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A LOOK INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

VOLUME

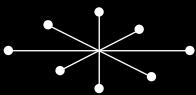
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NO 2

Feb 2026

NEXT
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
MEETING

SATURDAY
FEB 14th
10am to
noon
at MUMC
Church



NEXT
MEETING
FOCUS

Texas
Primaries

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE
WPNA
WINDSOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February: Caring, Growing, and Participating

BY CHAD COTTON, WPNA PRESIDENT

January reminded us just how important it is to look out for one another. During several periods of particularly cold weather, the Windsor Park Care Team launched its Winter 2026 response to support our unhoused neighbors. That work will continue throughout the year as we build relationships, connect people to resources, and respond when needs arise. If you're interested in getting involved, visit <https://www.windsorpark.info/windsor-park-care-team/> to learn more and sign up.

Looking ahead to spring, we're excited about what's happening in Bartholomew Park. As described elsewhere in this newsletter, we'll be planting a significant number of trees and coming together to celebrate on "It's My Park Day 2026", Saturday, March 7. If you'd like to participate in the tree planting or stay informed about park projects and events, keep an eye on our website at <https://windsorpark.info>, where sign-up information will be posted. You can reach Casey Bruns, our new Parks Committee Chair, at Parks@windsorpark.info.

February is also an important month for civic engagement. The Texas state primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 3. To participate, you must be registered to vote by February 2, 2026. You can check your registration status, find polling locations, and get more election information at <https://www.votetexas.gov/>.

Texas House District 50 and the State Board of Education District 5 both have multiple candidates for the democratic party and one candidate for the republican party.

Exercising our right to vote is a vital way we show up for our community and help shape its future. We'll be sharing more information and discussion at our February meeting on February 14, and we hope you'll join us.

Keep doing your part on the three Rs

We need to keep Recycling, Refusing, and Reusing! Check out the City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/whatdo>

You can also print or bookmark your recycling schedule:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/services/view-your-recycling-composting-and-trash-schedule>

Here are some things you can do to refuse:

- Do not accept any free gifts that you don't use.
- Do not accept business cards or business flyers.
- Cancel unwanted mail.
- Do not take the extra plastic bags offered for meat at the grocery store.
- Do not use plastic bags for produce. Put produce in a reusable grocery bag.
- Put a note on your front door asking that hangtags

LET'S FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER!

Become a 2026 Windsor Park Neighborhood Association member by Feb. 28 for a chance to win a gift card donated by one of our sponsors:

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GOT SOMETHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER? GET IT IN BY THE 15th TO: newsletter@windsorpark.info

Mueller Update - Feb 2026

BY RICK KRIVONIAK

The E. 51st Street Mobility Improvement Project update at the January 13 RMMAPIAC meeting was brief and did not go into many design details, but was more about the status of the project's process to get built. It is currently at 60% design as apparently much of the previous work had to be redesigned due to floodplain changes. The hope is for 90% by March. Several speakers asked for a public feedback meeting presentation soon, though it's doubtful much change is now possible. Anticipated construction start is now Fall 2027. A Mueller resident's video of the presentation starts at 2:10 at this link: youtube.com/watch?v=4-wzFMqzeSk

The Austin Parks Foundation will host its annual Movie in the Park Friday, March 20 at the Girard Kinney Park amphitheater. HONK! ATX is returns on Saturday, March 28, in Kinney Park at Aldrich Street. KUTX's Rock the Park is also plans a return to the Kinney Park amphitheater for a spring series on the March 27, April 10, and May 1 Fridays.

The next Mueller Commission meeting is 6 pm, Tuesday, Feb 10 at the Austin Energy Building, 4815 Mueller Boulevard. Attendees may park free in the AE garage, using the Garcia Street entry.

What's in your leaf litter?

BY WIZZIE BROWN, TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

You probably have heard of the phrase "leave the leaves", but do you know why we encourage people to let leaves stay on the ground? Leaf litter can create a wonderful insulating habitat for various arthropods, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. If you rake your leaves and place them in bags on the curb for disposal, you're not



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only getting rid of the cozy insulation for many animals, but you may also be getting rid of many arthropods along with the leaves.

Many arthropods use leaf litter as an overwintering location. While some arthropods may be found in the leaf litter itself, others will be in the soil under leaf litter. In both cases, the leaf litter provides a protective layer, hiding spots, and shelter. Some arthropods that you can find in or on the soil under leaf litter may include things like bumble bee queens, isopods, springtails, millipedes, centipedes, and spiders.

In the leaf litter you may discover adult and nymphal stages of assassin bugs, damsel bugs, minute pirate bugs, and boxelder bugs. Other adults you may find are lady beetles clustering together for warmth, fireflies, or mourning cloak and question mark butterflies. Eggs of walkingsticks and hairstreak butterflies can be found in leaf litter (walkingsticks) or on fallen oak leaves (hairstreaks). Larvae of tiger moths (woollybear caterpillars), fireflies, and soldier beetles spend the winter in leaf litter. Some insects create a pupal case using leaves as an outer casing material (certain silk moths) while others have a pupal case that mimics leaves (swallowtail butterflies, fritillary butterflies) to blend in with leaf litter.

If you want to take things a step further and provide more shelter for insects during colder times of the year, consider leaving hollow and pithy stemmed plants until the following warm up and insect emergence in spring. The majority of native bee species are burrowers or tunnel nesters. Leaving leaf litter can help ground nesting burrower bees while leaving plant stems can help those that tunnel.

If keeping a tidy yard is needed, then you can rake leaves into beds or move into a section of the yard that isn't seen from the street. Leaves give the added benefit of providing organic matter to the soil as they break down. If you want to help conserve the arthropods that are in leaf litter, avoid mulching it with a mower.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown at ebrown@ag.tamu.edu.

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Welcome Casey Bruns, WPNA New Parks Committee Chair

BY JEANETTE SWENSON

After twelve long and productive years as the WPNA Parks Committee Chair, I am grateful and excited to pass the leadership to Casey Bruns.

She has jumped in with lots of ideas and projects to continue to develop Bartholomew and Pomerleau Parks and all the small parks that make our neighborhood more livable.

Thank you all for your support of our neighborhood parks over the years.

Bartholomew Park - Lots of Volunteer Opportunities

BY JEANETTE SWENSON AND CASEY BRUNS

There will be 5 total events at Bartholomew Park from Feb 4th - March 11th

Shade the Streets, Sidewalks and Streets; Plant Trees

BY JEANETTE SWENSON

On a hot early summer day in 2024, the WPNA Parks Committee walked the perimeter of Bartholomew Park with Jesse Neumann, Austin Parks and Recreation Horticulturalist Supervisor to explore the possibility of planting trees along the perimeter of Bartholomew Park to lessen the urban heat effect on our streets and sidewalks. Jesse agreed to craft a phased plan to plant trees. In mid-January, he emailed the Parks Committee that PARD would plant trees around the perimeter on four Wednesday mornings from 9-12. Trees will be planted during the ideal time for tree planting in Central Texas. Jesse has invited Windsor Park residents to join in and plant trees. So, I hope that many of us will join PARD to increase the shaded area of our park, sidewalks and adjacent streets!

Austin Parks Foundation is partnering with PARD and managing the sign up, so if you would like to help, please follow the easy prompts and sign up. To register, sign in at austinparks.org, go to the Events calendar, scroll to Feb. 4, 11, 18 and Mar. 11 and scroll to Community Volunteer Event: Bartholomew District Park. Register for each planting, (Parts 1-4) individually. Note that each event starts in a different part of the park. I hope to see many of you at Bartholomew splash pad on Feb. 4 and any other days you want to plant a tree and meet your neighbors and help to make our neighborhood safer with a beautiful urban canopy.

Bartholomew Park Tree Planting Part 1	2/4/2026
Bartholomew Park Tree Planting Part 2	2/11/2026
Bartholomew Park Tree Planting Part 3	2/18/2026
Bartholomew Park Tree Planting Part 4	3/11/2026

Saturday March 7th: "It's My Park Day" Arbor Mulch-A-Thon

BY CASEY BRUNS

Do you wish you could mulch some trees in a public park on your weekends and get a free t-shirt for the effort?

Austin Parks Foundation's "It's My Park Day" will be making your dreams come true! Join your neighbors and friends in serving up mulch donuts to our park's trees, a super-powered boost to survive the hot Texas summers.

This simple step adds rich organic matter back into the soil, locks in moisture, and keeps roots cool. We will also be removing trash and litter from the park grounds to clean up paths and natural areas, ensuring a safer and more beautiful experience for all visitors.

Hope to see you there!

Follow the Austin Parks Foundation's "It's My Park Day" (IMPD) site to sign up: <https://austinparks.org/impd/>

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February 2026 Yard of the Month - 5605 Delwood Drive

BY SARA JANE LEE

The February winners are Zach and Molly Edmonds of 5605 Delwood Drive. They have lived there for almost three years. They used Agave LD, A design and landscape company, to suggest what they should do. Agave suggested options to work with their home and their budget, they also provided renderings to show the Edwards's what the resulting plans would look like. It took Agave LD about two weeks to install plants in both the front and the back yard.

In the front yard they have a mature Pecan tree, two Eggleston Holly Trees, some Dwarf Yaupon Holly Bushes, several Bi-color Irises, some Parry's Agave, several Giant Hesperaloes, Gold Lantana, and White and Purple Trailing Lantanas. They love their giant hesperaloes, (the name is hesperaloe, not hesper aloe) because in the spring their red flowers shoot up and attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators. The Edmonds have only a few plant varieties, but multiple specimens of each. The exception is the one pecan tree.

The plants from Agave LD are drought resistant and thrive in Austin's climate. Zach and Molly have found that the clay soil makes the hardscape move. They have found that good drainage helps. They follow Austin's water conservation schedule.



The Edmonds will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery on Hancock Drive. It has great collections of plants, seeds, pots, and garden paraphernalia including gloves in various sizes.

Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681 and leave a message, or email wpna.yom@gmail.com.

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Windsor Park Enlivenment Committee presents:

Ten Garden Tasks for February

BY CHRIS WINSLOW

1. Clean up the landscape. Cut back perennials and apply a mulch-compost blend. Add green sand and sulfur to plants their soil to be a little more on the acidic side. Check leaves for signs of iron deficiency. Light green leaves with darker veins indicate a lack of iron. Green sand and sulfur will help to cure this deficiency.
2. Plant fruit trees. Peaches, pears, persimmons, plums, apricots, pomegranates, and apples do well in this area. For those with limited space, or with an appetite for novelty, try a 'four-in-one' grafted apple or pear. They have four different varieties grafted on the same tree. For those without a yard, you might try a dwarf peach. They're easy to grow in a pot or whisky barrel.
3. Plant vegetables in kitchen garden. Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, pod peas (sugar snaps), Swiss chard, carrots, lettuce, and asparagus crowns. Also onions, such as the white Texas Supersweet called Contessa.
4. Plant winter hardy herbs. Thyme, oregano, Italian and curled parsley, rosemary, winter and summer savory, garden sage, and chives. Herbs like to have at least a half a day's sun in a well-drained location.
5. Plant flowers in the garden. Calendula, pansies, stock, cyclamen, violas, dianthus, bluebonnets, nasturtium, flowering cabbage and kale, and larkspur. For a great show, plant snapdragons now for April and May color.
6. Plant a rose. Besides some good old standbys like the peace rose, Mr. Lincoln, climbing Don Juan, and Blasé, there are some interesting newcomers to look for, such as the Knock Out series, Home Run and Belinda's Dream. But let's not forget our charming antique roses as well. Antiques are disease resistant, hardy, and can shower our landscapes with very beautiful, showy flowers.
7. Prune your roses. A mid-month activity. A word of caution: make sure you know what kind of rose you have before you begin to cut them back. Most shrub roses bloom on new wood, so a pruning will help to force new growth and blooms. Climbing roses bloom on old wood, so this means a pruning back of climbers will remove all the flowers before they have a chance to bloom.
8. Control lawn weeds. Spread a pre-emergent weed killer over the yard and water it in. We recommend corn gluten. This is an effective organic pre-emergent that will not poison waterways and aquifers. If you spread it over the lawn, it will control those spring and summer weeds before they have a chance to germinate. You can safely use it in the garden or in flowerbeds.
9. Maintain garden tools. Repair and maintain garden tools. Change the oil on the lawnmower, and have the blades sharpened.
10. Garden plan. Put something down in a book, a diary, or even on a scrap of paper that you tape to the wall. This will help you plan your weekend activities and get your plants in the ground at the correct time of the year.

This article was provided by the Austin Garden; to sign up, visit austingarden.org



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CONTACT US

President **CHAD COTTON**
512-694-5257
president@windsorpark.info

Secretary **KEITH EDWARDS**
secretary@windsorpark.info

Inter-Neighborhood **REBECCA LEAMON**
delegate@windsorpark.info

Vice President **LAUREL CHESKY**
vicepresident@windsorpark.info

Treasurer **SAMANTHA SEARLE**
treasurer@windsorpark.info

WoW Editor **AMANDA ROSE**
newsletter@windsorpark.info

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WPNA MEMBERS Wanted!

Come one, come y'all,

Welcome to Windsor Park! A throwback neighborhood with a modern feel. Please join the WPNA - we are stronger and more effective as a local voice for our neighborhood when more neighbors join.

We welcome all neighbors. Come join a meeting and see what's going on in your neighborhood. We'd love to meet you and share what Windsor Park is all about.

See ya soon!



Explore the Library in person, online or via your favorite device to access materials to read, listen to or learn from. Check out the Calendar online for activities for all ages.

Highlights for February:

- Chess Club - Wed, Feb 4 and 18, 3:00
- Valentine's Day Card Making - Sat, Feb 7, 1:00
- WPNA Book Club featuring Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston - Tues, Feb 10, 6:30
- Seed Swap - Sat, Feb 14, 1:00
- All Skills Crochet - Tues, Feb 24, 5:30
- A Centennial Chart Reading with Kathryn Loefler of Starelei Astrology - Thurs, Feb 26, 6:00
- Terrence Taps - Sat, Feb 28, 12:00

UPCOMING EVENTS
library.austintexas.gov/events

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