Monday of every month at the Windsor Park Library. The meetings start at 6:30pm.

As I expressed at the last contact team meeting, I also have concerns that a number of the members appear to be part of the Responsible Growth for Windsor Park Neighborhood Association (RG4WP), the president of which is Scooter Cheatham, who is also a member of the team. Whereas I am happy to see other neighborhood groups emerging (the more the merrier!), I am concerned about the fact that RG4WP purports to represent 6000 households on the ANC website. I can only speak for myself but, in my 8 years living in this neighborhood, I have never once received a communication from this group, though it has been around for years. I have never once been made aware of any of this group’s meetings. RG4WP does not have a website and only meets “as needed” at no specified time as per the ANC website. Yet RG4WP is accorded the same voting power on the ANC as the WPNA, which for me raises additional concerns about the membership requirements for becoming a member of the ANC. Whereas the WPNA is far from perfect, we do strive to maintain regular contact with the entire neighborhood through our newsletter, list-serv, and events, all of which are at the disposal of members and non-members alike. Further, we are an open group that anyone can join whenever they want—so no voting on after attending x amount of meetings is necessary.

In other news, ATEX Towers and Enertech are proposing to build a 126’ cell phone tower on 51st/52nd Street next to Our Lady’s Maronite Church. According to the presentation I attended at the last WPNPCT meeting, the church will be leasing the land to the company for a period of thirty years. The church has already signed the lease, but the company has not yet done so and will not do so until it has worked its way through the planning and permitting process at the city level. The tower will have additional out buildings—including two generators—and a 6-foot fence with three strands of barbed wire surrounding it. The company does not currently have any plans for beautification projects around the structures, such as living barriers, walls or landscaping, although that issue was raised at the meeting. From my vantage point it is unclear what if anything the WPNPCT can do to influence this project. That said, I do suspect that this issue will be discussed in the future and that the contact team will make a recommendation at some point in the process—even if informal.

Personally, I’m not yet sure where I stand on the issue. On the one hand, the tower will be an eyesore for the neighborhood and there remain open questions regarding both noise and safety. On the other hand, more towers are needed to handle the ever-increasing amount of data we are all using...and these towers do have to be in someone’s backyard. If you are concerned about this issue, please consider attending the next contact team meeting. You can also express your preference to the church, the companies involved, and to our city staff and elected officials. As the project advances (if indeed it does) it is my hope to have the companies involved give a presentation at a future WPNA meeting.

Sincerely, Karen Pagani, WPNA President

If the job calls for
fast professional printing
or duplicating, you need:

G&F Discount Printing
Austin, TX 78723
512-929-0585

You have a friend at
MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



6100 Berkman Drive

Sunday School- 9:15am Worship - 10:30am
Office # 452-5796

We would love to see you this Sunday
WELCOME ...A PLACE FOR EVERYONE
A great place to meet new friends, find needed
encouragement and discover God’s plan for you.

February 2016 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The February winners are Morgan Whitney and her fiancée Raquel Garza of 1600 Glenvalley Drive. They are new residents of Windsor Park, having moved in last November.

The green landscaping and tan pathways complement the colorful house. There is no lawn grass. The house is red-dish-brown brick with blue, yellow, and green trim. We should confess that when we picked this house, we did not realize that they were brand new residents. They are maintaining the yard that they received and are learning about their plants. Like many yards in the neighborhood, many of their plants are xeric.

The yard is dominated by two mature Texas Red Oaks. They also have an Anacua (aka Sandpaper Tree). Their other plants include Mexican Mint Marigold, Yellow Columbine, Inland Seaoats and other native grasses and Sedges, Monkey Grass, Clover Fern and Purple Heart. Mulch covers the planting beds. Gravel paths meander through the yard. Near the street there is a permeable hardscape of river rocks.

Morgan and Raquel love to sit on their front patio and watch the birds and the butterflies in their yard. Since the yard consists of native and adapted plants, they do not and will not have to water much. Maintaining the yard is not difficult and time-consuming.


Morgan and Raquel 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

WINDSORPARKAGENT.COM

COLDWELL BANKER

UNITED, REALTORS®




DEC 2015 Stats

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Dec 2015)	\$199.67
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (Dec 2015)	13
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,576
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	37
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	13*

*As of Jan 14th, 2016 - Single Family Homes

Did you buy your home in 2015...
Homestead Exemption Filing starts Jan 1, 2016! Contact me w/Questions!



JOHN PAUL PORTER
(512) 563-8176

JohnPaul@DigDwell.com

3RD GENERATION WINDSOR PARK RESIDENT

NO OBLIGATION Personal Property Valuations

Windsor Park Resident and Real Estate Broker



Jane Amschwand
Realtor®

Salt Homes, LLC

Owner/Broker

512.228.2484

www.salthomes.com
jane@salthomes.com

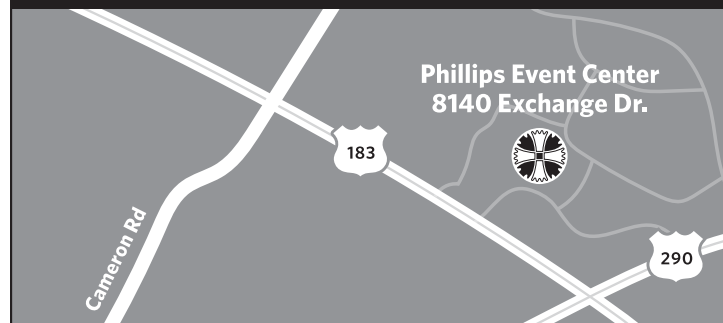
SALT
HOMES
LLC



*The life of God,
for the good of the world.*

**An Anglican Church
serving Northeast Austin**

JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. • COTCAUSTIN.ORG



Now Open! Grand Opening Party



March 5th @ 11am
Classics Car Meet-Up & BBQ

*Full service automotive care for classic cars
Maintenance, Repair & Custom Builds
Performance Transmission & Vintage Air Installers*

1727 Briarcliff Blvd. Austin, TX 78723
512-524-0584
www.gusgarage.com

[Casar update, continued from page 4]

about safety on this street from Windsor Park neighbors. If funding is approved, we'll keep you posted on specifics and next steps in the March neighborhood newsletter.

Upcoming Office Hours!

I have two opportunities for office hours during the month of February: on February 5th from 2pm to 4pm at the Little Walnut Creek Branch Library and on February 19th from 2pm to 4pm at the Windsor Park Library.

Please contact my Communications Director Shelby Alexander at 512-978-2157 or Shelby.Alexander@aus-tintexas.gov if you would like to set up a 20 minute appointment. As always, my office and I are available at 512-978-2104.

Leaf cutting ants

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

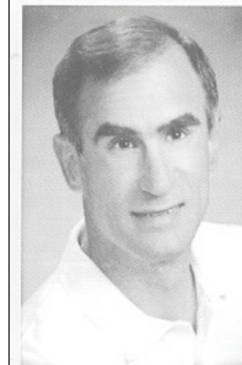
Leaf cutting ants are reddish-brown with three pairs of spines on the thorax and one pair of spines on the back of the head. Workers come in various sizes, but can be up to ½ an inch long. Mounds can become large and are sometimes mistaken for fire ant mounds. Leaf cutter ant mounds have a central opening and often a crater shape at the top.



Leaf cutting ants typically forage when the temperatures are cooler, such as at night or in the morning. They can sometimes cause complete defoliation of plants or small trees overnight. These ants remove leaves and buds from plants in the landscape. The ants do not eat the plant pieces, but take the pieces back to their colony and feed them to a fungus garden. They tend a particular species of fungus and weed out any other fungus from the garden.

Colonies may exist for years and can exceed over two million ants. It is not unusual for a single colony to cover an acre of land. Colonies are usually found in well drained, sandy or loamy soils.

Plants can be temporarily protected by using spray adhesives around the base of the plant. The adhesive would need to be refreshed often when dirt or debris accumulates. Temporary protection can also be provided with contact insecticidal spray or dusts labeled for "ants". If mounds are located in an area, the bait product labeled for leaf cutter ants, Amdro Ant Block, can be broadcast with a hand-held spreader around the mound area. If no mounds are seen, then residual sprays and dusts labeled for "ants" can be used along foraging trails and around openings. 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 www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com



GARY KNIPPA
CRS, REALTOR®

Office: (512) 451-5050
Mobile/Direct: (512) 657-7714
Fax: (512) 451-5204
Email: gary@knippaproperties.com
www.knippaproperties.com



KNIPPA PROPERTIES
P.O. Box 162906
Austin, Texas 78716

TROY HANNA

ABR, CRS, GRI, SRS, MBA

512-659-7093

Troy@PresidioGroup.com



BUYING, SELLING, LEASING AND
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

the place to be

23

austin78723.com

the neighborhood REALTOR

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, PHD512-786-7224

Certified Negotiation Expert®

KAREN@JUICEHOMES.COM

AUSTINREALESTATE411.NET

JUICEHOMES.COM

100% AUSTIN

JUICE

REAL ESTATE

February Update from CM Casar

I hope you had a wonderful end to 2015, and a great start to 2016! We have a lot to do this year—expect me to continue fighting to get Austin off the list of most segregated cities in America and working to make our neighborhoods safe and accessible. We'll always be focused on pushing new initiatives to improve the quality of life for working Austinites. Here are some updates on what's happening here at City Hall:

Big Year Ahead for Austin Energy

This is a big year in our utility—not only will we be looking into hiring a new General Manager, but we will be reviewing the utility’s rate structure. The last time rates were reviewed was 2012.

We began preparing for this work in 2015 when we reviewed contracts for some of Austin Energy's largest commercial users. I led the initiative at that time to end the electric bill subsidies for ten of the largest corporations in Austin. According to our data, these 10 corporations have seen millions and millions of dollars in savings on their electric bills since 2012. Thanks to the courage of the Council, those corporations are now directly paying into the funds that support our low-income Austin Energy customers, and residential ratepayers will no longer subsidize these corporate electric accounts. These funds will help make sure that we have the appropriate revenue to fairly and equitably balance our budget.

The rate-setting process will take 6 months. I'm looking forward to representing you in this upcoming process to make sure we have as fair of a utility as possible. I'll keep you updated with important information and timelines as we move forward!

Transportation Funds

As you know, my office has emphasized addressing local transportation needs in North Austin. With support from our Transportation Department, Public Works Department, and those of you whose responses we received via our Transportation surveys, my office has prioritized projects across District 4 from Lamar to Rundberg to Berkman Drive. I'm hoping that by the time you read this, Council will have approved my request for additional funding to address the issues many are facing with Berkman. I submitted this request specifically because I've heard so many concerns

[Continued on Page 10]

February 2016 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

The future path of Aldrich Street, now visible from E. 51st between Berkman and Mueller Blvd., leads directly to Mueller's Town Center (a.k.a. "Aldrich Street"), where site preparation at 1911 Aldrich has begun for the Alamo Drafthouse cinema. Slated to open later this year, it will feature six screens for new releases, classics, independent films, foreign movies and special programming. The six theaters, all on the second floor, will hold a total of around 600 people in luxurious 26" wide seats. Two theaters will be equipped with 35mm projectors, and all will feature 4k digital projection and state-of-the-art digital surround sound. The complex includes an adjacent bar/lounge serving up 48 beers on tap and craft cocktails, with outdoor patio seating and a stage for live music. In addition to traditional cinema offerings, Alamo Drafthouse Mueller will be a hub for their growing family and youth programming to serve neighborhood families.

Up the street from the Alamo Drafthouse, the Aldrich 51 affordable apartment complex is expected to break ground in February. Located at 2604 Aldrich, immediately east of the AISD Performing Arts Center, it will also front on 51st Street and have a small commercial component. The project will consist of 240 units. Fifteen units will be reserved for households with incomes at or below 30% Median Family Income (MFI), and ten of those units are reserved for Permanent Supportive Housing, offering subsidized housing and ongoing support and case management services for individuals and families who had been homeless. Forty-eight units will be reserved for households with incomes at or below 50 percent MFI. One hundred fifty-six (156) units will be reserved for households with incomes at or below 60 percent MFI. Twenty-one (21) units will have no income restrictions. Geared primarily for workforce tenants, most units have one or two-bedrooms. A similar tax-credit/affordable project aimed at families is planned for the future at Mueller, where the goal of offering 25% of the total dwellings for those making at or below 80% of MFI - \$43,050 for 1 person or \$61,450 for a 4-person household for 2015 in Austin.

By year's end, all of Berkman will be constructed to its full width as the housing phase east of the street continues build-out north towards the H-E-B. Mueller's second neighborhood park is well underway in this area. Bounded by Vaughan, Moreno, Tilley & Sorin Streets, John Gaines Park will also have a pool, and is scheduled to open by this summer, where non-Mueller residents will have access similar to that at Mueller's Ella Wooten pool. In 2017, it's expected that Zach Scott, currently in place from Airport to Berkman, will extend on through Mueller to Manor Road near Ratheber Village, and Tilley Street will extend from its current Manor Road intersection to 51st Street, between the Austin Studios and CTECC, or across from the tennis court driveway at Bartholomew Park.

The next meeting of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (Mueller Commission) is Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6PM. There is a chance the location will change, but at submission date, the venue was still Meeting Room 1 of the Carver Library, 1161 Angelina Street. Address Mueller questions and comments to bc-rick.krivoniak@austintexas.gov

Debby Reynolds

512-699-2130

debbyreynolds512@gmail.com

www.turnerresidential.com

.....

DELWOOD REALTOR AND RESIDENT

.....

Turner Residential

buying


selling

building

central

austin





DAVID THORESEN

REALTOR

Certified Residential Specialist

512.913.3759

davidthoresen@johnhortonrealty.com

Experience

Knowledge

Professionalism



John
HORTON REALTY™

A PLR Affiliate

WPNA Committees: Below is a brief summary of our WPNA Committees. As you review below, consider if you would like to join, or even chair, a committee. See <http://www.windsorpark.info> Committee page for more info.

Yard of the Month:

The Yard of the Month (YOM) program was established to recognize efforts of residents who inspire other people to improve and maintain their front yards. We REALLY appreciate nominations of yards since we cannot possibly check every street. Email us at yom@windsorpark.info or call 512-928-0681. Winners receive a \$50 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 Hancock Drive. Members are Chair Sandi Wilcox, Sara Jane Lee, Keva Richardson, Hope Camacho, Joe Limon and Gary Lockhart. The main judging criterion is for the overall design of the front yard. Former winners are eligible again after five or more years have passed. The committee meets the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 for coffee and discussion, then we cruise the neighborhood together.

Transportation Committee:

A sub-committee of the neighborhood association to discuss transportation issues in the Windsor Park neighborhood to enhance the safety and roadway experience for all users. The committee tracks projects in and around the neighborhood while serving as a liaison to the public agencies such as the City, TXDOT, and Capital Metro. Some of the past efforts include transportation surveys, roadway restriping, a hybrid cross-walks, speed mitigation, sidewalks, and bike lanes. Members: Stafford Gunning (chair); Greg Montes (past chair); Rick Krivoniak; Rodney Ahart; Jeanette Swenson; Margi Bienemann; Josh Pitts and Carol Kent. The Transportation Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Windsor Park Library at 6:30PM. Meetings are open to the public and welcome new members to participate.

Schools Committee:

The Schools Committee works to foster supportive relationships with the public schools within in our neighborhood. Our members sit on the CACs of our neighborhood schools and work with other organizations and our AISD trustee to ensure quality education for our students. We offer an annual scholarship for graduating high-school students from Reagan High School - as funds permit, we offer either 1 or 2 scholarships, and if there is continued interest & funding, we may try to broaden beyond Reagan High School. The Schools committee is chaired by Meghan Dougherty, and meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Windsor Park Library (but please email to confirm time and date of our meetings). We welcome anyone who wants to support our schools and students.

Parks Committee:

The Parks Committee works to maintain and improve Bartholomew Park, the median at 290, and new park space on Patton Lane. We develop and schedule projects with Austin Parks Foundation for It’s My Park Day, National Trails Day, and National Public Lands Day, and work with Keep Austin Beautiful and City of Austin to restore Tannehill Creek. The Committee has worked with PARD on shade and landscaping for the splash pad and has raised funds to install shades over the small playscape and toddler swings. We also write, secure, and implement grants with approval of WPNA membership. A sub-group, WP Park Stewards, meets weekly Fridays at 9am to maintain Batholomew park. The Park Committee Chair is currently vacant.



WINDSOR PARK VETERINARY CLINIC
Your Neighborhood Veterinarian

Dr. Rita M. Geigel VMD

PHONE **512-928-1403**
FAX **512-928-8799**

www.windsorparkvet.com
windsorparkvet@yahoo.com

1928 A. Gaston Place Dr. Austin, Tx 78723

Safety Committee:

The safety committee works to keep the association apprised of safety issues/crimes in the neighborhood, communicating with our APD reps, and organizing neighborhood watches or other safety related neighborhood programs. We need a chair for this committee – the chair will set the schedule for meetings and help set the agenda and focus for the committee in 2016.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: NATE CROSS

Martin Luecke

Our neighbor on Wheless with wife Carrie since 2006, Nate is one of those hyphen people we find very often in Windsor Park. During the day he is a kitchen manager at Food Heads restaurant - in the afternoons and weekends he plays bass/drums/keyboards for one of three bands - and in between times he has his own jazz record label called Astral Spirits.



It is this third occupation which has enticed me to visit. Astral Spirits specializes in Free Jazz music, which Nate describes as “pure improvisation. People are playing what they want, but the idea is the musicians are listening to everyone else and creating as they go.” It was originally invented by John Coltrane in the 60’s, and songs could last as long as 40 minutes. Nate has a clear passion for the music, although he doesn’t actually play it. “I’ve always been nerdy about jazz, but I’m more of a rock guy.”

“I started the label doing cassette tapes, because they’re hip again, and mostly cheap to produce, but also appeal to a younger audience.” Most kids these days are completely unaware of the free jazz movement, and Nate wants to get the music to expand out of the older age group that is primarily listening to it.

In the past year and a half Astral Spirits has released 13 cassettes to rave critical reviews, including UK music magazine The Wire, US cassette blog Tabs Out, folks out of Poland, Chicago and New York, while UK blog Spools Out named Astral Spirits as the tape label of the year. “I get a lot of press outside of Austin.” Probably because free jazz is a double four letter word around here. If you’re not a singer songwriter doing country, blues, or rock, then you can’t get an audience in this town. That’s not just my opinion, look at the Chronicle live music ads. Nate bucks the trend by teaming up with the Epistrophy Arts group hosting concerts a few times a year, mostly at The North Door venue, with the help of the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department. The last weekend in February the No Idea Festival will feature improvised music and adventurous jazz with talent from all over the world, including Nate’s artists.

In January Astral Spirits released two vinyl record LP’s, one by the group Icepick, which includes Austinite Ingegrigt Haker-Flaten on bass, considered one of the best in the jazz world. The other LP is for Joe McPhee, one of the original free jazz guys from the 60’s who released the song ‘Astral Spirits’ in 1972, and is the inspiration for Nate’s label. McPhee has given Nate a 1979 recording that was never released. Local artist Tim Kerr painted 15 original record covers for the release, one of which is pictured below. All the other LPs contain a special poster by the artist. You can purchase the albums at End of an Ear record store on South 1st, and specialty jazz stores in a half dozen cities around the world.

Nate’s band US/Mexico (which includes other Windsor Parkers) will be appearing Feb 13 at End of an Ear to mark the opening of an art exhibit. You can find all this and more on his Astral Spirits Facebook page, iTunes, or at monofonuspress.com/astral-spirits.

Thanks for all the nominations! Keep them coming! Martin Luecke 512.536.0465 or mwluecke@hotmail.com

Bertha Sadler Means

Ashley Ayala, Parent Support Specialist

Our young ladies are working hard and excelling! Coach Harris has a select group of Student Wellness Leaders that are helping students, staff and parents get and stay healthy. Big thanks to Coach Harris and the Student Wellness Leaders for putting on a great CATCH Family night last month.

Ms. Matula and Ms. Williamson are working hard with our BPA students who are continuing to rack up the wins. We’re excited to see how they do at the State competition.

Our PTSA is planning a Family Movie Night on February 18th and we hope you’ll be able to make it. As we all know, involving our families and community helps our students succeed.

The time has come for your 5th graders to transition to middle school and we are here to help answer any questions you may have. We invite you to attend our upcoming Learning Lunch on March 8th at 12:30. We’ll have lots of information to share with you about the wonderful things happening at Sadler Means YWLA where our girls “Lead the Way”!

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

Our Blanton students came back from their winter break to find a newly changed computer lab - old technology had been replaced with new. What a wonderful surprise! Our outstanding teaching staff is always looking for new and innovative ways to inspire our students and a new computer lab will be a special perk.

Each Monday and Tuesday during the month of February from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. in the Gym we offer our wonderful exercise class designed for staff, parents and community. Everyone is invited to come join us in becoming fit and healthy.

February 20, starting at 10am, we will have our garden beautification work day. As part of our monthly work day benefitting the school, we maintain and upkeep the fruit trees, raised planting beds and general landscape. We invite the community to join us in keeping our school grounds healthy and vibrant.

February 25 our PTA will meet in the Parent Support room and on February 26 we will host a Principal’s Coffee, also in the same room at 8:30 a.m. Parents interested in Blanton Elementary are invited to attend either or both of these meetings.

The ACE program resumed programming on January 19, 2016. Our student after-school classes changed slightly from last semester giving students the opportunity to have different activities. ACE will be presenting two FREE adult classes this month, please call to join if you are interested. Parent cooking classes began on January 26, but will continue on Mondays through February 29, taught by Sustainable Food Center from 8:45-10:15 a.m. ...participants go home with healthy recipes and a bag of groceries to cook at home. We also will be hosting parent computer classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 4, 6, 9 & 11 taught by Skillpoint Alliance from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

ACE continues to collect t-shirts for the ‘**T-Shirts for Hunger Program**’. The donated shirts will become grocery bags used by the food bank when handing out food. Clean, gently used (no holes) t-shirts may be brought to the school and put in the t-shirt barrel in the school. The best sizes are youth large, adult small and adult medium and all styles are accepted (long-sleeve, short-sleeve or tank tops). ACE will see they are delivered to Travis County for the food bank. We welcome community participation in this T-shirt drive and thank all who have donated so far!

Special THANKS to all of the parents and community members who have so generously donated **old magazines** for the ACE program, they will be put to good use. Remember this is an on-going need, so just give us a call if you have extra old magazines.

We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for any special events at Blanton - just keep an eye on this column to find out what has and will be happening at Blanton Elementary. For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at karon.smutzer@austinisd.org or call 512-841-5678 to leave a message.

Harris Elementary

Gloria Cano, school counselor

In February Harris students will be celebrating Friendship week. During this week we are reminded what makes someone a good friend. Our themes are kindness, empathy and tolerance. We want all our students to feel that they are special members of the Harris family. Our culminating event will take place on Friday, February 12 with a school-wide event outdoors.

Fifth grade students attended an assembly to hear about Bertha Sadler Means and Garcia Young Men’s Leadership Academy. They listened to former Harris students and current staff from our two feeder schools talk about what to expect when they move on to middle school next year. They will also get an opportunity to visit their future school along with their parents to see the great class and activities being offered.

We are happy to begin our after-school classes for students once again. Students have a chance to participate in Robotics, Homework Club, Arts and Crafts, Tutoring in Reading or Math, Violin and many more. In partnership with MUMC and Manos de Cristo we are offering English As a Second Language class on Tuesdays and Thursdays for parents from 9-12. Registration took place in January and the classes take place at MUMC across the street from Harris.

Thanks again to our parent volunteers, Seedling mentors, Cornerstone Church and MUMC for your continuing support of our school community. Another shout out to Fire Station 14 for helping one of our families during the holidays. You all are awesome and we are grateful for what you do!

John H. Reagan Early College High School

Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Service Specialist

February is the month for love. If you love Reagan High School upload a video on Twitter @ RHSPals_ or tweet #WELOVERHS. A Love Lock is a padlock which sweethearts lock to a bridge, fence, or gate to symbolize their love. Join us on **February 20** when the PALS group lead students and staff in putting love locks on the gate in front of the school to symbolize our love for Reagan.

This month’s shout out goes to the boys’ soccer team. They took first place in the Hays Soccer Tournament. Great job!

- Please join us for these upcoming events on campus:
- Feb 9 at 9:30am- The Principal Coffee
 - Feb 11 at 6pm- Reagan’s Got Talent!
 - Feb 16 at 6:30pm- Texas A&M University Corps of cadets Presentation in Reagan Auditorium
 - Feb 20, Love Locks on the school gate